

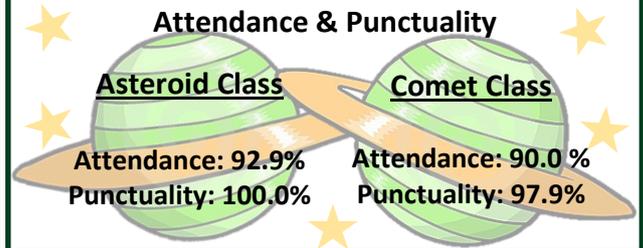


Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Halley House School, This is our final newsletter of our very first term – and what an amazing, whirlwind of a term it has been! We hope you have enjoyed the photos, the events, the smiles and laughter, the workshops, the trips and the clubs, as much as we have. Children have made some truly incredible progress and celebrated a whole range of achievements in this short space of time, and we are delighted that they have settled into their new school so well and made (what we hope will be) some long-lasting bonds with their peers and staff at Halley House School.

We couldn't do any of these things without your trust, commitment and ongoing support, and I would like to extend sincere thanks to all of you. I am sure you would also all like to join me in thanking my very talented and highly enthusiastic staff team for often going above and beyond – and always with a smile.

Very best wishes for an enjoyable and restful break, and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 5th January 2016.

Claire Syms



Attendance & Punctuality Awards

Children who have 100% Attendance or 100% Punctuality for this half term will be bringing home certificates at the end of this week to mark a wonderful achievement. It is really important for you to support us with reaching our overall goal of 96.5% attendance - we need to see those class percentages going up again!

Diary Dates

Monday 14th December

- Children's Art Exhibition, 4-5.30pm

Wednesday 16th December

- School trip to St Matthias Church

Thursday 17th December

- 'Away in a Manger' Reception production, 2pm

Friday 18th December

- Christmas Jumper Day!
- Last day of term, school finishes at 2pm.

Monday 4th January 2016

- INSET Day

Tuesday 5th January 2016

- Children back in school

Promoting the School

Thank you to all parents and volunteers who have already started to help distribute our new leaflets for Reception admissions next year. Our new prospectus is also on our website and we have hard copies in our school office; word of mouth is still one of the best forms of spreading the word, so many thanks for all your commitment!

SUPER STARS!

Our Super Stars of The Week are:

Asteroid Class:

Tyrese
Max

Comet Class:

Jhauniya
Kairon

Well done for working so hard and being such good role models!

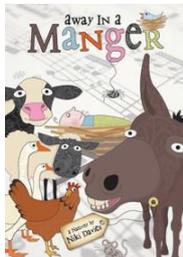


DfE Adviser Visit

Our first DfE Adviser visit of the year went very well on Friday – thank you to those parents and carers who contributed on the morning, but also to all of you for your input leading up to this point. Sue Phillips said she was 'incredibly impressed' with the school and its 'calm and purposeful' atmosphere, as well as the high levels of enjoyment and engagement of the children. We will share further details once we are in receipt of her written report.

Christmas Production

Just a few days to go and rehearsals are really in full swing! Please continue to help with practising lines and songs at home – hopefully you are all absent-mindedly humming around the house by now! Don't forget we need lots of volunteers to help out on the day, too – please speak to class teachers about what you can contribute. Many thanks in advance to Darcy's dad, Alex, for offering to film the production and take lots of photos of the event for us, too!



Last day of term

The last day of term is Text Santa 'Christmas Jumper' day! Please remember to donate £1 to support Macmillan, Make a Wish and Save the Children charities.



Due to factors outside of our control, we will be enjoying Christmas Lunch on WEDNESDAY instead of Friday this week. Thank you to all those who have already returned their lunch order – please ensure this is completed and returned no later than **Tuesday 15th December.**

Spring Term drop off and collection – advance notice!

We are now at the point where we are nearly ready to receive full handover of the site, which will happen upon completion of the remaining ground works. As a result, we will be changing the systems for drop off and collection. In the morning, children will access the ground floor playground through the gate on Shacklewell Lane, which will be opened by a member of staff at 8.30am and locked at 8.55am. Parents and carers will need to supervise their child in the playground until 8.45am, when class teachers will collect their classes for registration. Children attending Breakfast Club will continue to use the main entrance on Arcola Street and will be supervised by Breakfast Club staff until they join their classes entering the building at 8.45am. Late children arriving after 8.55am in the morning will need to use the main entrance on Arcola Street.

Dismissal at the end of the school day (3.30pm) will also be from the playground. The gate will be opened at 3.30pm and locked at 3.45pm. Dismissal from both After School Club and After Care will continue to be from the hall. **These arrangements will come into effect from Monday 11th January 2016.** During the first week back at school, all parents and carers will receive further reminders about the change to procedures, and children will have the opportunity to walk through new lining up spaces and routes into the building with their class teachers. **Please drop off and collect as normal, through the hall, from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January 2016.**

Prospective Parent Open Mornings, 9.30-10.30am

Tuesday 15th December

Tuesday 12th January

If any of our current parents would like to attend any of these mornings to informally talk to prospective families about your experiences and thoughts of Halley House School so far, please speak to Ms Lim.



Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning sessions at Hackney Downs will continue on a fortnightly basis in the Spring Term, from Thursday 14th January 2016. Please note that children were unfortunately unable to attend The Petchey Academy today due to health and safety reasons as a result of insufficient adult:child ratios. We do rely on your help for all the off-site trips we undertake and are hugely grateful for all the time and effort you give up. Please do give as much notice as possible if you are not able to support, as it gives us the opportunity to try and find an alternative. There will be a sign-up sheet for regular off-site visits at the start of the Spring term for volunteers to indicate their availability.

The Roof Terrace...

...is complete! We are delighted with the rubber crumb finish, cream and green retractable canopies, bright panelling and frosted glass. Over the course of this week and at the beginning of next term, we will be adding some school touches and resources for children to use whilst they are outside. Some items will be permanently on the terrace for children to access, whilst others will change depending on the curriculum topic (and season!). We would also like to bring some of the natural environment to our terrace and include some window boxes or planters; if you are green-fingered or know someone who might be, please speak to your child's class teacher! We are sure children are going to enjoy their dedicated outdoor space, and also spend time developing their independence and creative thinking skills – what a fabulous environment to do it in! Have a look at some of the photos on the following page – we think it was worth the wait!

Extended Schools – Spring Term

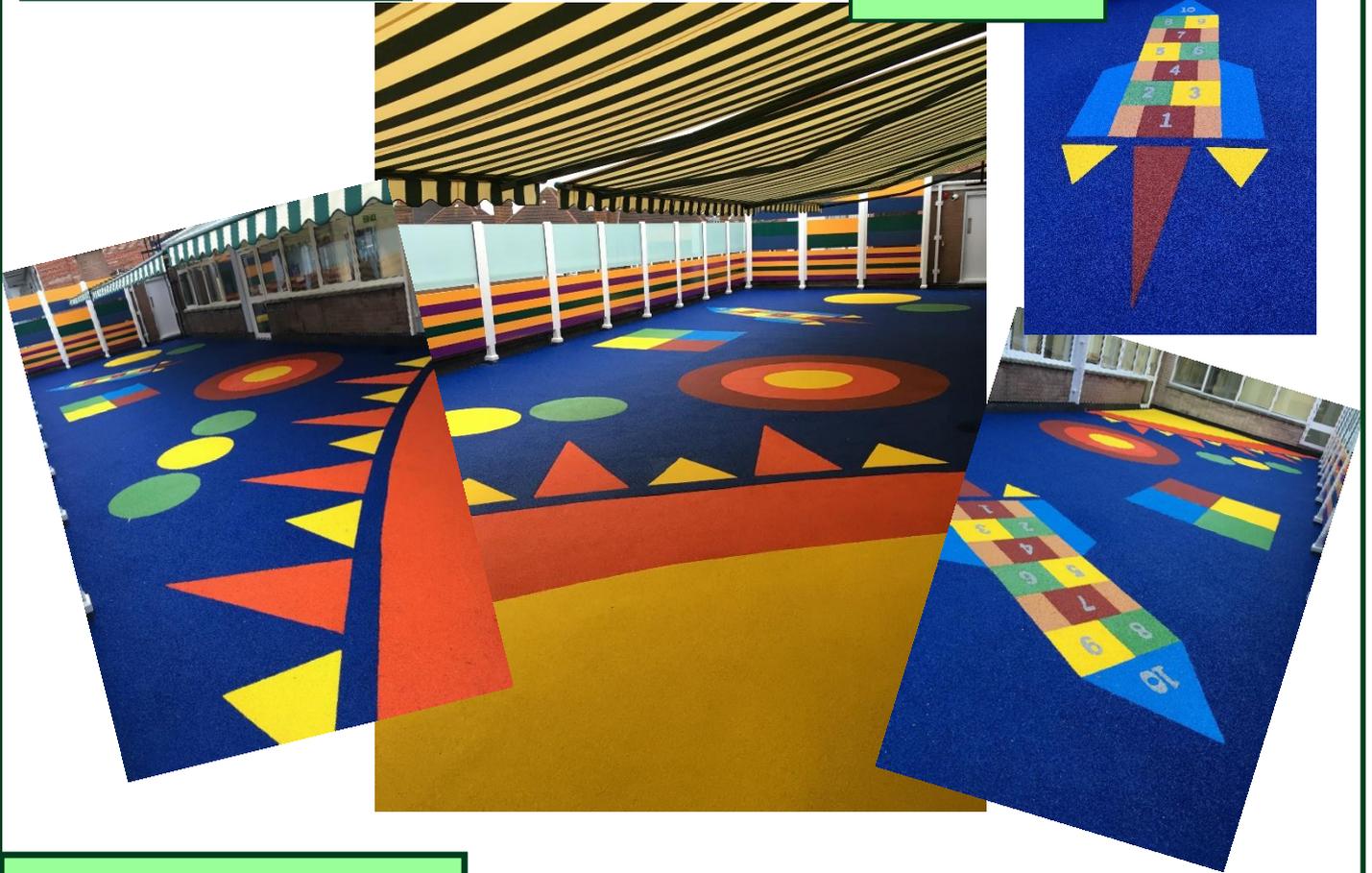
Miss Tali has completed an initial training for ParentPay and as soon as we are able, this will be up and running for you to use for payments for Extended Schools, trips and other items (such as resources)



that you can purchase through the school. Miss Tali will be communicating full details of Extended Schools for the Spring Term this week, including clubs on offer and payment processes in the meantime.

The Roof Terrace

We have lift off!



Children's Art Exhibition

