

Hollydale Primary School

Welcome back to a new school year at Hollydale. We hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful holiday and are ready for all the exciting challenges this school year will offer!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as Willow's new class teacher. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me (ghopkins5.210@lgflmail.org) or ring the office and we can arrange a time to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. Alternatively, I can be contacted directly via Class Dojo. Please also keep an eye on the Willow Class page of the Hollydale website as we will be posting updates there.

As the Year 6 children in our class are now preparing for their end of KS2 assessments (SATs), information about these assessments will be sent in due course. To help prepare for this, the Year 6 children will have weekly maths fluency, spelling, grammar, and times tables practice to ensure they are fully prepared and confident. They will also continue to have weekly homework to support their progress, so please encourage your child to complete this throughout the year. As we prepare for SATs, additional homework may be sent during the week specifically for Year 6 children.

Miss Hopkins, Year 5/6 Willow class teacher

Additional Support Staff: Ms Mustafa (Thurs and Fri)

Autumn 1 2025 - This half term Year 5/6 will be learning about the following topics:

English	Our English theme this half term is ' Migration and Movement '. In English, we will be basing our learning on the books <i>The Arrival</i> by Shaun Tan and <i>Windrush Child</i> by Benjamin Zephaniah. The children will be writing in a range of different styles including news reports, diary entries, persuasive writing and stories, all based on these books. In our whole class reading sessions, we will begin by studying the novel <i>Fly Me Home</i> by Polly Ho-Yen before moving onto <i>On the Move: Poems about Migration</i> by Michael Rosen.
Reading Records	Reading every day is vitally important for children. We will continue with physical reading records. The expectation is to bring these into school daily and write at least 4 entries a week about what they are reading. Children will have the opportunity to choose books from the school library each week. All children will be required to take their library book or classroom book home each night to read, and log comments into their reading records. Please read and discuss your child's book with them and ensure that it is returned each day in a school bag. The library reading books will be changed weekly as and when appropriate for each child. Reading rewards will be given to children for fantastic, in-depth comments.
Spelling, punctuation and grammar	We are working very hard in school to strengthen basic skills, but we need your help to boost spellings. 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.
Maths	Year 6 In Maths the children will be focusing on Place value and Number . First, children will build on their existing knowledge of place value in order to ensure they can read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10,000,000 and round numbers to any required degree of accuracy. Next, we will consolidate our written and mental methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and ensure the children are confident in using these to solve problems. Throughout the term we will also focus on problem solving skills and strategies and being able to use mathematical language to reason and explain our answers. The children will also need to continue to practise their times tables. Their logins for Times Tables Rock Stars can be found in their reading records. Finally, the children will practise their arithmetic skills throughout the half term, during our maths fluency and arithmetic sessions. Please encourage the daily use of these at home. https://ttrockstars.com/ https://mathsframe.co.uk/ Year 5 In Maths the children will begin the term by looking at Place Value and Number , comparing and rounding numbers to a million, and negative numbers. The children will then move on to add and subtract whole numbers with more than 4-digits using the column method. The children will also be learning how to estimate and make sensible approximations. Each child will revisit how to use the four operations and apply their knowledge to reasoning /problem-solving activities. They will continue to develop their mental maths skills and knowledge of all their times tables (12x12) through weekly time stable tests on TTRS, Sumdog and Maths frame . Please encourage the daily use of these at home. https://ttrockstars.com/ https://mathsframe.co.uk/
Science	Our Science topic for the Autumn Term is Living things and their habitats . We will be learning about the lives of significant scientist Carl Linnaeus and explaining his contribution to classification systems. We will explore how living things can be grouped according to similarities and differences and use classification schemes to sort living things according to observable characteristics.

Computing	This half term our Computing unit is ‘We are connected.’ Pupils use the school’s blogging platform to explore issues related to social media. In this unit we will learn: - about appropriate rules or guidelines for a civil online discussion - how search results are selected and ranked - how to argue your point effectively, supporting their views with sources - how to counter someone else’s argument while showing respect and tolerance some strategies for dealing with online bullying.
Topic	This Black History Month, we will be learning about inspiring environmental activists, including Wangari Maathai and Hazel M. Johnson. They will explore how these remarkable women worked to protect the environment and improve communities, and consider the impact of their activism on the world today.
DT	This half term our DT topic is Structures: Playgrounds. We will be designing and building a playground featuring a variety of different structures. We will consider effective and ineffective designs, measure and cut materials and improve our design based on peer evaluation.
P.E.	PE days for Willow class are Tuesday and Thursday. On Thursday, the children will continue to be taught by one of our LPESSN coaches. Please ensure that your child/children have the following kit for PE: black tracksuit bottoms or shorts, a white t-shirt or top and black trainers or plimsolls and that they attend school wearing their PE kit (and their Hollydale jumper) every Tuesday and Thursday.
Music	Children will take part in weekly Brass lessons on Thursday. Please encourage your child to rehearse regularly and bring their instrument into school.
R.E.	This term in RE we will be focusing on the theme of Life After Death. We will begin by investigating the concept of life before moving onto studying what different major world religions teach about Life After Death and how these views differ.
P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	This term our focus will be on ‘Step up September’. We will be focussing on ensuring the transition back to school is as smooth as possible and looking at ways we can focus on our physical and mental health. We will also continue to reinforce our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Relationships and Resilience.
Spanish	Our topic in Spanish will be All About Me! We will be revising how to introduce ourselves and describe key features.
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 will be set on a Friday and should be returned by Tuesday of the following week. Children will be set weekly Maths, English and Science (Yr6) homework in their CGP books. These will be sent home in a homework folder. They should continue to learn their times tables, which will be tested on a regular basis, and they should continue to practice these using Times Table Rock Stars, for which they have their own logins. We kindly ask for a £5 contribution towards the cost of the homework books. This will help us cover resources and ensure every child has their own copy to support learning at home. Thank you for your support. Homework Projects Homework projects are set half-termly and will often link with whole-school curriculum focus events.
Key dates	School Events – Autumn Term 2025 September 2025 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: (add your class time) <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 Monday 22nd September 2025 – educational visit to Southwark Playhouse Friday 26th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning Time: 9:00am

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <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 <p>October 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 1st October – Black History Month Celebrations begin • Friday 3rd October – Poetry Recital Assembly at 9.20am. Parents and carers welcome to attend. • Thursday 9th October – Multiplication Table Challenge • Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th October – Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Appointment times to be confirmed.</i> • Friday 24th October – Harvest Festival Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>All donations will be delivered by our pupils to our local foodbank</i> |
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If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Willow Class Team:

Ms Hopkins (Class Teacher – ghopkins5.210@lgflmail.org)