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Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new academic year at Holly Park! We are looking forward to another busy and exciting year ahead.

The start of a new academic year is always important for your children. There is always excitement, anxiety and some apprehension about what their new teacher will be like and about what the expectations of the new year will be. Over the year we will be expecting high standards of work and behaviour from all children. We hope that the children will see the year as one in which to improve their work to the best of their ability and to take pride in everything they do. As well as hard work and effort, we are sure we will have a year full of fun together.

I believe that Holly Park is a ‘Good’ school with some ‘Outstanding’ features, and a school which is continually reflecting, evaluating, improving and moving forward.

This year, we will be continuing with our parent workshops. These are designed to get parents more involved in their child’s learning and give ideas about how to support the children at home. There will be workshops held for parents and children together to learn and explore together. This year there will be :

* A nursery and reception curriculum workshop,
* A Y1 phonics workshop and an expectations workshop.
* Y2 will have a maths workshop, a SPAG workshop and an expectations workshop.
* Y3, 4 & 5 will all have 3 workshops over the year on different subjects

The teachers covering PPA (planning time) will be doing either Literacy work (reading or writing) **or** they will be doing maths problem solving work. This will depend on the areas that we feel need more work within each cohort. Children in Y6 will be doing ‘writing **and** maths problem solving.

Our website has continued to flourish under the careful watch of Fiona Quinton after the upgrade that it had last year. So many people – parents, LA advisors and other Headteachers have commented on how useful and detailed our website is. If you haven’t looked at the website recently, please do. It gives a very full picture of our school. You can access term dates, letters etc and information about what your children are learning from the website. Can I remind you that information about what your children are learning is on the website on your year group page. Curriculum information is updated termly.

Last year was a great year for the PTA - three fairs and several other planned events. I am very grateful to all of the committee members and people who have helped at events who work tirelessly as volunteers for the greater good of the children. The PTA raise money for the ‘extras’ but also hold events that bring our community together. Thank you particularly to Amanda Glaser and Paul Silk for their organisation and hard work. Paul has now stepped down as he is no longer a parent at the school. We will appoint a new co-chair at the first PTA meeting of the year. I look forward to working with a new team this year.

We intend to continue with the clubs we offer – some run by HPS staff and some by Non-Stop Action. Look out for the school run clubs letters going home. Non Stop Action clubs now need to be booked through them directly by phoning or booking online. School run clubs are charged at £1 per club which will cover the cost of materials and replacing equipment – e.g board games, colouring pencils, sewing threads etc.

Our school partnership with other local schools continues to work well and we have met regularly as a group of Headteachers and also Deputy Heads. Teachers also get together and look at the work produced in each school. We look at planning, marking and quality & quantity or work in books. We have enjoyed sharing ideas and will continue to do so. This year we plan to do more sporting events together following the successful Y4 rounders match in the summer. At the end of September there will be a partnership fun run where SOME of the Y1 children from each school will do a fun run at Holly Park. A reminder that our partnership schools are St John’s, St Paul’s, Coppetts Wood, Hollickwood, All Saints and Friern Barnet.

The school governors continue to give their support and advice and continual efforts to drive the strategic vision of the school. We have a new acting chair of governors this year- Tim Graveney. I particularly look forward to working with Tim and Fiona Vettiankal (vice chair) on continuing to drive the strategic direction of the school. As well as meetings in the evenings that they attend and training courses they go to, they also come into school regularly to attend school events but also to support our school improvement plan by going on frequent learning walks, talking to staff and children and attending governor open mornings to see some of the work of the school in action and to give constructive feedback. I look forward to more of this work over the coming year.

Last year we had a successful set of end of year National assessments:

The reception profile – assessing children at the end of reception was above National

The Y1 phonics check was our highest ever and well above National.

KS1 results (Y2): reading results were above National at expected level and greater depth.

Writing results were in line with National at the expected level

Maths results were just above National at the expected level.

KS2 results (Y6): reading results were just below national at expected and in line with national at greater depth. However progress was significantly better than National

Writing results were below national at expected and just below at greater depth. However progress was just above national and significantly improved on the previous year.

Maths results were below national at expected and just below at greater depth. However progress was just above National.

As always we continually look to see how we can make improvements and tweaks we can make to improve our results.

We have had a busy summer holiday. Over the summer holidays the school dining room, the literacy base, the music room and Mrs Thomas’ room have all been redecorated and now look light and bright and fresh with new carpeting. There is a new fence and canopy outside one of our Y2 classrooms so children can access the outdoor area safely. There have been fence repairs to the path around the slide. The wet pour surfaces around the play equipment in the infant playground have been repaired to avoid trips. There is a new storage shed. A dip in the playground has been repaired. All of the offices have had new windows and in the next couple of weeks we will have a nice new pedestrian entrance gate (where parents buzz to come in) to replace the rusty one we have at present. All of the school buildings have had a deep clean including the kitchen.

We continue to ask the children to bring in a minimum of equipment from home into school – they do not need to bring in pencil cases and stationery, and the only bags they need to bring in are their school book bag and their drawstring P.E bag. Please **do not bring in rucksacks**. This helps us keep classrooms and shared areas tidier and prevents property from being lost.

As you will be aware, we organise several activities across the year to raise funds for a variety of local, national and international charities. This year we will support:

* Our International charity will be linked with UNICEF and the rights of children –it will be Water Aid.
* Our Local charity for this year will be supporting Barnet Hospital
* Our National charity will be Winston’s Wish – for bereaved children.

We will also be continuing the tradition of our termly house challenges for the children in Y1-6. We try to vary the style and focus of these each term.

We will continue with our work on values. A Value is a principle that guides our thinking and our behaviour. We are on the second year of our two year cycle. Hopefully the children will bring greater knowledge and understanding of each value as we revisit them this year. Our Value for September is ‘Fairness’

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| September | Fairness |
| October | Acceptance |
| November | Loyalty |
| December | Kindness & Compassion |
| January | Integrity |
| February | Empathy |
| March | Responsibility |
| April | Patience |
| May | Co-operation |
| June | Trust |
| July | Commitment |

We continue our work as an Enabling Enterprise partnership school. Through this we hope to develop the enterprise skills and experiences of work and aspirations to succeed. We have already had several successful whole day challenge days. Some of our Pupil Premium children will make visits working in partnership with schools and businesses. Enterprise is becoming a core part of the school experience through special projects in each year group. Children are developing skills of - Working in a team, leading, listening carefully, sharing ideas, problem-solving, using imagination, staying positive and aiming high.

Each class will continue to have two school trips in the year, two curriculum days and one trip to a place of worship. In addition, Y3 will have a team building day, Y4 will do a one night sleepover at school, Y5 will have a 3 day residential trip and Y6 will have a 5 day residential trip.

At Holly Park our trips always relate to something that the children are learning and therefore they enhance and enrich our curriculum. We believe that trips are a very important part of the curriculum. We think very carefully about where we will take the children and also about the cost. We try wherever possible to keep the cost at no more than £15 per trip but this is not always possible. Coach costs are rising (we try to use public transport whenever possible) and also if we want the children to have excellent hands on sessions with experienced expert teachers and leaders then we have to pay for those. School trips are generally excellent value for money. We have to ask for the trip money as a voluntary contribution; however we expect that most of our parents will pay the cost stated. Nobody will be denied access to the trip because of financial hardship; however anyone who feels that it is not possible for them to pay the full amount, must make an appointment to discuss the matter in confidence. There is an expectation that parents have to pay for trips as this is not included within our school budget. The office staff are very good at keeping a check on payments and make phone calls to ensure that money comes in. Please do try to pay via our online payment system – this makes things easier for you. Parents can always pay for trips in instalments if this helps. I cannot recall a trip in recent times that was cancelled. Parents who have paid would not be penalised if a trip was cancelled. From time to time we do get it wrong and sometimes through the fault of no one person a couple of trips happen rather close to each other. I can assure you that we do try to avoid this. You can always and come and speak to me if payment gets difficult for you and we can arrange an extended payment time. Also if you want to you can make an extra payment to help support children whose parents cannot afford the trip or say that you do not want the change returned if for example a trip is £17 and you enclose a £20 note.

During the year, you will find that your children will sometimes be taught by other teachers. Absences can happen for several different reasons: the teacher may not be well, or they may be on a training course; they may be having time out of class for monitoring, or for planning, preparation and assessment (‘PPA Time’). We use a very good supply agency which we have used for the last four years. Wherever possible, we try to use supply teachers who have visited us before, to cover. Teaching Assistants also cover classes for up to half a day due to teacher absence. This works well as the teaching assistants know the children and know the school procedures. I want to assure you that every effort is made to make this the best possible experience for the children.

Our class assemblies for years 1-6 will continue and we hope that parents will continue to come and watch these. Each class does one assembly during the school year. A reminder about our school performances - our Nativity will be performed by Y3 in December. Our Infant Show will be performed by Y1 and 2 just before February half term. Reception will perform an assembly for their parents later in the academic year. Years 4 and 5 will each get to perform an extra year group assembly after school in June as an end of year review. Y6 will perform an end of year show as a finale to their time at Holly Park. We continue to ask you not to bring children under 12 to watch the evening concerts because we feel that they are either too young to appreciate and enjoy the shows (and therefore they get restless and noisy), or they have already had the opportunity to watch the show in school. If you are, however, unable to find childcare, then you are welcome to bring children to our matinee performances.

We continue to have our own school dog at Holly Park. Poppy has now been coming into school for the whole of the last academic year and the children and staff love her. She even has her own dog blog on our website where you can find out about the week from her point of view. If you haven’t already – take a look!

At Holly Park we have a code of conduct for our pupils – ‘The Holly Park Way’. I would also like to remind you that we also have a Code of Conduct for parents while they are on school property. This is included in the ‘Meet the Teacher’ packs. I would be very grateful if you could please read it and abide by it. The parent code of conduct is also clearly displayed on our school website. The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to provide a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. At Holly Park we cannot and will not tolerate staff being shouted at or spoken to without courtesy and respect. May I remind you that all staff have a right to work in an environment free from abuse which includes verbal abuse. Please speak to staff in a way that you would be happy to be spoken to yourself. The school governors very much support this view.

On the 25th May 2018 the UK saw the enforcement of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The GDPR replaced the Data Protection Act 1998 and is designed to strengthen the safety and security of all data held within an organisation, and make sure processing and storage procedures are consistent. Before you give consent to anything, it is vital that you have read and understood the school privacy notice, as the school wants to ensure that you understand what we are doing with your data and that you know we are acting legally. The Privacy notice is inside this pack and is also accessible all year round on the school website.

The year has begun on a very happy and positive note. We are all looking forward to a successful year at Holly Park. I look forward to seeing you on the gate at the start of the school day, and at the many events throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Ann Pelham

Head Teacher