HOLLYDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A heartfelt farewell & thank you

Ms Reema Reid

Headteacher 2013–2026 · Thirteen years of leadership and inspiration



"YES, WE CAN!"

Respect · Responsibility · Relationships · Resilience

"Working together to be the best that we can be."







Dear Parents, Carers and the Hollydale Community,

It is with a mixture of sadness and immense gratitude that we share the news that our much-loved Headteacher, Ms Reid, has retired, bringing to a close an extraordinary chapter in the history of Hollydale Primary School.

Since becoming Headteacher of Hollydale in 2013, Ms Reid has devoted herself to ensuring that every child who walks through Hollydale's doors feels valued, supported, inspired and capable of achieving great things.

For thirteen years, her leadership has been driven by an unwavering belief in the potential of every child, regardless of their background or circumstances. Her familiar words, **"Yes, We Can!"**, have become much more than a phrase. They represent the ambition, determination, resilience and optimism that she has worked so hard to instil in our entire school community.

As we celebrate her retirement, we reflect on her remarkable achievements and, most importantly, the lasting difference she has made to generations of Hollydale children and families.







The Values at the Heart of Hollydale

Ms Reid brought Hollydale's four core values to life through her leadership and the example she set for children and staff.

Respect	Responsibility	Relationships	Resilience
Valuing every person and celebrating difference.	Taking pride in our actions, learning and community.	Building kindness, trust and strong partnerships with families.	Having the courage to try, learn and persevere.

Together, these values express our school motto: "Working together to be the best that we can be."

A Remarkable Journey of School Improvement

When Ms Reid took on the leadership of Hollydale in 2013, the school faced significant challenges. In October of that year, Ofsted judged the school as Requires Improvement. Rather than allowing these challenges to define the school, Ms Reid saw an opportunity to build something special.

Through determined leadership, high expectations, a commitment to improving teaching and learning, and the collective efforts of staff, pupils, governors and families, Hollydale began an important journey of transformation.

Oct 2013	Feb 2018	Jun 2023	Oct 2024
Requires Improvement	Good	Good & improving	Outstanding behaviour

In February 2018, Ofsted recognised this progress, awarding Hollydale an overall judgement of Good. The June 2023 inspection confirmed that Hollydale remained Good and was improving. Then, in October 2024, the school reached another significant milestone:

Behaviour and Attitudes	**OUTSTANDING**
Quality of Education	**Good**
Personal Development	**Good**
Leadership and Management	**Good**
Early Years Provision	**Good**

This was an especially proud achievement. Inspectors recognised the exemplary behaviour of pupils, their positive attitudes towards learning and the warm, welcoming environment that had been established. These findings reflect the culture of kindness, respect, responsibility and aspiration that Ms Reid and the whole Hollydale team have worked tirelessly to develop.






A Nationally Award-Winning Headteacher

One of the proudest moments in Hollydale's history came in 2021, when Ms Reid received the prestigious **Gold Award for Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School** at the Pearson National Teaching Awards.




Selected for national recognition, Ms Reid was celebrated for her exceptional leadership, dedication to education and life-changing impact on children and families. The award was a wonderful recognition of the work taking place at Hollydale and a moment of enormous pride for the whole school community. It also attracted recognition across Southwark, highlighting her wider influence on education, equality and opportunity.



It is particularly inspiring that Ms Reid's own journey in education began as a lunchtime supervisor and teaching assistant before she qualified as a teacher and progressed into school leadership. Her story is a powerful example of determination, perseverance and the belief that, with hard work and opportunity, anything is possible.



National recognition for exceptional leadership

A School That Believes in Every Child

Throughout her time at Hollydale, Ms Reid has championed educating the whole child. For her, education has never been solely about examination results. It has also been about developing confidence, character, compassion, independence and a lifelong love of learning.



Under her leadership, children have been encouraged to discover their talents, explore new interests, take on responsibilities and believe in themselves. Hollydale has offered pupils a rich range of opportunities through music, sport, art, gardening, pupil leadership, reading partnerships and enrichment clubs.







Children have taken part in meaningful experiences beyond the classroom, including community projects, visits to places of worship and opportunities to contribute positively to the world around them. Central to Ms Reid's vision: children should leave Hollydale not only as successful learners, but as thoughtful, confident and caring young people.





Opening Doors Through Music, Creativity and Culture

One of Ms Reid's great passions was ensuring that music and the arts formed an important part of every child's education. She believed that the chance to discover and develop musical talent should never be limited by a family's circumstances.

Under her leadership, pupils could access guitar and piano lessons. Some progressed to formal guitar examinations and achieved music scholarships — accomplishments that opened doors to further learning and opportunity.





These opportunities were about more than playing an instrument. They nurtured creativity, discipline, perseverance, confidence and the joy of self-expression. Her commitment to pupils' cultural capital meant every child had the chance to explore the world beyond the classroom and imagine a future full of possibilities.





Music, creativity and confidence

A National Award for Our Breakfast Club

In 2024, Hollydale's Breakfast Club won the **overall award at the Kellogg's Breakfast Club Awards**. This national recognition celebrated the outstanding work done to ensure that children begin their school day feeling nourished, welcomed, included and ready to learn.

Hollydale's free Breakfast Club has been an important source of support for children and families, providing nutritious breakfasts alongside opportunities to socialise, play and build friendships. The award recognised the dedication of the staff who make it possible, and was a fitting reflection of Ms Reid's belief that every child deserves the best possible start.







Supporting Families and Strengthening Our Community







Ms Reid understood that children flourish when their families feel supported. She introduced a school food bank twice a week, offering families a welcoming, accessible way to receive extra support whenever it was needed — guided by dignity, kindness and looking after one another, without judgement.

For Ms Reid, Hollydale was always more than a place of learning: it was a community in which people cared for one another.

A Champion for Reading and Literacy

Reading has always been a central priority at Hollydale. Ms Reid has consistently recognised that learning to read confidently opens doors and gives children the foundations they need to thrive.

She became the **first Ambassador for The Children's Literacy Charity**, having seen first-hand the difference specialist reading support makes. Through this partnership she has championed targeted literacy intervention for children facing disadvantage, and spoken publicly about closing the literacy gap. Her conviction is simple but powerful: a child's circumstances should never determine the limits of their future.

A Leader Who Inspired Other Leaders

Ms Reid's contribution has reached far beyond the gates of Hollydale. She has supported and mentored educators, including teachers from ethnic minority backgrounds who aspire to leadership. Through Southwark's educational community she has championed equality and representation, and contributed to wider discussions about tackling racism and inequality in education.







Children and Families at the Heart of Hollydale

Perhaps Ms Reid's greatest achievement cannot be measured through inspection judgements, awards or certificates. It can be seen in the confidence of children who once doubted themselves, the pride of families watching their children flourish, and the sense of belonging found throughout our school.

It can be heard in the music of pupils who discovered a love for an instrument, and celebrated in the scholarships they went on to win. It is reflected, too, in the quiet and practical ways families were supported when they needed a helping hand.

Through moments of celebration and times of challenge, including the unprecedented disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, her commitment to the school community has remained steadfast.

"Yes, We Can!" — A Legacy That Lives On

For those who have had the privilege of knowing Ms Reid, her words "Yes, We Can!" will always hold a special meaning. They are words of encouragement when something seems difficult, reassurance when confidence is low,

and determination when challenges arise. Above all, they remind every child that their dreams and ambitions matter.

The true measure of her legacy will be found in the generations of children who leave Hollydale believing that they are capable, valued and deserving of every opportunity.

Thank You, Ms Reid

On behalf of our pupils, parents, carers, staff and the wider Hollydale community, thank you for thirteen years of extraordinary service.

- **Thank you for** your vision.
- **Thank you for** your determination.
- **Thank you for** the opportunities you have created.
- **Thank you for** enriching children's lives through music, the arts and new experiences.
- **Thank you for** your compassion, and for making families feel supported and valued.
- **Thank you for** believing in children, particularly when they needed someone to believe in them.
- **Thank you for** inspiring colleagues and helping Hollydale become the school it is today.

Most importantly, thank you for the countless lives you have touched and the lasting difference you have made.

We wish you a retirement filled with happiness, good health, relaxation and new adventures. Although this chapter has come to an end, the impact of your leadership will be felt throughout Hollydale for many years to come.

With our deepest appreciation and very best wishes,

The Hollydale Primary School Community

Pupils, Parents, Carers and Staff

SCHOOL SONG

I'm a Winner

If I hold my head up high,
in my dreams I can fly.
Like an eagle I'll take wings
and soar through the sky.
There's nothing I can't do,
just believe it's true,
I'm a winner, I'm a winner
that's what I am.

There's no mountain
too high for me to climb.
There's no problem
too hard for me to solve.
Every challenge, a reason just to try,
I'm a winner, I'm a winner
that's what I am.

"YES, WE CAN!"



Hollydale memories · Thank you, Ms Reid, for inspiring generations of Hollydale children to believe in themselves.