

Hollydale Primary School

Welcome back to Spring Term and the countdown to SATS! We hope you have had a restful Winter holiday and are ready for all the exciting and challenging opportunities this term will offer!

If you have any questions throughout this half term 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.

During the Spring Term Year 6 children will be preparing for their end of KS2 assessments (SATS). These will take place on the week of the **11th May 2026**. They will be having weekly Maths Fluency, spelling, grammar and timetables practise to ensure they are fully prepared and confident! As well as this, they will be having weekly homework to ensure they are progressing so please support your child with this throughout the year.

This half term is crucial in terms of Year 6's preparation for their tests as we begin to consolidate the Key Stage 2 Curriculum. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like support with how best to support your child during this time. In addition, the children may receive extra homework throughout the term to prepare them for their exams. Booster sessions will begin again on **Monday 12th January (English) and (Maths) Thursday 15th January 2026**.

Miss Hopkins, Year 5/6 Willow class teacher

Additional Support Staff: Ms Mustafa

Spring 1 2026 - This half term Year 5/6 will be learning about the following topics:

English	In year 5/6 the children will be basing their learning on the books 'Suffragette' by David Roberts and 'The Last Wild' by Piers Torday and will be producing a range of text types – such as speeches, diaries and balanced arguments – in their writing. Year 6 will also be having reading lessons where they will be practising the skills needed for reading comprehension due to their upcoming SATS.
Reading Records	Reading every day is vitally important for year 6 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	Children will continue this half term to be tested on their spellings every three weeks. Please support them in learning 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.
Maths	<p>Year 6</p> <p>In Maths the children will be focusing on ratio, algebra and decimals. First, we will learn how to solve problems involving the relative sizes of two quantities where missing values can be found by using integer multiplication and division facts, solve problems involving the calculation of percentages [for example, of measures, and such as 15% of 360] and the use of percentages for comparison, solve problems involving similar shapes where the scale factor is known or can be found and solve problems involving unequal sharing and grouping using knowledge of fractions and multiples. Next, we will learn how to use simple formulae, generate and describe linear number sequences, express missing number problems algebraically, find pairs of numbers that satisfy an equation with two unknowns and enumerate possibilities of combinations of two variables. Throughout the term we will also develop our skills and discuss how we can use mathematical language to reason and explain our answers. The children will also need to continue to practise their times tables. https://trockstars.com/</p> <p>Year 5</p> <p>In Maths the children will begin the term by looking at Multiplication and division. We will look at multiplying numbers up to 4 digits by a one- or two-digit number using a formal written method, including long multiplication for two-digit numbers, multiply and divide numbers mentally, drawing upon known facts divide numbers up to 4 digits by a one-digit number using the formal written method of short division and interpret remainders appropriately for the context, solve problems involving multiplication and division, including using their knowledge of factors and multiples, squares and cubes, solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and a combination of these, including understanding the meaning of the equals sign and solve problems involving multiplication and division, including scaling by</p>

	simple fractions and problems involving simple ratios. They will continue to develop their mental maths knowledge of all their times tables (12x12) through weekly time stable tests on TTRS and Maths frame. Please encourage the daily use of these at home. https://trockstars.com/
Science	Our Science topic this half term is Light . The children will investigate how lights helps us to see and how the idea that light travels in straight lines explains the shape of our shadows. We will work scientifically by observing shadows. We will write explanation texts for younger children based on the findings of our investigation.
Computing	This half term our Computing unit is ' We are Computational Thinkers. ' In this unit we will learn to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about appropriate rules or guidelines for a civil online discussion • how search results are selected and ranked • how to argue a point effectively • how to support their views with sources • how to counter someone else's argument while showing respect and tolerance • how to judge the reliability of an online source • some strategies for dealing with online bullying.
Topic	This term our History topic is ' The changing role of women '. Our big questions is: How has the role of women changed over time? We will begin by studying women's lives during the 18 th and 19 th centuries, before moving onto the women's suffrage movement (linked to our book: Suffragette). We will then finish by looking at women in the 1950s and how this changed in the 1960s. Immersive hook: Children enter to find historical "rules for women" displayed; they receive a role card from a past time period and experience limited choices, then reflect on how it felt and whether it was fair. End task: Children present their learning through a short performance, exhibition, or letter that explains how and why the role of women has changed over time and what this means today.
Art	Our Art and Design topic this term is Photography . We will be looking at the characteristics of a good photo before taking our own digital photos and editing these. We will then complete a number of Christmas art projects. Our next art focus will be Make My Voice Heard! We will begin by exploring graffiti art, before studying the artists Kathe Kollwitz and Pablo Picasso and designing a final piece.
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. If your child takes home their instrument, please ensure it is bought back in every Thursday morning.
R.E.	This term in RE we will be focusing on ' Is there only one Buddha? ' The children will explore more about the origins, interpretations and diversity of practice of this dharma within Buddhism.
P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	This term our focus will be Dreams and Goals . We will describe some ways in which we can work with other people to help make the world a better place and identify why we are motivated to do this.
Spanish	In Spanish our topic is ' At the Shops '. We will be learning lots of vocabulary linked to shopping and applying these to conversations. We will continue to build on our Spanish vocabulary and grammar by describing key facts about ourselves and our lives. We will then continue to use our vocabulary in real-life contexts.
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

Key dates

Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET Day

Tuesday 6th January 2026

- Children return to school at 8:55am
- Extended school provision (breakfast and after school clubs) to resume

Wednesday 7th January 2026 - Home Learning Project on World Book Day will be sent home today.

Monday 12th January 2025 – Enrichment clubs to resume and Y6 Booster sessions to start (Mon – English and Thurs Maths)

Friday 16th January 2026

- Reading together and reading buddies begins.

January

Monday 2nd February 2026 – Friday 6th February 2026 – Maths Week

Thursday 5th February 2026 – Times table challenge

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.
- Science workshop 9.20 – 10.00 (Ms Hopkins)

Children's Mental Health Week 2026- Monday 9th February -Friday 13th February 2026.

Thursday 12th February 2026 – Poetry recital assembly

Friday 13th February 2026 – Last day of half term

February

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@lgfmail.org)

Ms Mustafa (Additional Support)