

Hollydale Primary School: Autumn 1 2026

Welcome back to the new academic year! We hope you have had a restful summer break and are ready to enjoy all the exciting opportunities that this year will offer. We begin this new term with lots of exciting topics for the children to become immersed in.

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) or

ClassDojo <https://teach.classdojo.com/>.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Warm Regards, Ms Harvey

Class Teacher: Ms Harvey

Support Staff: Ms K

Autumn 1 2026 - This half term Year 1 will be learning about the following topics:

English	This half term in English, we will dive into <i>Naughty Bus</i> by Jan Oke. We will take on the role of a character to write letters and use our imaginations to create our own <i>Naughty Bus</i> adventures. After, we will look at <i>Astro Girl</i> by Ken Wilson-Max, in line with our learning around Black History Month. We will explore the theme of space and take on the role of characters as we develop our writing skills. We will explore writing in role, commands and 'how-to' guides, while learning more about space and what it takes to become an astronaut. As part of National Poetry Week, we will also be exploring different types of poetry, learning about their features, and finishing by writing our own autumn-themed acrostic poems.
Reading Records	The children will bring home a sharing book (free-choice book from the book corner) on Tuesday as well as a Little Wandle Phonics Books. 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. All phonics book needs 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.
Spellings	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.

Handwriting and Presentation	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
Phonics	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. This term, we will revisit the Phase 3 sounds taught in Reception. We will then move on to Phase 4, exploring sounds with long vowels, before beginning Phase 5, where we will introduce /ay/ as in play, /ou/ as in cloud, /oy/ as in toy, and /ee/ as in each.
Maths	This term, the children will be developing their understanding of Number and Place Value. They will be learning to recognise, read and write numbers to 10, with some children extending their learning to numbers up to 20. They will use practical resources to help them represent numbers and solve simple problems. The children will also be learning and recalling their number bonds to 10 and will practise comparing and ordering numbers. Our weekly Maths Fluency sessions will help the children develop their arithmetic skills and build confidence with recalling number facts quickly.
Science	Our topic this term will be <i>The Human Body</i> . The children will focus on the following topics: • Session 1 – Drawing around our Bodies • Session 2 – What are our Five Senses? • Session 3 – Which body part do we use to see? • Session 4 – Which body part do we use to hear? • Session 5 – Which body parts do we use to touch, smell and taste? • Session 6 – How can we use our five senses to explore Autumn?
Computing	Our topic this half term is 'We are Treasure Hunters', involving the following: • Session 1 – they take on the role of a robot, responding to instructions they are given • Session 2 – they take on the role of a robot-pirate to work out a sequence of instructions (an algorithm) to find their way to an objective • Session 3 – they explore the Blue-Bot controls • Session 4 – they follow, create and test sequences of instructions to solve problems with the Blue-Bot • Session 5 – they predict what the Blue-Bot will do when given different sequences of instructions
Topic (History/ Geography)	As part of our whole-school celebration of Black History Month, Elm Class will explore <i>Bold Women in Black History</i> . This is based on a book written by Vashti Harrison, focusing on the inspiring stories and achievements of Ruby Bridges and Yvonne Connolly. The children will be focusing on the following topics: • Session 1: Why do we celebrate Black History Month? • Session 2: Who is Ruby Bridges? • Session 3: What was school like when Ruby Bridges was a child? • Session 4: Who is Yvonne Connolly? • Session 5: How was Yvonne's school experience different from ours? • Session 6: What made Ruby and Yvonne brave and bold?
R.E.	Our R.E. focus this term will be Hinduism. The children will be focusing on the following topics: • Session 1 – How can belonging help us through the journey of life? • Session 2 – What is karma? • Session 3 – Who is Brahman? • Session 4 – Who was Krishna? • Session 5 – How can puja help a Hindu lead a good life? • Session 6 – What does the Aum (Om) symbol mean?

Art / D&T	In Art, we will be exploring three of the formal elements of art: shape, line and colour. The children will be focusing on: • Session 1 – What different types of lines can I create? • Session 2 – How can music inspire the lines we draw? • Session 3 – How can we use shapes to create pictures? • Session 4 – How do artists use shapes in their artwork? • Session 5 – How can we use shapes and lines to create a portrait inspired by Paul Klee?
P.E.	Elm will have two PE sessions in the week – one session on Tuesday and another session on Thursday. 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: Black tracksuit bottoms, a white t-shirt or top and black trainers or plimsolls.
Music	Music will be taught by a specialist music teacher (Mr Duncan) every Thursday morning.
P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	Our focus this half term will be 'Being Me in My World'. We will be learning about our rights and responsibilities within the classroom, focusing on how to maintain a safe and calm learning environment. We will also be focusing on settling back into school and having regular discussions about how to maintain our mental health and well-being.
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 for KS1 will continue to be completed in homework books. <u>Reading Homework</u> All children KS1. Parents and carers are expected to record and sign their child's reading log each evening. <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. <u>Homework Projects</u> Homework projects are set half-termly and will often link with whole-school curriculum focus events. <u>Homework by Year Group</u> Year 1s • Phonics • Reading • Number bonds to 10 and 20 (initially, extending further as appropriate) • Whole-school and class-based home learning projects
Educational Visit	TBC
Key dates	<u>September 2026</u> Thursday 3rd September – Children Return to School ○ Start time: 8:55am ○ <i>Please ensure your child arrives on time each morning.</i> Friday 4th September – Curriculum Newsletters Sent Home ○ <i>To help parents/carers understand what is being taught in school.</i> Friday 11th September - PTA coffee morning ○ <i>Parents/carers are invited to join us</i> Wednesday 16th September – Meet the Teacher – Elm Class ○ Time: 3:40pm

	○ <i>An opportunity for parents/carers to learn more about the new academic year and ask questions.</i> Friday 18th September – Jeans for Genes Day ○ <i>Children may wear their own clothes.</i> ○ Donation: £1 per child Monday 21st September – Enrichment Clubs Resume Friday 25th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning ○ Time: 9:00am ○ <i>Fundraising Cake Sale in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.</i> ○ <i>Children may wear green clothes or accessories.</i> Monday 28th September – National Poetry Week & Black History Month Celebrations Begin <u>October 2026</u> Thursday 1st October – National Poetry Day Whole School Assembly linked to Harvest festival Friday 2nd October - BHM home learning project will be sent home Thursday 8th October – Multiplication Table Challenge Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th October – Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings ○ <i>Appointment times to be confirmed (between 3:45pm – 6:00pm)</i> Tuesday 20th October – Parent Workshop ○ <i>Child Mental Health delivered by the Nest Peckham</i> ○ 9:00am to 9:30am Friday 23rd October – End of Autumn 1 term Half term – 26/10/ 26 – 30/10/26
<i>Additional Information</i>	Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct autumn/winter uniform. Our uniform encourages a sense of belonging and is compulsory for all children from Reception Class to Year 6. Please can you label your child's uniform. Thank you Girls Uniform • Cardigan*/ Sweatshirt*/V neck sweater - Dark green • Footwear - Black Shoes • Hijabs – White/Dark Green/Black only Boys Uniform • Polo shirt – Dark green, bright red or white • Cardigan*/ Sweatshirt*/V neck sweater - Dark green • Trousers/ shorts (knee length) – Grey • 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.