

Hollydale Primary School: Autumn 1 2025

Welcome back to the new academic year! We hope you have had a restful summer break and are ready to enjoy all the exciting opportunities that this year will offer. We begin this new term with lots of exciting topics for the children to become immersed in.

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

(lharvey64.210@lgflmail.org) or ClassDojo <https://teach.classdojo.com/>.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Warm Regards, Ms Harvey

Class Teacher: Ms Harvey

Support Staff: Ms Yasmin and Ms K

Autumn 1 2025 - This half term Year 1/2 will be learning about the following topics:

English	This half term in English, we will begin by exploring <i>Cave Baby</i> by Julia Donaldson. Using our phonics knowledge, we will write labels and captions, then sequence pictures to help us write short sentences and build our own version of the story. Later in the term, we will dive into <i>Naughty Bus</i> by Jan Oke. We will take on the role of a character to write letters and use our imaginations to create our own <i>Naughty Bus</i> adventures. As part of National Poetry Week, we will also be exploring different types of poetry, learning about their features, and finishing by writing our own autumn themed acrostic poems.
Reading Records	The children will bring home a sharing book (free-choice book from the book corner) on Tuesday as well as a Little Wandle Phonics Books. 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. If the phonics book that your child brings home ends up lost or damaged, parents will need to pay for a replacement. All phonics book needs to be returned by Monday morning as we will be using them to deliver our reading lessons. If we do not have the books returned, we cannot teach our reading lessons. This will be monitored and tracked carefully.
Spellings	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! 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. 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.

Handwriting and Presentation	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
Phonics	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.
Maths	This term, children will be working on developing their understanding of Number and Place Value. They will be practicing representing numbers using different apparatus, counting forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s and 10s, and using the number line to solve problems. We will also be learning some of our number bonds up to and including ten as well as reading, writing, comparing and ordering numbers to 20. In addition to this, weekly 'Maths Fluency' sessions will ensure their arithmetic skills are being developed to aid rapid recall of number facts. Please support your child with this at home as they have been given their individual login details.
Science	Our topic this term will be <i>The Human Body</i> . We will be able to: • Identify and name parts of the human body • Draw and label parts of the body • Explore their five senses (sight, hear, smell, taste, touch) The Big Question will be: Can you name parts of the body?
Computing	Our topic this half term is ' We are treasure hunters ', involving the following: • Session 1 – they take on the role of a robot, responding to instructions they are given • Session 2 – they take on the role of a robot-pirate to work out a sequence of instructions (an algorithm) to find their way to an objective • Session 3 – they explore the Blue-Bot controls • Session 4 – they follow, create and test sequences of instructions to solve problems with the Blue-Bot • Session 5 – they predict what the Blue-Bot will do when given different sequences of instructions
Topic (History/ Geography)	As part of our whole-school focus and celebration of Black History Month, we will be exploring Black Inventors this term as our topic. We will be focusing on understanding how key black individuals have helped shape the world that we live in and how they have impacted our day to day lives.
R.E.	Our R.E. focus this term will be Hinduism. We will learn about some of the key beliefs and practices of Hindus. After this, we will move onto retelling the story of Rama and Sita and describing how Diwali is celebrated by Hindus.
Art / D&T	We will be exploring three of the formal elements of art: shape, line and colour. We will mix and paint with secondary colours; use circles to create abstract compositions and work collaboratively to create a class piece of art inspired by water.
P.E.	Elm will have two PE sessions in the week – one session on Tuesday and another session on Thursday. All children are expected to come to school dressed in their PE kit (and school jumper or cardigan) on both days. There will not be a changing facility in operation. Please ensure that your child/children wear the following kit for PE: Black tracksuit bottoms, a white t-shirt or top and black trainers or plimsolls.
Music	Music will be taught by a specialist music teacher (Mr Duncan) every Thursday morning.

P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	Our focus this half term will be ‘Being Me in My World’. We will be learning about our rights and responsibilities within the classroom, focusing on how to maintain a safe and calm learning environment. We will also be focusing on settling back into school and having regular discussions about how to maintain our mental health and well-being.
Homework	We view homework as an integral part of the school experience. Active and successful pupil participation in homework supports our belief in how children learn best. Homework benefits pupils not only by promoting academic success, but also by providing valuable opportunities for parents and carers to become involved in their child’s learning. Through regular homework, children develop responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline and time management. Most importantly, pupils build independence by completing school-related tasks with minimal direct help. Homework for KS1 will continue to be completed in homework books. <u>Reading Homework</u> All children KS1. Parents and carers are expected to record and sign their child’s reading log each evening. <u>Spelling Homework</u> Children will be given spellings to learn based on the spelling challenges and these will be tested every three weeks. Scores will be recorded and tracked using the tracking grid and the number of spellings that are tested will vary based on children’s individual needs. <u>Homework Projects</u> Homework projects are set half-termly and will often link with whole-school curriculum focus events. <u>Homework by Year Group</u> Year 1s • Phonics • Reading • Number bonds to 10 and 20 (initially, extending further as appropriate) • Whole-school and class-based home learning projects Years 2s • Reading • Spelling • Times tables • Whole-school and class-based home learning projects
Educational Visit	TBC
Key dates	<u>September 2025</u> Wednesday 3rd September – Children Return to School ○ Start time: 8:55am ○ <i>Please ensure your child arrives on time each morning.</i> Friday 5th September – Curriculum Newsletters Sent Home ○ <i>To help parents/carers understand what is being taught in school.</i> Monday 15th September – Enrichment Clubs Resume Wednesday 17th September – Meet the Teacher – Elm Class ○ Time: 3:40pm ○ <i>An opportunity for parents/carers to learn more about the new academic year and ask questions.</i> Friday 19th September – Jeans for Genes Day ○ <i>Children may wear their own clothes.</i>

	○ Donation: £1 per child Friday 26th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning ○ Time: 9:00am ○ <i>Fundraising Cake Sale in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.</i> ○ <i>Children may wear green clothes or accessories.</i> Monday 29th September – National Poetry Week & Black History Month Celebrations Begin <u>October 2025</u> Wednesday 1st October – Black History Month Celebrations begin Friday 3rd October – Poetry Recital Assembly at 9:20am Thursday 9th October – Multiplication Table Challenge Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th October – Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings ○ <i>Appointment times to be confirmed.</i> Tuesday 21st October – Parent Workshop ○ <i>Child Mental Health delivered by the Nest Peckham</i> ○ 9:00am to 9:30am Friday 24th October – Harvest Festival Assembly ○ <i>All donations will be delivered by our pupils to our local foodbank</i>
<i>Additional Information</i>	Please ensure that your child attends school with a fresh water bottle every day and is wearing the correct summer uniform. Our uniform encourages a sense of belonging and is compulsory for all children from Reception Class to Year 6. Please can you label your child's uniform. Thank you <u>Summer School Uniform:</u> Girls Uniform • Summer Dresses - Red & White or Green & White Gingham • Cardigan*/ Sweatshirt*/V neck sweater - Dark green • Footwear - Black Shoes • Hijabs – White/Dark Green/Black only Boys Uniform • Polo shirt – Dark green, bright red or white • Cardigan*/ Sweatshirt*/V neck sweater - Dark green • Trousers/ shorts (knee length) – Grey • Footwear - Black shoes Water bottles – Every child needs their own water bottle with their name on. Please make sure your child attends school with a water bottle every day. These can be refilled at school.