



Hollydale Primary School - Autumn 2026

Autumn 1 2026 - This half term Year 3 will be learning about the following topics:

English	We will begin by reading <i>Leon and the Place in Between</i> by Angela McAllister. Throughout the unit, children will engage in a range of grammar activities, as well as exploring drama techniques such as thought-tapping. The children will explore the author's choice of words and language and use these as the basis for their own descriptive writing. They will use the structure of the story to plan, draft and write their own version of the story, with their own characters. They will also create a persuasive poster, setting descriptions and diary entries. We will then move on to reading <i>The Heart and the Bottle</i> by Oliver Jeffers.
Spellings	We are working very hard in school to strengthen basic skills, but we need your help to boost spelling. 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 we ask is that you help your child 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 relevant block. The children will receive a certificate and can then begin learning the next set of spellings. We are hopeful that this will be more meaningful than testing spellings weekly. By basing the challenge on high-frequency words and words commonly used in their writing, it will be more purposeful, as the learning 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 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
Reading Records	The children will bring home a sharing book (a free-choice book from the book corner or school library) on Tuesdays. Please read and discuss the book 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 book that your child brings home is lost or damaged, parents will need to pay for a replacement.
Maths	In Numeracy, pupils will continue to apply their prior learning about place value in order to recognise the value of each digit in three-digit numbers. We will compare numbers and find 1, 10 and 100 more or less than a number before moving on to ordering numbers and counting in 50s. This will support our understanding of efficient written methods of addition and subtraction. Please ensure that your child knows number bonds to 100 and all times tables and related division facts (2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables). It is vital that children are supported to learn these in order to progress in Numeracy. Please ensure that you are supporting and practising all times tables with your child.

Science	Our topic this half term is Skeletons. We will be able to: • Name and identify bones in the human body. • Identify the functions of the skeleton. • Identify different types of skeleton. • Name and identify bones in a range of animals. The Big Question will be: How can we sort and group different animals according to what their skeletons are like?
History/ Geography	Our whole School Black History Month Topic is Activism and Protest. In Year 3 we will be focusing on Inspirational Sports Leaders. We will be learning about the lives and achievements of Marcus Rashford and Muhammad Ali. Our historical focus will be on understanding how significant individuals influenced change in society and using evidence to ask and answer questions. We can't wait to share our learning with you at our Black History Month Assembly!
Art/Design & Technology	Our DT unit this half term will be centred on Food Technology: Eating Seasonally. Children will focus on: • Explaining that fruits and vegetables grow in different countries based on their climates. • Understanding that 'seasonal' fruits and vegetables are those that grow in a given season and taste best then. • Knowing that eating seasonal fruit and vegetables has a positive effect on the environment. • Designing their own tart recipe using seasonal ingredients. • Understanding the basic rules of food hygiene and safety. • Following the instructions within a recipe.
P.E.	Cedar will have a PE session on Tuesday mornings. Your child will need to wear their PE kit and school jumper to school on Tuesdays. Please ensure your child is wearing the following kit for PE: black tracksuit bottoms, a white T-shirt and black trainers or plimsolls.
Music	Year 3 will have weekly ukulele lessons delivered by Mr Thorpe, our peripatetic teacher, on Tuesday mornings.
Computing	Our topic this half term is We Are Programmers. In this unit, pupils will create their own animation in Scratch. • Session 1: Pupils are introduced to Scratch and explore its tools. • Session 2: Pupils determine the key features of a good animation by looking at examples and create a storyboard for their own. • Session 3: Pupils plan and program characters and dialogue for their animation. • Session 4: Pupils begin to animate their characters by planning and programming

	movement. • Session 5: Pupils plan and program the switching of costumes and backdrops for their animation. • Session 6: Pupils add sound to their animation before reviewing, debugging and improving it.
Spanish	Spanish will be taught on Thursday afternoons for Year 3. This term, our unit is called All About School . The children will learn key vocabulary and phrases around the theme of school and classroom objects.
R.E.	Throughout the year, we will be investigating the question: How are symbols and sayings important in religion? Through this, we will investigate the relationship between religion and symbols. We will start this term by discovering: How and why do Hindus celebrate Holi? We will then explore the question: What celebrations can we design to mark a special time in our class or year group?
P.S.H.E. & Citizenship	Our focus this half term will be Being Me in My World , in which we will explore our role in our families, our school and the wider community, as well as well-being and our mental health.
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 KS2 will continue to be completed in homework books. Reading Homework Parents and carers are expected to record and sign their child's reading log each evening. Spelling Homework 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. Homework Projects 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.
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 Friday 11th September - PTA coffee morning

	Wednesday 16th September – Meet the Teacher at 3.55pm 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 ○ <i>Home Learning Projects are to be sent home (BHM)</i> <u>October 2026</u> Thursday 1st October – Black History Month Celebrations begin Thursday 1st October – Harvest themed poetry recital assembly at 9.15am 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> Half term – 26/10/ 26 – 30/10/26
<i>Additional Information</i>	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. Water bottles: Every child needs their own water bottle with their name on it. Please make sure your child attends school with a water bottle every day. These can be refilled at school.