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Hollydale News

Hollydale Newsletter: 13th February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Book Week and World Book Day were a great success. A massive thank you to all staff, pupils, and parents/carers who made this possible. Pupils had great fun creating artwork based on the literacy text in focus, and demonstrated excellent teamwork as they shared their favourite books with children from other classes and year groups. It was wonderful to see so many families attending our **World Book Day parade**. The effort from pupils and staff was incredible. Spider-Men, witches, wizards, princesses, ballerinas, and Mad Hatters were just some of the many fantastic characters parading. Well done everyone!

We also had a **special visitor for World Book Day**— Maya Komolafe a trainee pilot and author of *Eliana Wants to Fly*. Here is a message from Maya: “Thank you very much for welcoming me to Hollydale Primary School. I had a lovely time reading *Eliana Wants to Fly* to your wonderful students. Their participation and enthusiasm were truly appreciated. I was so impressed by how engaged they were, and their thoughtful responses and energy made the book reading really enjoyable for me. I hope the students enjoyed the visit as much as I did.”

A big **Thank You** to one of our parents and chair of our PTA, Simone, for organising the visit.



You can find the Amazon link to *Eliana Wants to Fly* here:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Eliana-Wants-Fly-Maya-Komolafe/dp/1036907325>

And the link to the YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@ElianaWantstoFly>

Additionally, some pupils from **Year 5 and Year 6 went on a residential visit** this week. The visit aimed to help pupils develop key life skills, improve teamwork and class dynamics, and build self-awareness and individual confidence. They returned with lots of exciting stories to share.

Literacy Lab Spotlight

This year marks the National Year of Reading 2026, a UK-wide campaign led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust to help children and adults rediscover the joy of reading. Children who attend our Literacy Lab will be taking part in activities related to a different author each month. March is Rob Biddulph, who wrote *When I Grow Up I'd Like to Be*. There is also a Story Mission Reading Challenge, designed to make reading motivating and enjoyable. If your child attends Literacy Lab, please make sure they have their Story Mission book with them on a Wednesday and Thursday.

Parents can explore free literacy activities and resources using the link below. The website is worth visiting even if your child does not attend Literacy Lab.

<https://thechildrensliteracycharity.org.uk/literacy-resources/#>

Best Wishes,
Leadership Team

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Important dates for your diary

Monday 16 th	Assessment Week
Tuesday 17 th	Times Tables Challenge
Tuesday 17 th	Y5 and Y6 Parent teacher consultation meetings to share pupil targets and progress 3:45pm – 6:00pm
Wednesday 18 th	Y5 and Y6 Parent teacher consultation meetings to share pupil targets and progress 3:45pm – 6:00pm
Friday 20 th	Red Nose Day
Thursday 26 th	Easter egg hunt - PTA
Friday 27 th	Easter bonnets and gardens parade

REMINDERS

All Easter gardens and bonnets to be brought to school by Monday 23rd March 2026.

Please, ensure that you collect your child on time at the end of the school day, at 3:30pm. If you are running late or if you have arranged for someone else to collect your child, please inform the office.

Attendance and Punctuality



How quickly another week has flown by!
This year we are aiming for an attendance **target of 97%**.

Please note the following:

- 100% Attendance - 0 Days Missed - Excellent**
- 95% Attendance - 9 Days of Absence, 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed - Satisfactory**
- 90% Attendance - 19 Days of Absence, 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed - Poor**
- 85% Attendance - 28 Days of Absence, 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed - Very Poor**
- 80% Attendance - 38 Days of Absence, 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed - Unacceptable**

Class	Attendance %	Punctuality Number of Lates
Cherry YR	98.6%	2
Elm Y1-2	90%	3
Cedar Y2	94.2%	2
Oak Y3	98.1%	4
Birch Y4	91.4%	6
Hazel Y5	94.8%	2
Willow Y5-6	92.7%	3

Thought of the week

"Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud."

Maya Angelou



Class Catch Up!

Year R Cherry Class decorated their own fish inspired by the story *The Rainbow Fish* for Book Week.



For Book Week, **Year 1-2 Elm Class**, have been creating artwork based on the book *Naughty Bus* by Jan Oke, and designed bookmarks inspired by some of their favourite stories.



Year 2 Cedar Class designed information booklets based on their favourite stories, and enjoyed sharing books with pupils from Y5 Hazel class.



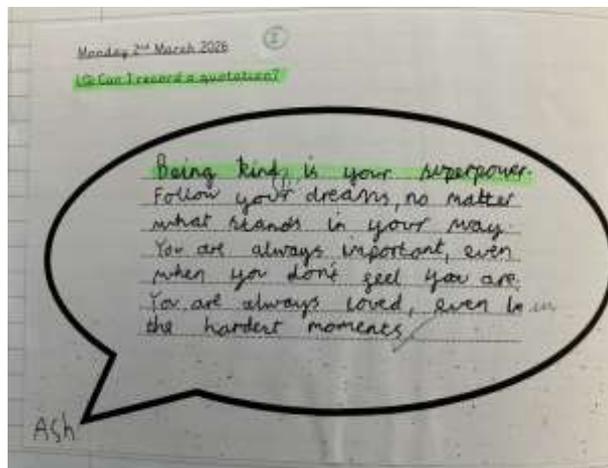
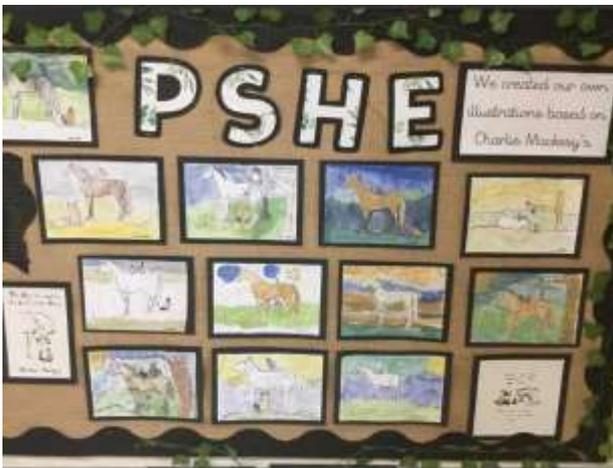
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Year 3 Oak Class enjoyed reading for pleasure during World Book Day 2026. They also had the opportunity to create their own superhero comics.



Year 4 Birch Class read *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy, and created their own illustrations!



As part of World Book Week, **Year 5 Hazel Class** have been making their own 'Lost Things', based on *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan. They used cardboard and other scrap materials to build up shape and be as creative as possible.



Y5-6 Willow Class enjoyed sharing stories with younger pupils in Elm Class and created city landscape artwork from one perspective, linked to *The Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen.



Thursday Reward Assembly Chart
W/C: 04.03.26
Excellence Reward week for: Reading

Class	Name of Child	Reason for reward	Name of child	Reason for reward
Cherry YR	Zaniyah	For great progress in reading and regularly reading at home. Zaniyah uses her phonics well to decode words.	Adam	For great progress in reading and regularly reading at home. Adam uses his phonics well to decode words.
Elm Y1/Y2	Abdulqadir	For being able to apply his phase 5 phonics to read words fluently and confidently.	Makayla	For beginning to read simple CVC words in guided reading.
Cedar Y2	Ama	Ama has shown rapid progress with her reading. Keep it up Ama!	Pablo	Pablo enjoys reading and has shown this in his Guided reading sessions everyday. Fantastic!
Oak Y3	Riaz	For being able to discuss words and phrases that capture his interest and imagination.	Koa	For being able to use a dictionary to check the meaning of words that he has read.
Birch Y4	Noah	Engaging enthusiastically during reading sessions and sharing ideas.	Ibrahim	Engaging enthusiastically during reading sessions and sharing ideas.
Hazel Y5	Ikhlas	Engaging during reading and volunteering to read aloud. Learning and using new vocabulary.	Audrey	Demonstrating reading for pleasure. Audrey loves trying out new genres and discussing books she is reading.
Willow Y5-6	Neriah	Fantastic inference Neriah - you read between the lines thoughtfully.	Chayil	Excellent retrieval skills Chayil — you find precise evidence to support your answers.



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