

THE HAMLET HERALD



'Outstanding learning, within a glittering curriculum, where everyone matters'

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HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

There has been significant coverage in the media recently regarding parental attitudes towards attendance, and how this has changed as a result of the pandemic. One finding of a recent report suggests that parents no longer believe that attending school every day is necessary. At Dulwich Hamlet, we know that our families place a huge importance on attendance, and understand that by being in school, we are able to support our Hamleteers to reach their full potential. Closely linked to this is excellent punctuality. You will be aware of our 'soft' start to the school day: 8:45am arrival for an 8:55am registration - the absolute cut-off! These extra 10 minutes each day soon add-up, and provide critical additional learning time each day. When the children arrive in the classroom, learning starts immediately, with carefully planned 'early work' from the teachers. I have included an 'Attendance and Punctuality Special' in the HH for you today, providing you with some further information.

I cannot thank our PTA, and our wider community, for making our Christmas Fair last weekend such a huge success. In fact, I think it was the best one ever! There was a very special community 'feel', as we all came together to mark the beginning of the festive period. And yes, I did get my first mulled wine! Read on to hear from the PTA, and to see some lovely pictures which captured the essence of our fair. Thank you.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our St. Barnabas Christmas Celebration next week.

DOODLEVISION

The top three classes with the highest % in 'the green zone' this week are:

First place (12 points): **3EF** **45%**
Second place (11 points): **3RS** **43%**
Third place (10 points): **3KS** **39%**



Ouch! The %'s coming in are really low. This is part of our homework expectation. Please keep on Doodling everyone!

TTRS winner this week is...5B!

KEY DATES

Tuesday 5th December

Christmas Celebration at St. Barnabas: 10am and 2pm

Wednesday 6th December

DHJS Christmas Post Boxes OPEN!

Thursday 7th December

Y3 to watch DVIS nativity at St. Barnabas Church

Friday 8th December

5B visit to Ragged School

Hopefully – PTA uniform sale 9-9:30am, volunteers depending (see PTA piece further on)

STAFF NEWS

We say 'goodbye' and 'thank you' to Juanita Adrien in the office today. Juanita has been with us for the past three years, being a welcoming face to the school, answering many of your day-to-day queries, specifically managing our B&ASC bookings. We wish Juanita all the best as she takes up a new post in another Southwark school. They are very lucky to have her.

Y3 PARENT AND CARER TASTER LUNCH

It was fantastic welcoming so many of our Y3 grown-ups to our Taster Lunch this week – thank you again for joining us. A reminder that we have sent out a link for you to complete a brief feedback form for us. We have some really useful comments returned already. Definitely 'food for thought'!
<https://forms.gle/iorFhZnwp6Y3f8m49> (copy & paste link)

WEEKLY HOUSE POINTS

Topaz Water	Ruby Fire	Garnet Earth	Sapphire Air
54	154	107	93

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT ST. BARNABAS FINAL INFO

We're looking forward to seeing you all next Tuesday. The doors will open from 9.45am for the 10am performance and 1.45pm for the 2pm performance.

At the end of the **afternoon** performance you may take your child home directly from the church. The staff will bring each class out and dismiss in the same way as the end of the school day. The staff will need to tick off each child as they are collected. Please ensure the member of staff for your child's class knows your child is going home with you! Any children who don't go home with a parent or carer will return to school with staff for a normal school departure. After school care will run as usual; there are no after school clubs and no brass ensemble on this day.

If your child is in Y3,4 or 5, they will be going home in their costume; their uniform will stay in school. The children will be allowed to change into their uniform when they arrive at school on Wednesday morning if you do not have spare uniform at home. Y3 should come in wearing PE kit as usual on the Wednesday. If your child has a borrowed costume, please return it on Wednesday morning.

There are no music lessons on Tuesday 5th; some lessons have been rearranged. The children do not need to bring in a bag or bookbag on Tuesday 5th December.

Polite reminder: please do not bring any food or drinks into the church. We will have a rubbish sack / bin at the door.

CHRISTMAS FUN! FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Friday 15th December: 'Festive Hat Day', panto and Christmas lunch! We're inviting all children and staff to wear a festive hat or headpiece on Friday 15th December to raise money for our two chosen charities this year: Bowelbabe Fund and St Christopher's Hospice. We will have donation buckets at the gates and in classes; suggested donation £1.

We will all be treated to a traditional pantomime on that Friday (thank you PTA for funding) followed by our traditional Christmas lunch. All staff and children will be served a Christmas lunch, some staff will be serving the lunch too! If your child usually has packed lunch and would like to join us for Christmas school lunch on that day please contact the school office. We will need to know if your child would like the meat or vegetarian option or if they have any food allergies. Read on to see the festive menu from Olive Dining.

CHRISTMAS POST!

From Wednesday 6th December until Wednesday 13th December we will be running an internal post service. This is a Hamlet tradition for children to send Christmas cards, to their Hamlet school friends and members of staff, if they wish to. Each card needs to have a name (including surname ideally) and class (of the recipient). We have a daily delivery, each class takes a turn.

BRIXTON AND NORWOOD FOODBANK

A few weeks ago we sent you a letter asking for donations for the foodbank. Please send in any donations from Monday 11th December. The bags will be collected on the morning of Wednesday 13th December. The letter is on our website along with a list of needed items. A representative from the food bank came and spoke to our Hamleteers in assembly last week, and as such, our children now have a real understanding of the work that they do, and why our support is so important, especially at this time of year. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.



CAN YOU HELP?

One of our parents is kindly coordinating a collection of warm clothes on behalf of the Spring Food Bank and Community Hub in Camberwell. We have a box under the shed in Village playground if you are able to give any donations. Thank you.



PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR: A FUN DAY HAD BY ALL!



PTA UPDATE

Christmas Fair:

WOW! What a result for fundraising, not to mention the fun everyone had. Many people commented that this was one of the most lovely and inclusive feeling fairs they've been to. And we have beaten records for the amount raised. The raffle alone raised £5,500 this year. A huge thanks to the 4GR Raffle Team for their stellar organising!

We are still working on the expenses, but the whole fair looks set to have raised over £9,000!!!! ENORMOUS thanks to everyone involved in preparing stalls, setting up, volunteering on the day and of course, the all-important clean-up crew! We say this every time because it's true: It takes a small army, and we could not make these events the success they are without the help of our wonderful Hamlet Community.

Uniform Sales:

Unfortunately, today's uniform sale had to be cancelled due to lack of volunteers to help run it. While we have an amazing parent, Silene, who coordinates uniform donations, sorting and sales - this is far from a one-person job and she needs a rota of helpers in order to run sales. Please put your hand up to help us run one next week and/or join a regular rota. It's less than an hour of your time on Friday mornings, twice a month. Contact the PTA on dulwichhamletpta@gmail.com

Thank you!

Festive Photos:

A huge thank you to Lynda, and her team (Michaela and Hannah) who generously gave up their time to come into school to take a festive 'pic' of your child. You should have received an envelope containing three photos via book bags. We hope that you will enjoy these photos, they make lovely gifts for family and friends! We hope you get as much enjoyment from the photos as your children had fun having them taken.

We ask if you can make a suggested donation of a minimum of £5, which covers printing costs and all extra raised goes back to our school. **Please give more if you can.** However, there is an option to donate as little as a £1 and every little helps.

Follow the link to Donate -

<https://buytickets.at/dulwichhamletjuniorschoolpta/1077811>

The PTA Team.

DULWICH
Village
CHRISTMAS STOCKING
FREE EVENT

Sunday
3rd December
11am – 5pm
CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

FREE EVENT brought to you by the Dulwich Village Traders in partnership with:

THE *Dulwich* ESTATE
Southwark Council

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY SPECIAL

At Dulwich Hamlet, we take attendance and punctuality seriously, and we know that our parents and carers share in this with us. You are all fully aware that encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success – both in school and in life. We believe our Hamleteers are capable of amazing things and want them to have every opportunity to achieve this success.

Attendance:

Our aim is for all of our Hamleteers to achieve 100% attendance, but we know that this is not always possible. Therefore we would like to aim for every child to achieve at least 96% attendance – no matter their circumstances. Having 96% attendance is the equivalent to missing 9 whole school days a year, so this really should be a manageable target. (We have actually set an aspirational school attendance target of 97% and to date, we are not far off in meeting this target for 2023-24, currently sitting at 96.7% – yippee!)

We would like to draw your attention to you 'suite' of [Attendance and Punctuality pages on our website](#), along with our [Attendance and Punctuality Policy](#). You can find these pages under the drop down menu from the 'Parents' tab. We have five pages packed with information that we hope you will find useful:

All times are taken from the digital clock in the school office

- Attendance: Why it matters
- Promoting good attendance and punctuality
- Meet our attendance/punctuality team
- Punctuality
- Attendance



We also want to draw your attention specifically to our [form](#) that we ask parents and carers to complete if you are requesting exceptional leave during term time. This was a change last year in how we have managed such requests. (Some of you still email in, but we really need you to complete this form, which is a standardised approach across our Trust schools). While we hope that we won't see too many of these forms (!), should you need to complete one, you can download it from the Attendance page, or, the Admin Team will be more than happy to email you a copy, or provide a hard copy.

We will also be contacting parents and carers before the end of term, alerting you to levels of attendance as per our [Attendance Concerns Flow Chart](#). A day/session missed here or there soon adds-up, and it is important that we alert you when your child's attendance reaches a particular level. Mrs Purcell will meet parents when there are no improvements in attendance, or if attendance results in a child becoming a 'Persistent Absentee' (below 90%)

Punctuality:

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If your child misses the start of the day they can miss learning and do not spend time with their class teacher getting vital information and news for the day. Late arriving pupils also disrupt lessons which can be embarrassing for the child and can also encourage absence. Learning will not be stopped when late children arrive in the class as this is unfair on the children who are punctual to school. It is the responsibility of all parents and carers to ensure that their child/ren are in school on time.

DHJS Attendance Concerns Action Flow Chart



Although parents/carers have the legal responsibility for ensuring their child's good attendance, the Head teacher and Governors at our school work together with other professionals and agencies to ensure that all pupils are encouraged and supported to develop good attendance habits. The procedures below are followed to ensure that this happens. Attendance is monitored weekly by the Admin staff and the Headteacher.

DHJS has set a whole school attendance target of 97%

Step 1

- Child's attendance falls below 95% **'Satisfactory'** (approx. 10-13 days/2-3 weeks lost per school year)
- The child is highlighted and monitored

Step 2

- Child's attendance falls between 90-94% **'Unsatisfactory'** (approx. 14-18 days/3-4 weeks lost per school year)
- Parents will receive a letter by email and support is offered
- School continues to monitor absence
- Parents invited to attend a meeting with Headteacher to discuss support and targets if no improvement in attendance

Step 3

- Child's attendance falls below 90% **'Persistent Absence'** (more than 19 days, or 38 sessions)
- Parents will be invited to attend a meeting with Headteacher to discuss further support and targets
- Involvement from Local Authority Family Early Help Team

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

15TH DECEMBER 2023

MAIN

Traditional Roast Turkey with Festive Trimmings & Gravy
(G, SU)

or

Roast Vegetable Wellington with a Tomato Sauce
(E, G)

SIDES

Rustic Roast Potatoes, Peas, Carrots & Brussel Sprouts

DESSERT

Chocolate Yule Cake with Vanilla Cream

(MK, E, G)

or

Fruit Pot

Allergens:

CE = Celery, CR = Crustacean, E = Eggs, F = Fish, G = Cereals Containing Gluten, L = Lupin, MK = Milk, MO = Molluscs, MU = Mustard, N = Nuts, P = Peanuts, SO = Soya, SU = Sulphur, SE = Sesame Seeds * = May Contain



SENsational Open Day!

Come along to find out more about SENsational Play sessions for children with additional needs and disabilities!



- Find out where sessions take place
- Meet the staff
- Find out how you can access if you have a child up to age 11 (or how to refer)
- See how sessions are run
- Check out the resources available
- FREE goodie bags to take away!!

Tuesday 12th December, 11am - 2pm
Ann Bernadt Children & Family Centre,
Chandler Way, SE15 6DT

Families and professionals welcome
Yummy light refreshments provided!

For more information contact
childrenscentre@ivydale.southwark.sch.uk



Southwark Children and Family Centres

