

Hollydale Primary School

Working together to be the best that we can be

Year 1/2 – Elm Class



Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term, we hope you have had a restful half term break! We are incredibly excited to start this new term with lots of exciting learning opportunities and topics and see what fantastic work the children will continue to produce. Elm Class will be busy preparing for both their Black History Month and Christmas assembly performances this term, performances of which will be shared with you all.

Please ensure you add the dates detailed in this newsletter to your calendar. If you have any questions about your child's learning or any other aspect of Elm Class life, please do not hesitate to see me after school or contact me via email (fsultana9.210@lgflmail.org) or ClassDojo <https://teach.classdojo.com/>.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Autumn 2 2023 - This half term Year 2 will be learning about the following topics:

English	<p>We will be starting the term with a wonderful book 'The Journey Home' by Frann Preston-Gannon. This book explores the issue of conservation and considers how we can escape the issues that endangered animals face. We will create fact files on endangered animals and write persuasive pieces on why we need to save them. We will look at different forms of sentences and their impact. This links to our wider learning of climate change and the different issues animals are facing around the world as their habitats are lost. Children will learn different causes of climate change, and what we can do to help reduce this.</p> <p>We will then read 'House Held Up by Trees' by Ted Kooser, writing a variety of descriptive non-fiction pieces, life cycles and instructions, ending finally with a news report. We will look at various plants and different physical features, such as beach, forest and ocean, learning what makes these different. Children will continue to build on their knowledge of different sentence structures and consolidate their understanding of different grammatical terms.</p>
Reading Records	<p>The children will bring home a sharing book (free-choice book from the book corner) on Tuesday as well as a banded book. Please read and discuss the books with your child. Parents must record in the reading records at least once a week. Please note that children are required to have their book bag with their reading record inside every day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If the phonics book that your child brings home ends up lost or damaged, parents will need to pay for a replacement.</p>
Phonics	<p>Phonics will be taught every day and this will be consolidated in Literacy and weekly spellings. We will focus on the KS1 spelling rules and patterns for Y2 and recapping the Phase 3 and 4 sounds we know for Y1 before moving on to Phase 5 throughout the term.</p>
Maths	<p>This half term we will be building on our addition and subtraction skills, then moving on to study shape. We will recap on bonds to 10 and 20, before moving on to look at bonds to 100. We will introduce adding 3 1-digit numbers together, then look at adding and subtracting across ten. We will build on this knowledge and support children to add 2 2-digit numbers together, and then subtract.</p> <p>In shape we will focus on recognising a mix of 2D and 3D shapes, counting their sides and vertices. We will practice drawing and sorting both 2D and 3D shapes, and learn to count faces and edges on 3D shapes. Children will have a variety of hands on resources to work with and chances to explore different shapes.</p> <p>In addition to this, weekly 'Maths Fluency' sessions will ensure their arithmetic skills are being developed to aid rapid recall of number facts. Throughout the year, we will practice our times tables (2, 5 and 10) using Times Table Rock Stars (Year 2 children only). Please support your child with this at home as they have been given their individual login details.</p>

Science	This half term, we will continue our focus on our science topic – Animals Including Humans. We will be considering the big question – Do all animals look like smaller versions of their parents? Children will continue to classify and sort animals based on whether they are herbivores, carnivores or omnivores, as well as finding out what both animals and humans need to survive.
Computing	Our Computing topic this half term is 'We are game testers', through which we will working out the rules for games and creating sequences of instructions. This will involve the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 1 – children work out the rules (algorithms) for a simple arithmetic game • Session 2 – children work out the rules (algorithms) for a simple chase game • Session 3 – children work out the rules (algorithms) for a two-player sports game • Session 4 – children investigate the rules (algorithms) for a simple shooting game • Session 5 – children practise some programming skills using a game • Session 6 – children work out winning strategies for the game of Nim
Topic	This term we will begin our new topic, 'Sensational Safari'. We will expand on our knowledge of all continents, oceans, and begin to look more in depth at Africa. We will be using atlases and globes to identify the different continents and oceans, and learn about each one.
R.E.	Our R.E. focus this term will be Christianity – Why do Christians celebrate Christmas? We will explore some of the key beliefs and practises of Christians, as well as visit a local church to discover more about the Christmas story as a class.
PSHE	Our focus this half term will be 'Celebrating Differences'. We will be discussing similarities as well as differences between people as well as our own identity within wider society. We will discuss what makes themselves and other specials and about what roles and responsibilities they have at home and school. Children have will also have the opportunity to explore the ways in which they can work and play cooperatively with others.
Art / Design & Technology	Our Art unit this half term will be focused on making puppets, looking at the different ways of joining fabrics. We will be developing our technical skills of cutting, gluing, stapling and pinning. This unit will have cross curricular links with the nativity story.
P.E.	We will have PE on Monday for Y1 and Y2 and PE on Wednesday afternoons for Y1 and swimming for Y2 children. Please ensure that your child/children wear the following kit for PE: Black tracksuit bottoms or shorts, a white t-shirt or top and black trainers or plimsolls. Our focus this term will be games. All children are expected to come to school dressed in their PE kit (and school jumper or cardigan). There will not be a changing facility in operation.
Music	Elm Class will be taught by a specialist music teacher every Thursday morning. This half term, children will continue to learn about rhythm and tempo using a range of hand percussion instruments, as well as explore melodies with recorders. We will continue to incorporate opportunities for singing across the school day.
Homework	Each Friday your child will be set weekly literacy and maths tasks for homework based on their learning throughout the week. Homework must be returned by the following Tuesday at the latest. Children in Year 2 should practice their times tables (2, 5 and 10) using TTRS . All pupils should practice their maths skills using Sumdog. Logins are kept in pupils' homework books. All children should also learn spellings which will be sent home every week and tested the following week.
Class Dojo	Please make sure you have access to Class Dojo in order to receive updates on any important information you would need to know. If there is anything we need to share with you, we will use this platform to contact you.
Anti-Bullying Week	Anti-bullying week will take place across the school in the week beginning Monday 13 th November 2023. Children will participate in a variety of activities throughout the week and we will be selling anti-bullying wristbands before and after school. There will also be a whole school home learning project linked to anti-bullying. Finally, we will be taking part in Odd Socks Day, a national day to celebrate what makes us all unique on Friday 18th November with a donation of £1 .
Educational Visit/ Trips	We will be visiting the Centre for Wildlife Gardening in Dulwich (28 Marsden Road) on 5.12.23 linking to our Science unit of Animals including Humans. Please let me know if you can accompany us on the visit. We will leave at 12.15 for a 1pm start and leave the centre at 2.30pm.
Christmas	Our whole school performance will take place on Thursday 7 th December 2023 at St Catherine's Church, Pepys Road, SE14 5SG. Arrangements will be confirmed in due course.
Key dates	Thursday 2nd November – Black History Month Assembly for Y4-6 Thursday 2nd November – Black History Month Lunch Monday 6th November – BHM Home Learning Projects due

	<p>Thursday 9th November – Black History Month Assembly for YR-3</p> <p>Friday 10th November – Open Day for prospective parents</p> <p>Monday 13th November – Remembrance Day</p> <p>Monday 13th – Friday 17th November – Anti-Bullying Week</p> <p>Friday 17th November – Odd Socks Day. Wear odd socks to stand up to bullying for a £1 donation.</p> <p>Friday 17th November – Flu Immunisation for YR-6</p> <p>Monday 27th November – Friday 1st December – Assessment Week</p> <p>Thursday 30th November – Times Table Challenge</p> <p>Thursday 7th December – Christmas Performance at St Katherine’s Church</p> <p><i>**Please let us know if you do not wish your child to take part in the Christmas performance**</i></p> <p>Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Lunch and Winter Jumper Day</p> <p>Friday 15th December – Spelling Bee Competition</p> <p>Saturday 16th December – Christmas Fete</p> <p>Tuesday 19th December – Christmas Class Parties</p> <p>Wednesday 20th December – Last day of term. School finishes at 2pm. There will be no after school club.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Winter break - Wednesday 20th December 2023– Tuesday 9th January 2024 INSET Day – 8th January 2024 School resumes on Wednesday 4th January 2023 </p>
Additional Information	<p>Please ensure that your child attends school with a fresh water bottle every day and is wearing the correct uniform. Our uniform encourages a sense of belonging and is compulsory for all children from Reception Class to Year 6.</p> <p>Please note that children can wear their own clothes on the day of their birthday. If their birthday falls on their PE day, please make sure they wear the appropriate athletic wear of their choice.</p>