

**Hollydale Primary School**  
**Working together to be the best that we can be**  
**Year 2 – Cedar 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 of learning in Cedar Class.

**Spring 1 2026 - This half term Year 2 will be learning about the following topics:**

<b>English</b>	<p>Our first book of the term will be <i>The Bear and the Piano</i> by David Litchfield, focusing on the theme of bravery versus fear. We will be writing letters of advice, retellings and information posters, before finally producing our own retelling of the story. In our versions, we will choose our own animal to join the animal orchestra.</p> <p>Our second story will be <i>The Bear Under the Stairs</i> by Helen Cooper, continuing our focus on the theme of bravery versus fear. We will create letters, retellings and our own version of the narrative, with our final outcome being a piece of informative writing. We will compare 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 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: <a href="https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/index.html">https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/index.html</a></p>
<b>Reading Records</b>	<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>
<b>Phonics / SPaG</b>	<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>
<b>Maths</b>	<p>This half term, we will begin by learning about money before moving on to multiplication and division. Children will have opportunities to use previously learnt skills while continuing to build on key concepts. They will learn to count money using coins and notes, practise making specific amounts, and compare and calculate with money. We will then practise finding change, reinforcing subtraction skills. Children will use money to solve problems and gain experience handling it, which is an important life skill.</p> <p>Multiplication and division will be introduced gradually using a range of methods to support understanding. We will begin by making equal groups and adding equal groups. From this, children will move on to questions using the multiplication symbol, understanding multiplication as repeated addition. This will then develop into work with arrays and grouping, using physical resources to see these ideas in action. From grouping, we will move on to sharing, forming the early stages of division. We will focus first on multiplying and dividing by two to build confidence, before progressing to more challenging work.</p> <p>In addition, weekly Maths Fluency sessions will help develop arithmetic skills and support rapid recall of number facts. Throughout the year, we will practise times tables for 2, 5 and 10. Please support your child with this at home, as they have been given their individual login details for Times Table Rock Stars.</p>

<b>Science</b>	<p>This half term, we will begin our science topic, <i>Everyday Materials</i>, working towards answering the big question, <i>What if rain boots were made of paper?</i> Children will be learning to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made</li> <li>• identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water and rock</li> <li>• describe the simple physical properties of a range of everyday materials</li> <li>• compare and group materials based on their simple physical properties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plan and carry out investigations into different materials</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Through this work, children will develop their observation, questioning and investigation skills.</p>
<b>Computing</b>	<p>Our computing topic for this half term is <i>We Are Photographers</i>. Children will be taking, selecting and editing digital images. They will learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consider the technical and artistic merits of photographs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use the iPad camera app</li> <li>• take digital photographs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• review, reject or select the images they take <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• edit and enhance their photographs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>This work will help children develop both their creativity and their digital skills.</p>
<b>Topic</b>	<p>Our topic this term is <i>The Great Fire of London</i>. Through this topic, children will develop their historical knowledge and understanding by exploring a range of key questions.</p> <p>We will begin by learning about what life was like in the 17th century, comparing it to life today and considering how homes, jobs and daily routines were different. Children will explore how London was built at the time and why this made the city more vulnerable to fire.</p> <p>We will then investigate how the fire started and how it spread so quickly across London. This will include learning about the conditions that allowed the fire to grow and the challenges people faced when trying to stop it.</p> <p>Children will also explore how we know about the Great Fire of London by examining historical sources such as Samuel Pepys' diary, pictures and accounts from the time. Finally, we will reflect on the lessons that were learnt from this significant event and how these changes helped to shape London as we know it today.</p>
<b>R.E.</b>	<p>Our R.E. focus this term will be Islam, with the key question <i>What does it mean to belong to Islam?</i> Children will explore a range of ideas to develop their understanding of Muslim beliefs and practices.</p> <p>We will learn about who Muhammad was and why he is important to Muslims. Children will explore which objects are special to Muslims and what they represent, as well as how Muslims show they belong to Islam through their beliefs, actions and ways of life.</p> <p>We will also learn about important celebrations and festivals that Muslims take part in, such as Eid, and discuss why these events are special. This topic will encourage children to develop respect and understanding for different faiths and cultures.</p>
<b>PSHE</b>	<p>Our PSHE theme for this half term is <i>Dreams and Goals</i>. Children will think about their own hopes and ambitions by deciding on a goal they would like to achieve and exploring what it takes to reach a goal.</p> <p>We will learn about perseverance, teamwork and resilience, and how these skills help us overcome challenges. Children will work towards their goals in teams, developing their</p>

	group working and communication skills. Finally, they will have the opportunity to celebrate their achievements and reflect on how it feels to work hard and succeed.
<b>Art / Design &amp; Technology</b>	<p>Our art unit this half term will be <i>Sculpture and 3D Paper Play</i>. Using the theme of the natural world, children will explore a range of creative techniques and materials.</p> <p>They will create sculptures, collages and 3D models of creatures, developing skills such as cutting, shaping, folding and joining. Children will also work collaboratively to produce a class spider sculpture, inspired by the artist Louise Bourgeois. Through this unit, children will develop their creativity, fine motor skills and confidence in working with three-dimensional art forms.</p>
<b>P.E.</b>	<p>We will have PE on Thursday mornings. 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. Our focus this term will be on games.</p> <p>We are pleased to confirm that the <b>Year 2 girls have been booked onto the ‘EmpowerHer’ PE programme.</b></p> <p>The <i>EmpowerHer</i> programme aims to build self-confidence, leadership skills, and a positive attitude towards being physically active. Through weekly sessions, girls will develop skills such as teamwork, problem solving, ball mastery and small-sided games, while celebrating individuality and learning to express themselves.</p> <p>The programme runs for 6 weeks, with each session lasting 1 hour. Certificates will be awarded each week to girls who demonstrate a positive attitude and embody the core values of the programme: <b>Confidence, Inclusivity, Creativity &amp; Expression, and Community &amp; Support.</b></p> <p>We are excited for the girls to take part in this inspiring programme and develop their skills both on and off the playground!</p>
<b>Music</b>	<p>Elm Class will have a specialist music teacher every Thursday morning. Children will continue to develop their understanding of rhythm and tempo using a variety of hand percussion instruments, and explore melodies on different instruments. Singing will also continue to be incorporated throughout the school day to support their musical learning.</p>
<b>Homework</b>	<p>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> <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><b>Reading Homework</b></p> <p>Parents and carers are expected to comment in and sign their child’s reading record each week.</p> <p><b>Spelling Homework</b></p> <p>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><b>Times Tables</b></p> <p>Year 2 children should practise their times tables (2, 3, 5, and 10) using <i>Times Table Rock Stars</i>.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Homework Projects</b></p> <p>Homework projects are set each half term and often link with whole-school curriculum focus events.</p>
<b>Class Dojo</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Educational Visit/ Trips</b>	<p>We will be visiting Southwark Cathedral. More details will be shared closer to the time.</p>
<b>Key dates</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January - Enrichment clubs to resume  Friday 16<sup>th</sup> - Maths workshop - All parents invited 9.20 -10.00 (Ms La Malfa)  Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - KS1 and EYFS Phonics meeting with parents 3:40pm in Y1 Elm Class  Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Maths Week  Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> - Times Table Challenge  Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - NSPCC Number Day (Fundraising) All pupils and staff to wear an item with mathematical symbols. Pupils to bring £1 donation to school.  Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - Science workshop 9.20 – 10.00 (Ms Hopkins)  Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - Poetry Recital Assembly at 9.10am</p>
<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>