

Hollydale Primary School
Working together to be the best that we can be
Year 2 – Cedar Class



Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term! We hope you all had a restful half-term break. We are incredibly excited to begin this new term, filled with exciting learning opportunities and topics, and we look forward to seeing the fantastic work the children will continue to produce.

This term, Cedar Class will be busy preparing for both their Black History Month and Christmas performances.

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

English	<p>We will be starting the term with a wonderful book, <i>The Journey Home</i> by Frann Preston-Gannon. This story explores the issue of conservation and encourages us to think about how we can address the challenges faced by endangered animals. The children will create fact files on endangered species and write persuasive pieces explaining why we need to protect them. They will also explore different types of sentences and the impact these have on writing. This learning links to our wider topic of climate change and the various issues animals face around the world as their habitats are lost. The children will learn about the causes of climate change and discuss practical ways we can all help to reduce it.</p> <p>We will then move on to <i>House Held Up by Trees</i> by Ted Kooser. Using this text, the children will write a variety of descriptive and non-fiction pieces, including life cycles, instructions, and, finally, a news report. We will explore a range of plants and physical features such as beaches, forests, and oceans, learning what makes each environment unique. Throughout the term, the children will continue to build on their understanding of sentence structures and consolidate their knowledge of key grammatical terms.</p>
Reading Records	<p>The children will bring home a sharing book (a free-choice book from the book corner) on Tuesday, along with a banded reading book. Please take the time to read and discuss these books with your child. Parents are asked to record in the reading record at least once a week. Please note that children are required to bring their book bag, with their reading record inside, to school every day.</p>
Phonics / SPaG	<p>Grammar will be taught daily and reinforced through our Literacy lessons. This term, we will focus on Key Stage 1 spelling rules and patterns to support children's growing confidence and accuracy in their writing.</p>
Handwriting and Presentation	<p>Children will have dedicated handwriting lessons to help improve their presentation across all subjects. We will focus on correct letter formation and joining letters together accurately. Children are regularly reminded about the importance of neat presentation throughout the curriculum. Please support your child's learning at home by using LetterJoin: https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/index.html</p>
Maths	<p>This half term, we will be building on our addition and subtraction skills before moving on to explore shape. We will begin by revisiting number bonds to 10 and 20, before progressing to bonds to 100. The children will then learn to add three one-digit numbers together and work on adding and subtracting across ten. Building on this knowledge, they will move on to adding and subtracting two two-digit numbers.</p> <p>In our shape topic, we will focus on recognising a range of 2D and 3D shapes and counting their sides and vertices. The children will have opportunities to draw and sort both 2D and 3D shapes, as well as learn to count faces and edges on 3D shapes. They will use a variety of hands-on resources to explore and investigate shapes in practical ways.</p>

	In addition, weekly <i>Maths Fluency</i> sessions will help develop their arithmetic skills and support rapid recall of number facts. Throughout the year, we will also be practising our times tables (2, 5 and 10) using <i>Times Table Rock Stars</i> . Please support your child with this at home using their individual login details.
Science	This half term, we will continue to focus on our science topic – <i>Animals Including Humans</i> . We will be exploring the big question: Do all animals look like smaller versions of their parents? The children will continue to classify and sort animals based on whether they are herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores, and will investigate what both animals and humans need in order to survive.
Computing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Computing topic this half term is '<i>We Are Game Testers</i>', where we will be exploring how computer games work by identifying and understanding their rules and creating sequences of instructions. This will involve the following: • 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 exciting new topic, ' <i>Sensational Safari</i> '. Building on our previous learning about the continents and oceans, we will now take a closer look at Africa, exploring its diverse landscapes, climates, and wildlife. Using atlases and globes, the children will develop their geographical skills by locating key countries, landmarks, and physical features across the continent. We will also compare life in different parts of Africa with life in the UK, discovering what makes each place unique.
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 practices within Christianity and learn about the significance of Christmas for Christians around the world. As part of our learning, we will visit a local church to discover more about the Christmas story and its importance within the Christian faith.
PSHE	Our focus this half term will be 'Celebrating Differences'. We will explore both the similarities and differences between people, as well as our own identities within the wider community. The children will discuss what makes themselves and others special, and consider the roles and responsibilities they have at home and at school. They will also have the opportunity to develop their skills in working and playing cooperatively with others.
Art / Design & Technology	This half term, our Art unit will focus on making puppets, exploring different methods of joining fabrics. We will develop technical skills such as cutting, gluing, stapling, and pinning. This unit will also have cross-curricular links with the Nativity story.
P.E.	<p>PE will take place on Wednesday afternoons.</p> <p>Please ensure your child wears the following kit for PE: black tracksuit bottoms or shorts, a white t-shirt or top, and black trainers or plimsolls. This term, our PE lessons will focus on games.</p> <p>All children are expected to come to school dressed in their PE kit, along with their school jumper or cardigan.</p>
Music	Music will be taught by a specialist music teacher, Mr Duncan, every Thursday morning.
Homework	We see homework as an essential part of the school experience. Active and successful participation in homework supports our belief in how children learn best. Homework not only promotes academic success but also provides valuable opportunities for parents and carers to become involved in their child's learning.

	<p>Through regular homework, children develop important skills such as responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline, and time management. Most importantly, pupils build independence by completing school-related tasks with minimal direct help. Homework for both KS1 and KS2 will continue to be completed in homework books.</p> <p>Reading Homework Parents and carers are expected to comment in and sign their child's reading record each week.</p> <p>Spelling Homework Children will be given spellings to learn based on their individual spelling challenges. These will be tested every three weeks, with scores recorded and tracked on a spelling grid. The number of spellings tested will vary according to each child's needs.</p> <p>Times Tables Year 2 children should practise their times tables (2, 3, 5, and 10) using <i>Times Table Rock Stars</i>.</p> <p>Homework Projects Homework projects are set each half term and often link with whole-school curriculum focus events.</p>
Class Dojo	Please ensure you have access to Class Dojo to receive important updates and information. We will use this platform to communicate with you whenever there is anything you need to know.
Anti-Bullying Week	<p>Anti-Bullying Week will take place across the school in November 2025. The children will take part 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.</p> <p>Finally, we will join in with Odd Socks Day—a national event celebrating what makes us all unique. Children are invited to wear odd socks on this day and bring a donation of £1.</p>
Educational Visit/ Trips	We are currently arranging for a special visitor to come and work with the children to enhance their learning this term in Science. We will share more details with you once everything has been confirmed.
Christmas	Our whole school Christmas presentations will take place on Thursday 11th December 2025 in the afternoon at St Mary's Church, Peckham . Further details and arrangements will be confirmed in due course.
Key dates	<p>Monday 10th November - Anti-bullying week</p> <p>Tuesday 11th - Remembrance Day – School council poppies fundraising projects - pupil's art work is available to purchase for £1 each.</p> <p>Friday 14th - Odd Socks Day – Children to wear odd socks to show their support for anti-bullying for a £1.00 donation</p> <p>Monday 17th - Road safety week</p> <p>Thursday 20th - BHM assembly EYFS and KS1 – parents invited 9:20am</p> <p>Thursday 20th - BHM themed lunch</p> <p>Monday 24th - Assessment Week</p> <p>Wednesday 26th - Flu vaccination – nurse in school</p> <p>Thursday 27th - Braiswick photographer in school - Individual photos and staff.</p> <p>Tuesday 2nd December - Lunch tester day for parents/carers in Y2 Cedar class</p> <p>Saturday 6th - Christmas fete and cake sale – Friends of Hollydale</p> <p>Thursday 11th - Christmas presentations at St Mary church – Peckham</p> <p>Tuesday 16th - Times Tables Challenge</p> <p>Wednesday 17th - Christmas class parties</p> <p>Thursday 18th - Christmas Lunch and Winter Jumper Day</p>

	<p>Friday 19th - Last day of term – School finishes at 1:00pm</p> <p>Monday 22nd December 2025– Tuesday 6th January 2026</p> <p>INSET Day – Monday 5th January 2026</p>
Additional Information	<p>Please ensure your child comes to school each day with a fresh water bottle and is wearing the correct uniform. Our uniform promotes a sense of belonging and is compulsory for all children from Reception to Year 6.</p> <p>Please note that children may wear their own clothes on their birthday. If their birthday falls on a PE day, please ensure they wear suitable athletic wear of their choice.</p>