

Hollydale Primary School: Spring 1 2026



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 ahead of learning in Elm Class!

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 (Iharvey64.210@lgfmail.org) or ClassDojo <https://teach.classdojo.com/>.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Class Teacher: Ms Harvey

Support Staff: Ms Gutowska and Ms Yasmin

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

English	This half term, the children will begin with <i>The Magic Bed</i> by John Burningham. The children will revisit adjectives to create expanded noun phrases, practice punctuation, and use these skills to write their own short narratives inspired by the story. Later, the children will move on to <i>Iggy Peck, Architect</i> by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts. The children will compare characters, write detailed descriptions of buildings, and design engaging posters using persuasive language and clear layouts.
Reading Records	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. If the phonics book that your child brings home ends up lost or damaged, parents will need to pay for a replacement. All phonics books need 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.
Stay and Read Friday	We are excited to share with you that our Reading Together Sessions will be starting on Friday 9 th January. This will continue to run every Friday from 9:00-9:20am. This is an opportunity for parents to see first-hand how we teach reading and reading related skills to children. Teachers and TAs will continue to deliver guided reading sessions with a group.
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. There will be a Phonics Meeting for KS1 parents at 15:40pm on Wednesday 21st January 2026 .
Maths	This term, the children will focus on enhancing their understanding of Number and Place Value, working with numbers up to 20 and extending to 50 for some. They will practice representing numbers using various apparatus and solve problems using a number line. They will also learn to estimate positions on a number line, as well as compare and order quantities.

	<p>In addition, the children will develop their skills in addition and subtraction within 20 and, for some, up to 50. This will include exploring number bonds, doubles, near doubles, related facts, and solving missing number problems.</p>
Science	<p>This half term, we will be looking at 'Animals Need for Survival, working towards answering the big question, 'What is special about an invertebrate?'. Children will be thinking about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grouping and comparing animal types • Animal diets • Animal offspring and growing up • Life cycles • Survival • Healthy living and Exercise
Computing	<p>Our computing topic for this half term is 'We are Digital Artists!', through which the children will use Brushes Redux and Autodesk, SketchBook apps on iPads to create paintings inspired by the work of famous artists.</p> <p>This will involve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 1 - they create work based on Rothko's work • Session 2 - they create work based on Kandinsky's Squares with Concentric Circles • Session 3 - they create work based on Picasso's Dove of Peace • Session 4 - they create work based on Matisse's The Snail • Session 5 - they create work based on Julian Opie's outline style
Topic (History/ Geography)	<p>This term, we will focus on history with the theme of 'Toys', focusing on events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally.</p> <p>Our learning will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 1 – Toys Today • Session 2 – Family Favourites • Session 3 - Early 20th Century • Session 4 - Victorian Toys • Session 5 – Importance Changes • Session 6 - The Toy Box
R.E.	<p>This term, our Religious Education focus will be Islam. The children will be considering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to belong to a Muslim community? • Who is Muhammed? • What are the five pillars of Islam? • Why is the mosque an important place for Muslims? • What is the Qur'an?
PSHE	<p>Our PSHE theme for this half term is 'Dreams and Goals'. We will be deciding on a goal we want to achieve and learning about what it takes to reach a goal. We will work towards these goals in teams, working on our group working skills. Finally, we will be given a chance to celebrate these goals and reflect on how it feels to achieve something!</p>
Art / Design & Technology	<p>Our Art focus this half term is '<i>Sculpture and 3D Paper Play</i>'. Inspired by the natural world, children will create sculptures, collages, and 3D models of creatures, including their own sculpted animals (which link to our science topic). Drawing inspiration from the work of Louise Bourgeois.</p>
P.E.	<p>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.</p>
Music	<p>Music will be taught by a specialist music teacher (Mr Duncan) every Thursday morning.</p>
Homework	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Homework for KS1 will continue to be completed in homework books.</p>

	<p><u>Reading Homework</u> All children KS1. Parents and carers are expected to record and sign their child's reading log each evening.</p> <p><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.</p> <p><u>Homework Projects</u> Homework projects are set half-termly and will often link with whole-school curriculum focus events.</p> <p><u>Homework by Year Group</u></p> <p>Year 1s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics • Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number bonds to 10 and 20 (initially, extending further as appropriate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole-school and class-based home learning projects <p>Years 2s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Spelling • Times table <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole-school and class-based home learning projects
Educational Visit/ Trips	Visiting a Mosque for a RE lesson
Key dates	<p><u>January Key Dates:</u></p> <p>Tuesday 6th January 2026 – Children return to school at 8:55am. Breakfast and after school club resume.</p> <p>Wednesday 7th January 2026 – Home Learning Project on World Book Day will be sent home.</p> <p>Friday 9th January 2026 – Curriculum Newsletters to be sent home.</p> <p>Monday 12th January 2026 – Enrichment Clubs to resume</p> <p>Wednesday 21st January 2026 – KS1 and EYFS Phonics meeting with parents 15:40pm</p> <p><u>February Key Dates:</u></p> <p>Monday 2nd February 2026 – Maths Week Begins</p> <p>Thursday 5th February 2026 – Timetable Challenge</p> <p>Friday 6th February 2026 – NSPCC Number Day (Fundraising) All pupils and staff to wear an item with mathematical symbols. Pupils to bring £1 donation to school.</p> <p>Friday 6th February 2026 – Science Workshop – 9:20 – 10:00am.</p> <p>Thursday 12th February 2026 – Poetry Recital Assembly</p> <p><u>Half term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2026</u></p>
Additional Information	<p>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.</p> <p><u>Summer School Uniform:</u></p> <p>Girls Uniform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardigan*/Sweatshirt*/V neck sweater - Dark green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footwear - Black Shoes • Hijabs – White/Dark Green/Black only • Coat, hat, scarf, gloves with names written inside. <p>Boys Uniform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polo shirt – Dark green, bright red or white • Cardigan*/Sweatshirt*/V neck sweater - Dark green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trousers/shorts (knee length) – Grey • Footwear - Black shoes • Coat, hat, scarf, gloves with names written inside. <p>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.</p>