

**Hollydale Primary School**  
**Working together to be the best that we can be**  
**Year 1/2 – Elm Class**



**Happy New Year!**



Welcome back! We hope you and your families have had a wonderful Christmas break. We are looking forward to a new and exciting year and term ahead of learning in Elm Class!

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](mailto:fsultana9.210@lgflmail.org)) or ClassDojo <https://teach.classdojo.com/>.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

**Spring 1 2024 - This half term Year 1/2 will be learning about the following topics:**

<b>English</b>	<p>Our first book of the term will be 'The Bear and The Piano' by David Litchfield, focusing on the theme of 'bravery vs fear'. We will be writing letters of advice, retellings, information posters and finally producing our own retelling of the story. We will be retelling the story using our own animal to join the 'animal orchestra'.</p> <p>Our second story is 'The Bear Under the Stairs' by Helen Cooper, continuing our focus on the theme of 'bravery vs fear'. We will produce letters, retellings and our own version of the narrative, with our final outcome being a piece of informative text. We will be comparing real bears and toy bears, as well as giving advice to characters in the story.</p>
<b>Handwriting and Presentation</b>	<p>Children will have specific handwriting lessons to help them improve their presentation across all subjects. We will focus on letter formation and correctly joining our letters together. Children are reminded on the importance of presentation in all subjects across the curriculum.</p>
<b>Reading Records</b>	<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;"><b>If the phonics book that your child brings home ends up lost or damaged, parents will need to pay for a replacement.</b></p>
<b>Phonics</b>	<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 for Y1 we will begin each session by recapping known sounds and learning new Phase 5 sounds.</p>
<b>Maths</b>	<p>This half term we will begin by looking at money, before moving on to multiplication and division. Children will have opportunities to use skills previously learnt and continue building on key skills. Children will learn to count money in coins and notes, practice using coins to make specific amount, compare and calculate with money. We will then practice finding change, working again on our subtraction skills. Children will use toy money to solve problems and give them experience handling money, an important life skill.</p> <p>Multiplication and division will be introduced gradually using a range of methods to help solve questions. We will look at making equal groups and adding equal groups. From here, we will begin to look at questions with the multiplication symbol and practice understanding this as repeated addition. This will then work in to arrays and grouping, where children will use physical resources to see this in action. From grouping, we will move on to sharing, forming the beginning of our work on division. We will focus on multiplying and dividing by two to build confidence, before moving on to more in-depth questions.</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.
<b>Science</b>	<p>This half term, we will begin our focus on our science topic – Everyday Materials, working towards answering the big question, 'What if rain boots were made of paper?' Children will be working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>distinguishing between an object and the material from which it is made</li> <li>identifying and naming a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock</li> <li>describing the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials</li> <li>comparing and grouping together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties</li> <li>planning and carrying out investigations into different materials.</li> </ul>
<b>Computing</b>	<p>Our computing topic for this half term is 'We are photographers'. We will be taking, selecting and editing digital images. We will learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consider the technical and artistic merits of photographs</li> <li>use the iPad camera app</li> <li>take digital photographs</li> <li>review, reject or pick the images they take</li> <li>edit and enhance their photographs</li> </ul>
<b>Topic</b>	<p>This half term our topic will be a geography unit on Wonderful Weather. We will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is weather?</li> <li>How does the weather affect us?</li> <li>Forecasting the weather</li> <li>Weather dangers</li> <li>Hot and cold weather</li> <li>Our frozen planet</li> </ul>
<b>R.E.</b>	<p>Our R.E. focus this term will be Islam – What does it mean to belong to Islam? We will be considering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who was Muhammad?</li> <li>Which objects are special to Muslims?</li> <li>How do Muslims show they belong to Islam?</li> <li>What celebrations do Muslims take part in?</li> </ul>
<b>PSHE</b>	Our PSHE theme for this half term is 'Dreams and Goals'. We will be deciding on a goal we want to achieve and learning about what it takes to reach a goal. We will work towards these goals in teams, working on our group working skills. Finally, we will be given a chance to celebrate these goals and reflect on how it feels to achieve something!
<b>Art / Design &amp; Technology</b>	Our Art unit this half term will be Sculpture and 3D paper play. On the theme of the natural world, children will make sculptures, collages, 3D models of creatures and a class spider sculpture, inspired by Louise Bourgeois.
<b>P.E.</b>	<p>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: <b>Black</b> tracksuit bottoms or shorts, a <b>white</b> t-shirt or top and <b>black</b> trainers or plimsolls. Our focus this term will be games.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Music</b>	Elm Class will be taught by a specialist music teacher every Thursday morning. The children will continue to learn about rhythm and tempo using a range of hand percussion instruments, as well as explore melodies with various instruments. We will continue to incorporate opportunities for singing across the school day.
<b>Homework</b>	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 <b>times tables (2, 5 and 10) using TTRS</b> . All pupils should practice their maths skills using Sumdog. Logins are kept in pupils' homework books. All children should also learn <b>spellings</b> which will be sent home every week and tested the following week.

<b>Class Dojo</b>	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.
<b>Educational Visit/ Trips</b>	We will be Dulwich Picture Gallery on Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024. If you were not able to attend the last trip due to too many adults already signing up and would like to accompany us on this trip, please let me know.
<b>Key dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 9th January - Children return to school at 8:55am</b></li> <li>• <b>Wednesday 10th January - Height and weight checks YR -YR6</b></li> <li>• <b>Monday 15th January - Enrichment clubs begin</b></li> <li>• <b>Wednesday 17th - Weekly Swimming Lessons Begin for Y2</b></li> <li>• <b>Week commencing Monday 29th January – Maths Week</b></li> <li>• <b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January – EYFS and KS1 Phonics Information Meeting for parents</b></li> <li>• <b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Dulwich Picture Gallery Workshop</b></li> <li>• <b>Thursday 1st February Times table challenge YR1 – YR6</b></li> <li>• <b>Friday 2nd February- NSPCC Number Day (Fundraising day)</b></li> <li>• <b>Monday 5th February- Children Mental Health Awareness Week 2024</b></li> <li>• <b>Thursday 8th February -Poetry Recital assembly</b></li> <li>• <b>Thursday 8th February - Last Day of Term</b></li> <li>• <b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – INSET DAY (Teaching Staff)</b></li> <li>• <b>Monday 12th February – 16th February – Half-term Holiday</b></li> <li>• <b>Monday 19th February – Children return to school at 8:55am</b></li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<p>Please ensure that your child attends school with a <b>fresh water bottle</b> every day and is wearing the <b>correct uniform</b>. 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 <b>own clothes</b> on the <b>day of their birthday</b>. If their birthday falls on their PE day, please make sure they wear the appropriate athletic wear of their choice.</p>