

Hollydale Primary School: Spring 2 2026



Welcome back. We hope you and your families had a wonderful break.

Our Topic this half term is '**Active Planet**'. We will be learning about the destructive powers of nature, from volcanoes and earthquakes to tsunamis and tornadoes. Through discussion and practical tasks, we will learn about how and why these natural phenomena occur, and the ways in which they affect people and the environment.

If you have any questions about your child's learning or any other aspect of Birch Class life, please do not hesitate to contact me via Class Dojos or by email. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Swimming for Years 3 and 4 will continue this half term.

Please note that on Wednesdays Birch class will continue to be taught by Mr Long.

Our parent teacher consultation meetings will take place on **Tuesday 10th March 2026**. Please book an appointment online.

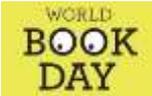
Thank you for your support and co-operation.
Regards, Ms McGowan and Mr Long

Class Teacher: Ms McGowan/Mr Long (Wednesdays)

Spring 2 2026 - This half term Year 4 will be learning about the following topics:

English	We will be focusing on ' Shackleton's Journey ' by William Grill. We will explore the themes and language of the text by writing letters and diaries. We will also use the grammatical skills that we have learnt to write a newspaper report. In Reading, we are continuing to read ' Tamarind and the Star of Ishta ' by Jasbinder Bilan.
Spelling Scheme	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. The children's next spelling test will take place on Friday 6th February 2026 .
Reading Records	The children will bring home a book from the class book corner or the school library every week, with additional opportunities to swap their book if they finish early. Please read and discuss the book with your child and support them with recording a comment about their reading in their reading record. Your child will also be able to read a range of newspapers on First News.
Maths	In Maths the children will begin the term with a unit on calculating and measuring length and perimeter. We will then move onto Fractions! Each child will learn how to count fractions and find equivalent fractions. Year 4 Please ensure that your child knows their number bonds to one hundred. Your child must also learn all times tables and related division facts (x2, x3, x4, x5, x6, x7, x8, x9, x10, x11 and x12) – it is vital that children know these in order to progress in numeracy. Please encourage the daily use of TTRS and Maths frame at home. https://trockstars.com/ https://mathsframe.co.uk/ Times Tables – This year the year 4 children will sit the times tables test in June 2026. Please ensure that you are supporting and practicing all times tables with your child/children.

Science	<p>Our topic this half term is Sound. We will undertake a range of investigations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating • Recognise that vibrations from a sound travel through a medium to the ear. • Find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it
History/ Geography	<p>Our Topic this half term is 'Active Planet. We will be learning about the destructive powers of nature, from volcanoes and earthquakes to tsunamis and tornadoes. Through discussion and practical tasks, we will learn about how and why these natural phenomena occur, and the ways in which they affect people and the environment.</p>
Art/Design & Technology	<p>This term our DT Topic will continue to be Structures: Pavilions. We will be exploring pavilion structures. The children will learn about what they are used for and investigate how to create strong and stable structures before designing and creating their own pavilions, complete with cladding. We will then evaluate our pavilions.</p>
P.E.	<p>Birch will continue to have PE on Mondays. Your child/children will need to wear their PE kit and school jumper to school on these days. Please ensure your child/children are wearing the following kit for PE: plain black tracksuit bottoms, a white t-shirt and black trainers or plimsolls. PE will be taught by Coach Fab.</p>
Swimming	<p>In addition to a weekly PE lesson, as part of the PE curriculum, children in Birch class will have weekly swimming lessons at St Thomas the Apostle School SE15. All lessons will be taught by a professional swimming instructor and supported by a member of our school's staff.</p> <p>Your child will need to bring a one-piece swimming costume (for girls), a pair of swimming trunks (for boys), a towel and a swimming hat. The costume and trunks should be green, blue or black only.</p> <p><u>Please note that these swimming lessons are compulsory, not optional.</u></p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns about these swimming lessons, please speak to me.</p>
Music	<p>LKS2 will continue to have weekly ukulele lessons delivered by our peripatetic teacher Mr Thorpe.</p>
Computing	<p>Our topic this half term is: We are musicians. We will be by creating a piece of music in GarageBand.</p> <p>In this unit, pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play music using virtual instruments • compose or edit tunes using the piano roll (pitch and duration) tool • perform electronic music using pre-recorded loops, and create their own loops • create a multi-track composition or performance using multiple instruments • give feedback to others on their compositions and performances.
Spanish	<p>Spanish will continue to be taught every week. In this 'My Routine' Spanish unit, Birch class will learn how to tell the time: o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. They will also begin to read timetables and TV schedules and answer simple questions about these.</p>
R.E.	<p>This term our topic will be Why is Easter important to Christians? We will explore: What is Easter and why is it celebrated? What are the symbols associated with Easter and how do they suggest new life? What is Palm Sunday? What are the events of the Last Supper? What were the events in the Garden of Gethsemane? How do Christians remember and celebrate Easter today?</p>
P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	<p>Our focus this half term will be 'Healthy Me.' We will also continue to develop our awareness and understanding of how we can remain physically and mentally healthy.</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. 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 and KS2 will continue to be completed in homework books.</p> <p><u>Reading Homework</u></p> <p>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>Year 4 Homework:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Spelling • Times tables <p>Whole-school and class-based home learning projects</p>
<p>Home Learning Projects</p>	<p>The week beginning 2nd March 2026 is Book Week! There will be a creative home learning project linked to Book Week. We can't wait to see your creative potatoes! There will also be creative learning projects linked to Easter later on in the term – Easter bonnets/ garden.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center; gap: 20px;">   </div>
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>Please ensure that your child attends school with a bag, fresh water bottle, reading record, reading book and coat every day. They should also wear the correct school uniform. Our uniform encourages a sense of belonging and is compulsory for all children from Reception Class to Year 6.</p>
<p>Key Dates</p>	<p>World Book week to start the week beginning 2nd March 2026</p> <p>Thursday 5th March – World book Day</p> <p>Friday 6th March – PTA Coffee morning</p> <p>Tuesday 10th March – Parent consultation meetings.</p> <p>Friday 13th March – Mother's Day Event</p> <p>Assessment week to begin Monday 16th March 2026</p> <p>Friday 20th March 2026 – Red Nose Day/Sports Relief</p> <p>Monday 23rd March 2026 – Easter bonnets/gardens brought to school</p> <p>Thursday 26th March 2026 – Whole school poetry assembly</p> <p>Thursday 26th March 2026 – Easter events PTA</p> <p>Friday 27th March 2026 – Easter Parade and Last day school finishes at 1:00pm No after school club</p>