



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

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**What's Coming Up Over
The Next Few Weeks!**

There will be lots of exciting Christmas things happening in our school during December. Starting with

Friday 29th November - Non Uniform Day in exchange for a bottle - for everyone's favourite Christmas Tombola.

Monday 2nd December – Christmas Fayre Raffle **Tickets go on sale** (and Rev'd Emma Speke will be visiting our school to deliver the Posada).

Thursday 5th December - PTA Christmas Bingo – Doors will open at 5.30pm for the tombola... and it's 'eyes down' at 6:00pm.



50p entrance fee. This includes refreshments during the break and a chance to win a prize.

To play it is just 30p per book (which contains five games), 30p per ticket for the quickie game and 30p per ticket for the bonanza (to win gift vouchers). *Please come along to support this event!*

Friday 13th December - PTA Christmas Fayre. There will be lots of stalls, including: Refreshments, Tombola, Santa's grotto, a Christmas clothing stall - Any donations of Christmas clothing items that are still in good condition but you no longer need (i.e. jumpers, t-shirts, pyjamas, etc) would be much appreciated - so please save these and bring them into school from 9th December onwards. These items will all be priced up for £1 for our families to buy - Name the Bear, plus much more!



Tuesday, 17th December (change of date) - Christmas Jumper Day for 'Save The Children' (£1 donation). We will also be having our school **Christmas dinner** on this day!



Tuesday 17th December - PTA Christmas Craft Night. This will be a festive evening, starting immediately after the children finish school at 3:10pm, where you and

your child/children can make a 'Christmas Eve bag' together. There will be a cost of £2.50 per child to take part in this event – and this will include a drink and snack for the children; as well as all of the resources you need to create your Christmas Eve bag.

Please book your place at the school office – with the relevant payment - before 6th December if you wish to take part.

Wednesday 18th December - Infant Nativity – Performances will take place at 9.30am and 1.45pm. *Tickets to this event will be sent out shortly.*



Thursday 19th December - Christmas Carol Service at St Andrew's Church (starting at 9:30am).

Friday 20th December - School closes 1.40pm. We will also be rewarding our children for their excellent, committed and outstanding behaviour, by running our Golden Activities during the morning.

We hope to see lots of our families at these events!



Year 1 and Year 2 Reading Workshop for Parents

Any parents or carers of the children in our Year 1 and Year 2 classes are invited to come into school on Monday 2nd December at 2:30pm – to find out about how we teach reading in Key Stage 1.

For those who are able to attend, you will be given lots of hints and tips of how to support your child with their reading, how to use questions to check their understanding of what they are reading, ways to develop a love of reading at home and what to do when your child comes across a word that they are unable to read.

The workshop will finish at 3:10pm – to coincide with the end of the school day.

It would be great if we could have every child's parent (or grandparent) attend!



Year 2 Parents and Carers School Lunch

If you have a child or grandchild in our Year 2 class, you are invited to come into school on Wednesday to enjoy a school dinner with them.

If you do intend to come along, a school meal costs just £2.50 and you can make your selection from the menu being served on Wednesday when returning the slip that your child should have brought home with them earlier this week.

We will be inviting parents, grandparents and carers into the school hall from 11:30am.

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

This year the government have introduced a new assessment task for the children in Year 4 – a multiplication tables check.



This assessment will take place during June 2020 and there will be 25 questions (worth one mark each). The questions will be in no particular order and every question will follow the same format and will require the same type of response – e.g. $4 \times 8 = ?$

The children will have a maximum of six seconds to answer each question. This time limit is based on research undertaken by the Standards & Testing Agency (STA). There will also be a three second pause before each question is displayed.

The emphasis of the test will be on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 multiplication tables (with between 18 and 22 questions focusing on these multiplication facts) – therefore, it is important – by the end of Year 4 – the children know all of the times table facts extremely well.

Children will be randomly assigned a test when they log in to complete the test online. Each test will be of equal difficulty and the children will be able to access a 'practice area' in the run up to the test from 23rd March onwards – so they are familiar with the format.

The check will be automatically scored and the school will be provided with the individual results once all of the children have completed the test. Interestingly, there will be no expected standard threshold – although schools will be provided with information about the number and percentage of

pupils who achieve full marks. This suggests that the 'pass mark' will be 25 out of 25.

One of the best ways that you can help your child to develop a secure knowledge of their multiplication facts is to encourage them to regularly access TT Rockstars. **For all of the children in KS2, we will be having an interhouse competition, starting on Friday 6th December, which will run for two weeks.**

Please encourage your child, in the run up to this event, to practise and improve the speed at which they can recall multiplication facts.

The children in the infant classes will 'battle' using their Numbots login – so you may also wish to encourage them to go online and improve the speed at which they can recall key number facts.

If you have forgotten or lost your login details, please speak with your child's class teacher.

The Great British Bake Off Kneads You!

We have been contacted by The Great British Bake Off Team (and the television production company who produce the show, Love Productions) to see if we can help them to find contestants for the 2020 series.

In their words: **We're looking for a new set of Star Bakers to enter the tent for the eleventh series of The Great British Bake Off. If you, or someone you know, could add a bit of charm & skill to the tent, then why not apply now. Visit www.applyforbakeoff.co.uk. Applications close Sunday 5th January 2020 at 23:59**

If you do have any question please do not hesitate to contact the casting team via applyforbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk or 07544 991 683

