

Hollydale Primary School

Working together to be the best that we can be

Year 1/2 – Elm Class





Welcome back to the final half of the spring term. We hope that you have had a restful half term break! This term the children will be engaging in a range of exciting learning activities and opportunities, such as World Book Day and Easter activities.

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.

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

English	<p>Our first focus text will be <i>The Minpins</i> by Roald Dahl in which children begin by engaging in the themes of the story by talking about danger and what they are allowed and not allowed to do, imagining gruesome consequences if they don't follow instructions! They then go on to read and explore <i>The Minpins</i> and create character descriptions (for their own monsters and <i>The Minpins</i> themselves), retellings of key events, reports about <i>The Minpins</i> and eventually writing a new chapter.</p> <p>Next, <i>The Owl and the Pussy-cat</i> by Edward Lear, illustrated by Charlotte Voake, in which children explore the themes of the poem, write in role as the characters, create fictitious interviews, create lists of items they can take on their honeymoon and eventually innovate upon the poem to create their own versions.</p>
Spellings	<p>We are working very hard in school to strengthen basic skills, but we need your help to boost spellings. We have created a spelling challenge to make this fun and engaging and we are offering a whole host of rewards to motivate and encourage the children to get on board!</p> <p>All that we ask, is that you help your children learn to spell the words on their challenge card. Every time they have secured a section (bronze, silver or gold), staff will check that they have indeed secured the bronze, silver or gold block and the children will receive a certificate and they can begin learning the next set of spellings.</p> <p>We are hopeful that this will be more meaningful than testing spellings weekly and by basing it on high frequency words and words commonly used in their writing, it will be more purposeful as it is being embedded not only in Literacy but across the whole curriculum.</p>
Handwriting and Presentation	<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. Please support this by using LetterJoin at home. https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/index.html</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>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 Year 2 spelling rules and patterns and looking at the suffixes er, est and ly to start off the term.</p>
Maths	<p>In Maths, pupils this term will learn to develop their knowledge and skill of 'Multiplication and Division', including making and adding equal groups; using arrays; grouping and sharing and</p>

	<p>recognising odd and even numbers.</p> <p>Following on from this, we will focus on ‘Measurement’ with activities involving measuring, ordering and comparing length, height, mass, capacity and temperature. Pupils will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge of the four operation in the context of measures.</p> <p>We will continue to work on fluency, including counting in steps of 2, 3, and 5 from 0, and in tens from any number, forward or backward.</p> <p>Please ensure that your child knows number bonds to one hundred and all times tables and related division facts (2, 5 & 10) —it is vital that children know these in order to progress in numeracy.</p> <p>Sumdog tasks are set as part of children weekly homework. This is a useful resource for them to practice their maths skills at home.</p> <p>Y2 Times Tables – Please ensure that you are supporting and practicing all times tables with your child/children. You can use Times Table Rock Stars to support this.</p>
Science	<p>Our topic this half term is ‘Plants’. We will undertake a range of activities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make systematic and careful observations • Create branching diagrams • Make predictions and carry out simple investigations <p>This includes observing and growing plants in different conditions.</p>
Computing	<p>Our topic this half term is: We are safe researchers. In this unit, pupils retrieve digital content from the Internet for a particular purpose and use mind mapping software to organise their questions and answers about a topic. They use presentation software to present their findings to an audience.</p>
Topic	<p>Our topic this term will be Toys Then and Now. Children will learn about a range of toys from different time periods, from the Victorians to present day. They will be comparing and contrasting these toys, as well as describing how they have changed over time.</p> <p>On Thursday 7th March, children may bring a simple toy from home to share with their friends, as we will be discussing modern toys. Please do not send them with anything breakable or expensive. On Thursday 14th March, we will be talking about toys our parents and grandparents played with. If you have any of your own old toys from the 1980s, 1990s or early 2000s (Polly Pockets, Tamagotchis, Furbies etc) and you wouldn’t mind coming in to talk about them with the children, please let me know via Class Dojo. Alternatively, if you have any photos of you with your favourite toys as a child that you wouldn’t mind sharing, please send them in via Class Dojo.</p>
R.E.	<p>This term our topic will be How do we know Easter is coming? We will explore the various events leading up to Easter.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is Easter and why is it important? 2. What does the Bible tell us about Easter? 3. Why happens on Ash Wednesday? 4. What are the events that happen on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday? 5. How do we feel when we hear what happened to Jesus? 6. What can we learn about Jesus’ death? 7. What other Symbols are associated with Easter?
PSHE	<p>Our focus this half term will be ‘Healthy Me’. We will be thinking about why our body is amazing and can how we can identify some ways to keep it safe and healthy. We will also recognise how being healthy helps us to feel happy.</p>
Art / Design & Technology	<p>Our DT unit this half term is Structures: Constructing windmills. Here we will be designing, decorating and building a windmill for their mouse client to live in, developing an understanding of different types of windmill, how they work and looking at their key features.</p>

P.E.	<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: Black tracksuit bottoms or shorts, a white t-shirt or top and black 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>
Music	<p>Elm Class will be taught by a specialist music teacher every Friday 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.</p>
Easter Bonnets/ Gardens	<p>During the last week of term, children have the opportunity to bring in Easter bonnets and gardens they have made at home. There will be prizes for the best ones. Please see examples from previous years.</p> 
Home Learning Projects	<p>Book Week and Easter – Further details will be sent shortly</p> 
Homework	<p>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.</p>
Class Dojo	<p>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.</p>
Educational Visit/ Trips	<p>The children will be going to the Damilola Taylor Centre for a PE competition on Tuesday 20th February 2024.</p>
Key dates	<p>Monday 19th February – Start of term Monday 4th March – Friday 8th March – World Book Week Tuesday 5th – Wednesday 6th March – Parents' Evenings. Information to be sent nearer the time. Thursday 7th March – World Book Day. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Monday 11th March – Friday 15th March – Assessment Week Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day/ Sports Relief Wednesday 20th March - Times Table Challenge</p>

	<p>Monday 25th March - Easter bonnets and gardens to be bought to school.</p> <p>Wednesday 27th March – Poetry recital assembly</p> <p>Thursday 28th March – Easter cake sale</p> <p>Thursday 28th March – Last day of term. No after school club. School finished at 2pm.</p> <p>Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April - Easter holidays.</p> <p>Children return to school on Monday 15th April 2024.</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>