

# Hollydale Primary School: Spring 2 2026



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

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 ([lharvey64.210@lgflmail.org](mailto:lharvey64.210@lgflmail.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 2 2026 - This half term Year 1/2 will be learning about the following topics:

<b>Literacy</b>	Elm Class will begin this half term with <i>The Odd Egg</i> by Emily Gravett. The children will start by identifying different types of eggs and predicting which animals they belong to before exploring the story in more detail. They will then use the text as inspiration for a non-fiction outcome, creating their own "Egg-Spotter Guide" after researching a variety of eggs. Later in the half term, the children will explore <i>Yeti and the Bird</i> by Nadia Shireen, with a focus on the theme of friendship. They will write letters and postcards, applying their knowledge of common exception words and suffixes in their writing.
<b>Reading Records</b>	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.  <b>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.</b>
<b>Stay and Read Friday</b>	We are excited to share with you that our Reading Together Sessions will be starting on Friday 27th February. 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.
<b>Spellings</b>	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.
<b>Handwriting and Presentation</b>	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. <a href="https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/index.html">https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/index.html</a>
<b>Phonics</b>	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.  The children will also have an additional phonics lesson to help prepare them for their Phonics Screening Check in Summer 1.
<b>Maths</b>	This term, Elm Class will build on their understanding of place value by recognising numbers to 50. They will practise grouping and <b>partitioning</b> numbers into tens and ones, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, and using number lines, unifix cubes and dienes to support learning.  Next, the children will focus on length and height. They will compare and measure different objects and begin to use key mathematical vocabulary, including centimetres.  At the end of the term, the class will explore mass and volume, where they will compare objects to determine which are heavier or lighter and investigating containers to see which are full or empty.

	<p>This half term, we will be looking at 'Caring for the Environment', working towards answering the big question 'Why do seasons change over time?'. Children will be thinking about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session 1 - All about Earth</li> <li>• Session 2 - Reduce Reuse and Recycle</li> <li>• Session 3 - Saving Water and Energy</li> <li>• Session 4 - Protecting Plants and Animals</li> <li>• Session 5 – How can we look after the environment?</li> </ul>
<b>Computing</b>	<p>Our computing topic for this half term is "We are Publishers"! The children will be creating their own multimedia eBook all about their achievements. Children will be thinking about in each lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session 1 - Planning the eBook</li> <li>• Session 2 - Selecting and Importing images</li> <li>• Session 3 - Adding Commentary</li> <li>• Session 4 - Adding Text</li> <li>• Session 5 - Adding images from the Internet</li> <li>• Session 6 - Reviewing and Revising</li> </ul>
<b>Topic (History/ Geography)</b>	<p>This half term, we will focus on Geography with the theme of Kenya, exploring geographical similarities and differences. The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session 1 – Locate the UK and Kenya.</li> <li>• Session 2 – Learn the UK's countries and capitals.</li> <li>• Session 3 – Explore Kenya's and the UK's human and physical features.</li> <li>• Session 4 – Investigate Kenya's wildlife, daily life and climate.</li> <li>• Session 5 – Compare the UK and Kenya.</li> </ul>
<b>R.E.</b>	<p>This term, our Religious Education focus will be 'Christianity'. The children will be considering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why Palm Sunday is important to Christians?</li> <li>• Why Maundy Thursday is important to Christians?</li> <li>• Why the cross is an important symbol for Christians?</li> <li>• How did the disciples feel on Easter Sunday?</li> <li>• How do Christians celebrate Easter?</li> </ul>
<b>PSHE</b>	<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>
<b>Art / Design &amp; Technology</b>	<p>This half term, our Design and Technology focus is on Structures, where the children will construct a windmill. They will build a stable structure, using tools and equipment accurately, joining parts together, and then evaluating their work. The term will conclude with Easter-themed art projects.</p>
<b>P.E.</b>	<p>Elm will have two PE sessions in the week – one session on <b>Tuesday</b> and another session on <b>Thursday</b>. 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: <b>Black</b> tracksuit bottoms, a <b>white</b> t-shirt or top and <b>black</b> trainers or plimsolls.</p>
<b>Music</b>	<p>Music will be taught by a specialist music teacher (Mr Duncan) every Thursday morning.</p>
<b>Homework</b>	<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 style="text-align: center;">Homework for <b>KS1</b> will continue to be completed in homework books.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Reading Homework</u></b></p> <p>All children <b>KS1</b>. Parents and carers are expected to record and sign their child's reading log each evening.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Spelling Homework</u></b></p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework Projects</u></b></p> <p>Homework projects are set half-termly and will often link with whole-school curriculum focus events.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework by Year Group</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year 1s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phonics</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Number bonds to 10 and 20 (initially, extending further as appropriate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole-school and class-based home learning projects</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Years 2s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Spelling</li> <li>• Times table</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole-school and class-based home learning projects</li> </ul>
<p>Easter Bonnets/ Garden</p> <p>Home Learning Project</p>	<p>During the last week of term, children have the opportunity to bring in Easter bonnets and gardens they have made at home. There will be prizes for the best ones. Please see examples from last year below.</p> 
<p>Educational Visit/ Trips</p>	<p>TBC</p>
<p>Key dates</p>	<p><b><u>February Key Dates:</u></b></p> <p><b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b> – Children return to school at 8:55pm  <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b> – Curriculum Newsletters are to be sent home</p> <p><b><u>March Key Dates:</u></b></p> <p><b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b> – World Book Week Begins  <b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b> – World Book Day  <b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b> – PTA Coffee Morning  <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b> – Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings: 3:45pm – 6:00pm  <b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b> – Mothers’ Day Sale/ Event  <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b> – Assessment Week  <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> – Time Table Challenge  <b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b> – Red Nose Day  <b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> – Easter Bonnets/ Gardens brought to school.  <b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b> – Poetry Recital AM. Easter Events – Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Egg gifts from PTA  <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b> – Easter Parade/ Last Day of School and finishes at 1pm. No after school club.</p> <p><b>Easter Holiday: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b></p>
<p>Additional Information</p>	<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><b><u>Summer School Uniform:</u></b></p> <p><b>Girls Uniform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Dresses - Red &amp; White or Green &amp; White Gingham</li> <li>• Cardigan*/ Sweatshirt*/V neck sweater - Dark green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footwear - Black Shoes</li> <li>• Hijabs – White/Dark Green/Black only</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Boys Uniform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polo shirt – Dark green, bright red or white</li> <li>• Cardigan*/ Sweatshirt*/V neck sweater - Dark green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trousers/ shorts (knee length) – Grey</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Footwear - Black shoes

**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.