

Hollydale Primary School



Working together to be the best that we can be

Welcome back to the final half of summer term! We hope that you have had a restful half term break and are ready for all the exciting and challenging opportunities this term will offer!

Any pupils in Year 2 who did not meet the required standard in the Phonics Screening Check in Year 1 will retake the check this term.

Information for parents and carers



Your child's reading journey Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

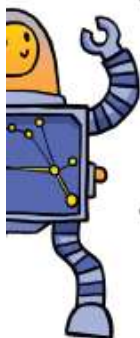
Your child has now learned most of the Year 1 phonics in *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* and will soon be preparing for the nationally required Phonics Screening Check, which will take place in June.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- The Phonics Screening Check is a quick check of your child's decoding skills.
- Your child will be asked to read 40 words – 20 are real words, 20 are known as 'alien words' (made-up words).

Why do the children read 'alien words'?

- Reading alien words checks children's decoding skills and knowledge of graphemes in a fair way – it mirrors what the children have to do when they read a word that they have not read before.
- Your child will not have seen the alien words before. They will have to use their knowledge of letters and sounds to work out how to read them.



How does the check work?

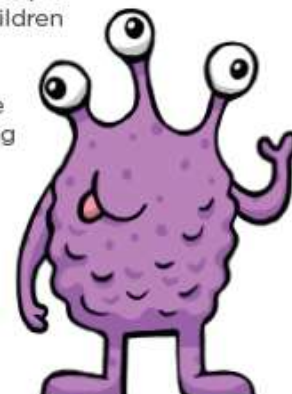
- Your child will be asked to read 40 words independently.
- The check has been designed to not put your child under stress. It will be carried out by a member of staff who knows your child well.
- It should only take a few minutes to complete, but there is no time limit.

Do I need to do anything to further support my child?

- Continue to listen to your child read their phonics books and read to them daily.
- Your child's teacher will let you know if any additional practice is needed.
- Always ask if you need any further support!

All for the love of reading


- Teaching children the skills of reading will increase their will to read. Children who love reading, choose to read.
- Reading develops children's vocabulary, understanding of the world and empathy.
- A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic success! To develop a love reading, children must have the skills to read, which is why we teach them using phonics.



Summer 2 2026 - This half term, Year 2 will be learning about the following topics:

<p>English</p>	<p>Our writing will be based around the book Dear Earth by Isabel Otter and illustrated by Clara Anganuzzi. The sequence of learning begins with children discovering an explorer’s rucksack in the classroom containing many exploration-related items. The class move on to set up an Explorers’ Club and decide where in the world they’d like to explore and what they’d want to see and do. Children write about these aspirations and pin them to a world map. Children go on to write about what explorers need to do before going on a mini safari and then research and record factual statements about endangered animals. As they read through the book, children will write setting descriptions of landscapes around the world and turn these into poems about exploration. As they continue to read about Tessa’s imagined travels, children write a script for a travel vlog. At the end of the story, children are challenged to think about and discuss the problems and solutions the planet faces and will write a persuasive speech encouraging the public to look after the environment. Children will use all the skills and vocabulary covered to write their own extended informative leaflet about protecting the environment. Children will finish with a letter to the earth, using Tessa’s letter from the text and celebrating their own dreams and aspirations.</p>
<p>Spellings</p>	<p>We are working very hard in school to strengthen basic skills, but we need your help to boost spellings. We have created spelling challenges 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!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Handwriting and Presentation</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Reading Records</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Phonics</p>	<p>Phonics will be taught every day and this will be consolidated in Literacy and weekly spellings. We will focus on the Year 2 spelling rules and patterns and looking at the suffixes er, est and ly to start off the term.</p>
<p>Maths</p>	<p>We will be learning about statistics including tally charts, pictograms and bar diagrams. We will also look at position and direction. In addition to this, weekly ‘Maths Fluency’ sessions will ensure that the children’s arithmetic skills are being developed to aid rapid recall of number facts and their ability to solve problems. Throughout Year 2, we will practice and test their times tables (2, 3, 5 and 10) using Times Table Rock Stars. Please support your child with this at home as they have been given their individual login details.</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>Our science topic this half term is ‘Living things and their habitats’. We will explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive. We will learn to identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other. We will also learn to describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.</p>

Computing	In Computing this term, we will be covering the unit We are Zoologists. The children will go on a bug hunt, recording and identifying the small animals they find. They will organise the data they have collected, record it on a spreadsheet and create charts; as well as add images to a local map linking to our Geography learning last term.
Topic	This term we will begin our new topic, Beside the Seaside. This unit will teach children to compare seaside holidays today to those in the past, using vocabulary related to the past. Throughout the unit we will be focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using historical sources to identify how seaside holidays have changed over time. • Describing a historical seaside holiday using vocabulary related to seaside resorts in the past. • Organising seaside holidays into chronological order. • Explain how seaside holidays now are different to in the past.
Art / Design & Technology	Our focus will be food technology. We will be handling and exploring fruits and vegetables and learning how to identify which category they fall into, before undertaking taste testing to establish their chosen ingredients for the smoothie they will make a design packaging for.
PE	Year 2 will have PE on Thursday mornings. 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. Our focus this term will be ball skills. Year 2 girls will be participating in the Empower Her Programme again with a specialist PE coach.
Music	Year 2 will continue to be taught by our specialist music teacher (Mr Duncan) every Thursday. The children will continue to learn about rhythm and tempo using a range of hand percussion instruments, as well as explore melodies with various instruments. We will continue to incorporate opportunities for singing across the school day.
RE	Our focus will be Why are different books special for different people? In this unit, pupils will reflect on what books are special for themselves and why. They will then learn about the important place of books in religious traditions – Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism – and how people’s attitudes to these books are shown in how they treat them.
PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)	Our focus this half term will be ‘Changing Me’. We will learn about life cycles in nature, growing from young to old as well as our bodies.
RSE	Year 2 will be taught the following (RSHE) topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences: Boys and Girls - To introduce the concept of male and female and gender stereotypes and to identify differences between males and females • Differences: Male and Female - To explore some of the differences between males and females and to understand how this is part of the lifecycle • Naming the Body Parts - To focus on sexual difference and name body parts
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. <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. Homework for KS2 will continue to be completed in homework books.</p> <p>Reading Homework Parents and carers are expected to record and sign their child’s reading log each evening.</p> <p>Spelling Homework</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><u>Homework Projects</u> Homework projects are set half-termly and will often link with whole-school curriculum focus events (Years 2–4). Homework includes reading, spellings, times tables and whole-school and home learning projects</p>
<p>Class Dojo</p>	<p>It is really important that you are linked to Class Dojo. We will update the Class Story with any important information you need to know and contact you via message if there is anything we need to share with you. https://teach.classdojo.com/</p>
<p>Other Notices</p>	<p>Summer School Uniform:</p>  <p>Girls Uniform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Dresses - Red & White or Green & White Gingham • Cardigan*/ Sweatshirt*/V neck sweater - Dark green • Footwear - Black Shoes • Hijabs – White/Dark Green/Black only <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 • Trousers/ shorts (knee length) – Grey • Footwear - Black shoes <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>
<p>Educational Visit/ Trips</p>	<p>As part of their end-of-year visit, the children will enjoy a Teddy Bears' Picnic.</p>
<p>Key dates</p>	<p>Monday 1st June 2026 – Children return to school Monday 8th June 2026 – Science Week begins Monday 8th June 2026 – Phonics Screening Check for Y2 retakes Friday 12th June 2026 – Scientist Day! Friday 19th June 2026 – Fathers’ Day Sale/Event Monday 22nd June 2026 – Assessment Week begins Friday 26th June 2026 – Friends of Hollydale AGM and Spanish Day Thursday 2nd July 2026 – Poetry Recital Assembly Friday 3rd July 2026 – Sports Day! Saturday 4th July 2026 – Summer Fair Wednesday 8th July 2026 – Times Tables Challenge Thursday 9th July 2026 - Pupil’s reports will be sent home Thursday 9th July 2026 – Summer Music Concert Wednesday 15th July 2026 – Pupils’ exercise books will be sent home Thursday 16th July 2026 – Transition Day – Children will spend time with their new teachers in their new classroom Friday 17th July 2026 – Last Day of term and Cultural Day – Children can wear their own clothes. School will resume on Thursday 3rd September 2026.</p>

Year 2 Team

Cedar Class Teacher – Ms Sultana

Teaching Assistants: Ms Yasmin and Ms Ayres