

THE HAMLET HERALD



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

ISSUE 13 | 8th December 2023

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HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Thank you again for taking time out to come and support your children at our St. Barnabas Christmas Celebration this week. Our Hamleteers took us on a beautiful, historical journey of the Christmas carol and song, The spoken word, dance and singing was just terrific.

Further to my 'Attendance and Punctuality Special' last week, we have picked-up on a few useful points you have raised/requested clarity over:

If an absence is unavoidable, you should put in a request for an absence for a full session (morning/ afternoon/or full day). Our Hamlet procedure is that you complete an [Absence Request Form](#) in advance. We have now placed an editable word version on the website ('parents' drop down menu, 'attendance & punctuality' tab, see link bottom of 'attendance' page. You can also always request a hard copy from the office. If your child has an unavoidable medical appointment during the core school day, which is shorter than a session i.e. coming in at 10am after an appointment, leaving at 2:30pm to get to an appointment, then we ask that you email the office in the normal way to notify them of this. Please always provide evidence of the appointment (for example, text screen shot of message, copy of letter) as we need to have seen evidence of where the children are during the core school day. Please read on for some further punctuality information.

Don't forget that we go right through to Thursday 21st December, finishing promptly at 1:25pm for pick-up. A normal school lunch is provided on this day.

DOODLEVISION

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

First place (12 points):	6O	53%
Second place (11 points):	3EF & 3KS	52%
Third place (10 points):	5A	38%



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...6O!

KEY DATES

Monday 11th December

Please start to bring in your donations for the Brixton and Norwood Food Bank
DHJS Christmas Post Boxes to continue.....

Wednesday 13th December

Final morning to bring in your food bank donations for a mid-morning collection

Friday 15th December

Festive hat day (suggested donation of £1 towards our Christmas charities) Panto for whole school
Christmas lunch
PTA Christmas cake sale, 3:25pm Village playground

TERM DATES 2023-24

We have included our full list of term dates for this academic year again for you further on in the HH. We did share our January INSET days (Thursday 4th and Friday 5th) way back in September: HH 1. For your information, we have now added-in our final INSET day of the year, Monday 1st July, when school will be closed to all children. Staff will be attending our second annual Trust conference, engaging in professional development activities with colleagues from across all of our TCSET schools.

For those of you planning a little further ahead, a reminder that our 2024-25 term dates are available to view on the website. We will confirm the INSET days for 24/25 as soon as we can.

WEEKLY HOUSE POINTS

Topaz Water	Ruby Fire	Garnet Earth	Sapphire Air
58	83	55	49

PUNCTUALITY UPDATE



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

We had **98** late marks recorded in the register this week alone. Was one of these marks for your child? (In some instances, there are several 'lates' recorded per child)

We have to do better...

We can't state it more strongly. Punctuality is critical to an excellent start to the school day, ensuring readiness for learning. We know that our families take their child's schooling seriously, and urge you to review your morning routines so that our Hamleteers arrive between 8:45-8:55am. Nearer to 8:45am is much better, as the children get the full benefit of our daily early morning work provision. This adds-up, and makes a difference to your child.

As a reminder, this is the staged process in terms of recording punctuality every day:

8.45am:

Gates open and pupils can go into their classrooms

8.55am:

School gates are "closed", registers are taken – all pupils who are late, must now go to the front office.

8.56am–9:15am:

Children are registered as 'late'. Parents/Carers will have to provide the exact reason as to why they are late. This will be recorded on the register as code L. Code L does not contribute to the issue of penalty notices.

9:16am onwards:

Children are registered as 'very late'. Parents/Carers will have to provide the exact reason as to why they are very late. This will be recorded on the register as code U. Code U **does** contribute to penalty notices as it is an unauthorised absence. It is very important to avoid code U by being on time for school every day.

We are writing to families next week where lateness has become an issue and needs to improve.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

If your child normally brings a packed lunch to school, and would like to take a school lunch as a one-off on Friday 15th December to share a Christmas meal with their friends, this is a final reminder to inform the office asap via email. Chef BJ needs to know final numbers, so we ask that you let us know if your child wants to do this by the close of play on Monday 11th December.

You can view the festive menu further on in the HH. It looks yummy!

YEAR GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Each year group will be having a festive party in the last week of term. Years 3 and 6 will be on Tuesday 19th December and Years 4 and 5 on Wednesday 20th December. The party will be during the afternoon with dancing and party games. There will also be a designated quiet area for each year group. The PTA are kindly providing some party food: a chocolate bar, a packet of crisps and a juice drink. (We will be mindful of known allergies)

The children are invited to wear party clothes on their day and may come into school wearing their chosen outfit. Please remember the children will still be going out to play at break and lunch so footwear and warmth need to be taken into consideration!

FESTIVE HAT DAY

All children and staff are invited to wear a festive hat or headpiece on **Friday 15th December**. This is a fund raising event supporting our chosen charities this Christmas, Bowelbabe Fund and St Christopher's Hospice. Suggested donation £1. Our House Captains will also be out with collection buckets in the morning.

We have already made a great start to this, raising just over £600 at our two St. Barnabas Celebration performances this week. Thank you.

BRIXTON AND NORWOOD FOODBANK

Please bring your bags into the school office from next Monday. We will store the bags until Wednesday morning; the foodbank will be collecting all donations on **Wednesday 13th**. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.





The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important. In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

This survey is for all children aged 0-18 years (parents, carers/other adults can complete on behalf of children who are under 6 or for children who need extra assistance).

This is a great opportunity for our young people to get involved in politics and have their voice heard, so please do encourage your child to take part by completing the survey below!

The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 15th December.

[The Big Ambition Survey](#)



Festive hat day!

**Wear a hat or headpiece on Friday
15th December and raise money
for the Bowelbabe Fund and
St Christopher's Hospice.**

Any donations welcome...



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





Dulwich Hamlet Junior School

SCHOOL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2023-2024

Autumn term 2023

(STAFF INSET DAYS: Thursday 31 August and Friday 1 September)

Term starts: Monday 4th September 2023 - Friday 20 October 2023

Half Term: Monday 23 October 2023 - Friday 3 November 2023

Term starts: Monday 6 November 2023 – Thursday 21 December 2023

Spring term 2024

(STAFF INSET DAYS: Thursday 4 January and Friday 5 January)

Term starts: Monday 8 January 2024 - Friday 9 February 2024

Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 - Friday 16 February 2024

Term starts: Monday 19 February 2024 - Thursday 28 March 2024

Summer term 2024

Term starts: Monday 15 April 2024 - Friday 24 May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27 May 2024 - Friday 31 May 2024

Term starts: Monday 3 June 2024 – Tuesday 23 July 2024

(STAFF INSET DAY: Monday 1 July)

Public Holidays

- **Christmas Day Holiday to be taken on:** Monday 25 December 2023
- **Boxing Day Holiday to be taken on:** Tuesday 26 December 2023
- **New Year's Holiday to be taken on:** Monday 1 January 2024
- **Good Friday:** Friday 29 March 2024
- **Easter Monday:** Monday 1 April 2024
- **May Day Bank Holiday:** Monday 6 May 2024
- **Spring Bank Holiday:** Monday 27 May 2024
- **Summer Bank Holiday:** Monday 26 August 2024