

Hollydale Primary School



Working together to be the best that we can be

Year 2/3 – Oak Class

Oak Class Teacher – Ms Opaleye
Support Staff – Ms Bi and Ms Ayres

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 Oak Class life, please do not hesitate to contact me via ClassDojo

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

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Autumn 1 2026 - This half term Year 2 will be learning about the following topics:

English	We will start the term reading three different versions of Goldilocks for three different, but connected writing outcomes. The children will initially familiarise themselves with the traditional version of the tale, using Lauren Child's version and identify the elements of a traditional tale whilst identifying adjectives to describe the character of Goldilocks that they then use to create a 'Wanted' poster that will be displayed around school. In the next part the children will explore the text <i>Me and You</i> by Anthony Browne where pictures are used to provide a context for why Goldilocks appears at the three bears' house. This is a more sympathetic view and the children are asked as an outcome to tell the story from her perspective. In the final part, the children will write a sequel to the original story, where Goldilocks and the bears meet many years later and they role play and imagine conversations and then look at a published sequel called <i>Goldilocks and Just the One Bear</i> by Leigh Hodgkinson. We will then move onto reading <i>Jim and the Beanstalk</i> by Raymond Briggs. The children will discover a beanstalk and footprint in the classroom and use this to engage with and learn the story and retell it to one another. They will then use their knowledge of the sequel to initially innovate and then create their own sequel. Grammar will be embedded within these literacy sessions.
Reading Records	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.
Phonics / SPaG	Grammar will be taught every day and this will be consolidated in Literacy lessons. We will focus on the KS1 spelling rules and patterns.
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 of 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
Maths	This term, children will be working on developing their understanding of Number and Place Value. They will be learning to represent numbers using different manipulatives, counting forwards and backwards in different intervals and using the number line to solve problems. In addition to this, weekly 'Maths Fluency' sessions will ensure their arithmetic skills are being developed to aid rapid recall of number facts. Throughout the year, we will practice our 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.
Science	This term, our topic will be Animals including Humans. The children will be identifying and naming a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores, learning that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults (life cycles), explaining the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air), describing the importance for humans to eat the right amounts of different types of food, discussing the importance of exercise for humans and learning about the importance of hygiene.

Computing	In computing this term, we will be looking at the unit 'We Are Astronauts'. In this unit we will learn how to: • plan a sequence of instructions to move sprites in ScratchJr • create, test and debug programs for sprites in ScratchJr • work with input and output in ScratchJr • use repetition in their programs • design costumes for sprites.
Topic	This term we will be exploring how protest can be used to facilitate change. To celebrate Black History Month, we will be focusing on understanding how key black individuals have helped shape the world that we live in and how they have impacted our day to day lives.
R.E.	Our R.E. focus this term will be Where did the world come from and how should we look after it? In this unit we will be thinking about... • What is the meaning of creation? • What stories do Muslims, Jews and Christians tell about how the world began? (Adam and Eve) • What stories do Hindus tell about how the world began?
Art / D&T	We will be exploring three of the formal elements of art: shape, line and colour. We will mix and paint with secondary colours; use circles to create abstract compositions and work collaboratively to create a class piece of art inspired by water.
P.E.	We will have PE on Monday and Thursday each week. Please ensure that your child/children wear 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. All children are expected to come to school dressed in their PE kit (and school jumper or cardigan). There will not be a changing facility in operation.
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, focussing 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. <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. These will be tested every three weeks, with scores recorded and tracked on a spelling grid. The number of spellings tested will vary according to children's individual needs. <u>Times Tables</u> Children in Year 2 should practice their times tables (2, 3, 5 and 10) using TTRS. <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.
Educational Visit	TBC

September 2026

School Events – Autumn Term 2026

Thursday 3rd September – Children Return to School

- Start time: **8:55am**
- *Please ensure your child arrives on time each morning.*

Friday 4th September – Curriculum Newsletters Sent Home

Friday 11th September - PTA coffee morning – new Reception parents invited

Wednesday 16th September – Meet the Teacher at 3:55pm (Oak Class)

Friday 18th September – Jeans for Genes Day

- *Children may wear their own clothes.*
- Donation: **£1 per child**

Reading together and reading buddies begins

Monday 21st September – Enrichment Clubs Resume

Friday 25th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning

- Time: **9:00am**
- *Fundraising Cake Sale in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.*
- *Children may wear green clothes or accessories.*

Monday 28th September – National Poetry Week & Black History Month Celebrations Begin

October 2026

Thursday 1st October – National Poetry Day Whole School Assembly linked to Harvest festival

Friday 2nd – BHM home learning project will be sent home

Thursday 8th October – Multiplication Table Challenge

Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th October – Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings

- *Appointment times to be confirmed (between 3:45pm – 6:00pm)*

Friday 23rd October - Last day of half term

20th, 21st, and 22nd October– After school autumn activities organised by the PTA.

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October – Half term

End of Autumn 1 term

Half term – 26/10/ 26 – 30/10/26

Key dates

Please ensure that your child attends school with a fresh water bottle every day and is wearing the correct school uniform. Our uniform encourages a sense of belonging and is compulsory for all children from Reception Class to Year 6.