



HOLLY PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Holly Park Highlights!



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SPRING TERM 2013

Holly Park Online

At Holly Park, we are exceedingly proud of the very broad, imaginative and creative curriculum that we offer to our pupils across a range of subjects. The children enjoy experiences ranging from Curriculum Days to day trips; and from visitors to performances; as well as the day-to-day cross-curricular provision. Visitors to the school often praise us for the good behaviour and positive engagement of our pupils. These Holly Park Highlights are just one way we celebrate and share our outstanding curriculum offer with you.

We now have a school website to help you keep informed of the many and varied activities and events on offer at Holly Park. Please visit the website, hollyparkschool.co.uk, where you can view lots of photographs and information, as well as accessing links to support materials.

The Summer term promises to be very exciting, with lots of learning and events planned, and we will be updating the website regularly to reflect this.

Dragons and Dinosaurs



What a wonderful end of term treat we had, watching our talented Years 1 and 2 performing the Infant Show, "Dragons and Dinosaurs." This year as always the children painted fantastic pictures for the set. There was much excitement over the last few weeks of the Spring Term as children rehearsed dances, learned lines and sang songs.

Isabel in Year 2 who was

Baby Dragon said "I got to do lots of things on the stage. It felt scary at first but I got used to it by the end" and Adam in Year 2 enjoyed "singing a solo and using the microphone." Year 2 have the main speaking parts, and have to work hard with their voices. Chloe in year 2 was one of the narrators, and said "I liked doing the talking. I thought the whole show was really

good. The costumes were great!" Thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to make this show possible – the set, costumes, dances and music were all wonderful, and the children had a fantastic time, whatever their role.

Miss Michael, the Infant Key Leader, produced and directed the show, and everyone agrees she did a fantastic job!

Holly Park Book Club

On Friday 1st March we invited parents and carers from nursery to Year 6 to come in to school to share a book with their children and their friends. The children enjoyed having their parents in school. These parents read to children, listened to the children read and just generally enjoyed books with the children. They

looked at the pictures and talked about the books.

Children at Holly Park love having adults in the classrooms. We really want to encourage this activity and will be holding another couple of Holly Park Book Clubs next term. Keep a look out in the newsletter for

dates of the next Holly Park Book Clubs for the Summer term

*Mrs Pelham and
Mrs Bawcombe*



BOOK SWAP



This year is the Holly Park Year of Reading, and we have been trying to find ways to promote reading, which is such an important skill for life – not just for education!

On Thursday 14th February, as part of the Year of Reading, Holly Park hosted its very own book swap.

This involved every child from nursery to Y6 bringing into school a book that they had finished with, either because they had out grown it or they just didn't want to read it again.

The books were brought in to the hall at the start of the day. Each class visited the hall with their teacher and browsed through the enormous number of books, before choosing one new book that they would like to take home to start or add to their own library.

The event was a good way for children to see a wide selection of books and to read new material. Spare books were kept for a second hand book sale later in the year.

Mrs Pelham

Terrific Tudors



Year 4 have been working extremely hard on maths investigations this term, proving themselves to be fantastic self managers and team workers.

During their Tudor topic

work, there was a hive of activity as the children engaged in a carousel of stimulating maths activities which included being Tudor cooks, baking biscuits, being architects, working out the area and perimeter of rooms in a Tudor house, being Tudor time keepers, working out time problems and being Tudor tailors - using their measuring skills to make clothing.

Miss Noble and Mr French

Valuing the Victorians



Year 5 went to the Gunpowder Mills in Waltham Cross as part of their Victorians topic. They dressed up and experienced life as

Victorian children. They shone shoes, counted matches, scrubbed clothes and learnt how strict the rules in a workhouse were. They also learnt about Victorian holidays and some of them even dressed up in Victorian bathing costumes!

During their session in a Victorian classroom, they practised their handwriting on chalkboards; which was harder than they thought it would be! We all had a great time and the trip really gave the children a taste of life 150 years ago.

Mr Bourne, Miss Brown and Miss McKeen

Miss Mountford, Mrs Sanis and Mrs Cozens

Year 2: Space Explorers



designed and built rockets. The day finished with the children launching the rockets from our playground to see if they could fly.

The whole topic culminated in a visit to the Science Museum in Central London, which the children described as "out of this world"!

Year 2 have been studying the topic of Space throughout the Spring term.

They had a Space Day at school where the children dressed up in Space costumes and

Green Fingers in Palm Class



Palm Class have been doing lots of activities based on the story of 'Jasper's Beanstalk'. We all had a go at planting runner beans and they have really grown.

Now that the weather is getting a little milder we will be able to plant them out in our allotment and we are hoping that we get lots of lovely green beans that we can eat.

Mrs Walton, Mrs Casey, Miss Ploutarchou and Mrs Yiannaki



A Brilliant Book Week



Jane Simmons working with our Reception children

We had a really successful and exciting book week last term. We were very lucky to have Kumiko Mendl open the week with her amazing storytelling and drama.

We also spent a day wondering why there was an enormous blue bottle in the playground and played at being heroes and villains for the day.

We were very lucky to have two authors in as well, both of whom spent a really wonderful day inspiring the children to become authors and illustrators themselves: Our very own Mr Tilbury spent time with the Junior children talking about the writing process following the publication of his first novel for children – "The Wozard of Iz and the Great Blue Ruby", while Jane Simmons, author of "Come on Daisy" and several other titles spent time with the Infants and Early Years children showing them how to add a story to illustrations.

We were very lucky to receive signed copies of Jane's work for each class, and these will be on display soon to help the children remember this wonderful; experience.

Mrs Bawcombe



RED NOSE DAY 2013



Red Nose Day at Holly Park was a huge success.

The day began with some wonderful busking in the playground by teachers and pupils. In assembly we talked about what Red Nose Day was all about and why Comic Relief are trying to raise money. Everyone got into the Red Nose Day spirit including the kitchen staff, who served marvellous Red Nose Day cake for pudding at lunchtime.

In the afternoon we had an energetic dance in the playground to 'Gangnam

Style' just for fun.

Many people brought in delicious looking cakes for the Spring Term Bake Off House Challenge. Ten housepoints were awarded for every whole cake or for each set of cupcakes. The house points were added together and Unicorns won the challenge.

Red Nose Day is not only a fantastic fundraiser, it is also great fun, and helps the children understand the role they play in helping other people, not only in the UK, but also in other countries.

Mrs Pelham and the School Council



Builders of the Future



Nursery children playing with their new blocks

The Nursery children had lots of fun in the outdoor area creating different buildings with their new Community Blocks, including a castle and houses, then making beds and chairs to sit on.

They have been reading and retelling the story of "This is our House" by Michael Rosen and Bob Graham and have used the story to help them learn to share different

things with their friends. Linked with this story, they have also made junk box houses and have been building houses with Mega Blocks.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed being little builders and learning about houses and castles in this practical and fun way.

The Nursery Team

Raving about Reading!

Year 1 fully immersed themselves in books in the Spring Term, particularly a story called "Lila and the Secret of Rain" by David Conway and Jude Daly. This book is set in Kenya so the children learnt all about the weather in Kenya and compared and contrasted it to England and Nepal.

This involved a lot of intensive learning: They checked the weather forecast in all three locations on a daily basis; they changed their role-play areas into

Weather Stations; and using the Flip Cameras, they recorded one another being weather reporters! They also made props from the story and once again recorded one another retelling the story.

Their love of books was clear to see, and they were thoroughly delighted when some of their parents came into school to read with them one afternoon.

Miss Michael and Mr Turner



Year 1 immersed in reading

Digging Deep!

In the spring term Year Three took a trip to the Natural History Museum



as part of their topic on rocks and minerals.

At the museum the highlight was going up the escalator into the 'Earth Zone' where there was a variety of exciting minerals of all shapes, sizes, and colours. It was a very hands-on experience and by the end of it all they were all a bit more knowledgeable and very exhausted.

Mrs Tsenti and Mr Hill

A Little Bit of Sunshine



During the heavy snow in January, Year Six kept the cold off with a "tropical day." Applying their understanding of ratio, proportion and capacity, the children experimented with different recipes for fruit juice-based cocktails.

When they had refined

their creations, they designed posters and packaging to market their finished products.

Everyone agreed it was a really fun way to get to grips with a tricky mathematical t(r)opic.

Mr Paramour and Mr Baptiste