



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 31

Friday 5th June 2020

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Dear Parents

I hope that you had a good half term and managed to enjoy the lovely weather. I wanted to say thank you so much for the amazing work that you did last half term supporting your children with their learning and all of the activities we asked your children to get involved in. Thank you for the wonderful photographs that you sent in each week for the newsletters. I am very proud and amazed at how long our school newsletters have become – not because of what I write each week but thanks to all the pictures that you are sending me. When lockdown happened and schools closed on 20th March, I really thought that that would be the last newsletter I would be sending for quite some time – but quite the opposite has happened and I am thrilled there is so much to celebrate and share. Some schools have stopped having a newsletter each week – but I am delighted that in these strange times our newsletters have become a really good representation and reflection of the school community engaging in the activities set. The newsletters are sometimes very long – many pages - but this is thanks to you and the contributions you make to them. We should be proud of this. I am very grateful for the way that our community is reflected in our weekly newsletters. This is a testament to how well parents have engaged with the school. Thank you.

As we move into the final half term of this school year – whether your children do come back to school or whether they continue learning from home, remember Holly Park is more than just a building – it is about all of us - the children, the staff, the parents and governors - the community who make up our lovely school. WE are the school and the school is so much more than bricks and cement. This is what is reflected in our weekly newsletters. This is who we are.

Welcoming Children Back To School

I am very pleased to tell you that our Key Worker children returned on Tuesday 2nd June and have been operating within our new systems. We have made changes to the school site, which are working very well. We have obtained PPE and cleaning products, which have been used by staff. We have written risk assessments and procedures, which have been tested this week and are robust. New behaviour rules are in place, which are being used. At a meeting yesterday to discuss the wider opening of Holly Park to more children, we all agreed that the school itself is in a position where we feel confident to open up for more children. We agreed that we have done all that we can to prepare for opening more widely. We agreed that we had ensured the smooth day to day operational running of the school in these new circumstances and have a plan that can be scaled up if necessary. However, despite the fact that the school itself is ready to reopen we have taken the decision to delay opening the school more widely for another week. It is our aim to open the school for Year 6 children on **Monday 15th June** if the COVID 19 situation locally makes it safe to do so. I have written to Y6 parent separately this morning to explain our reason for doing this – which is more about the virus in the wider community. It is important to note, that the decision to delay the opening for Y6 by one week does not delay the date by which we had intended to be fully open for the other year groups identified by the government. If our systems and routines run well with Y6 we still plan to open for Year 1 on 22nd June and Reception on 6th July. We desperately want to welcome back more children to our school that feels very empty without them. However, we want to be confident that the situation is as safe as it can possibly be during these unprecedented times.

Chokhmah's 11th Birthday Run for Holly Park School

One of our Y6 pupils – Chokhmah has decided for his 11th birthday to raise money for the school. As Chokhmah is turning 11 years old on 11th of June, he would like to raise funds to support the school, particularly for the new playground. Since Chokhmah loves running (and is very good at it) and it is a special day on his birthday as well as leaving Holly Park to end his primary school years, he will be running for 11 days starting from the 1st of June to the 11th of June. He will run 5km from the 1st of June to the 10th of June and on his birthday he will run 10km. He has been practicing everyday with his brother Chayil and his dad.

His aim is to raise £150 and he will be running inside Princess Park Manor. If the weather is not very good, he will run up and down the stairs. Chokhmah is using the Gofundme platform to raise the money. He has already smashed his target with still a week left to go. If you would like to support Chokhmah then please go to the

page: **Chokhmah would like you to support Chokhmah's 11th Birthday Run for Holly Park School** by making a donation and spreading the word. https://www.gofundme.com/f/chokhmahs-11th-birthday-run-for-holly-park-school?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link-tip&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

Chokhmah says: *Running is my passion, as my birthday is coming on 11th June and it is my final year at Holly Park, I would like to contribute to the school which I really had a good time in.I chose to contribute to Holly Park new playground because I did not manage to finish my wonderful time there due to this pandemic as I make a swift change to my secondary school. I managed to pursue my running skills at competitions for Holly Park and it really inspired me to become a sprinter.'*



PHSE & Learning Skills

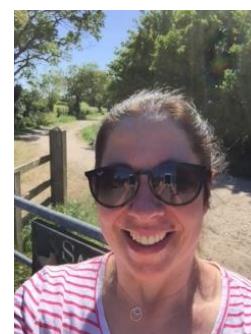
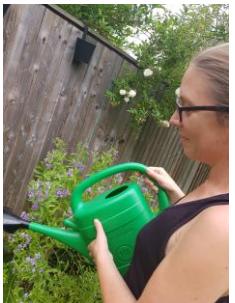
You will have noticed that over the past few weeks there has been the addition of more PHSE activities for your children to do. These have been based on Picture News, Rights and Values. This week quite a number of Holly Park staff attended a course about preparing the curriculum for now and when children return more widely. It was very reassuring for us to hear that schools should be putting their emphasis on lots more PHSE as this will really help children make adjustments and deal with this unprecedented situation far better. Thank you to those of you who have undertaken these activities. However I feel that some parents possibly don't see the value of PHSE or really what it is. PHSE stands for Personal, Social & Health education. Research from other world events in the past where there has been uncertainty, trauma and significant disruption to education has shown that PHSE is more important than ever. So we will be continuing to set some school wide PHSE activities two or three times a week in addition to the work class teachers will set and the year group specific PHSE they may also set. Please support your child to do these activities – many of them need opportunity for discussion with your child – which can be done at meal times or bed times. These activities will continue to be based on Picture news, Rights, Values and also our Holly Park Learning skills which more than ever are so important.



The Holly Park Staff

We thought it would be nice for the children to see pictures of some of the staff and see what they have been up to during the half term. There has been lots of gardening, sitting in gardens, exercising and walking. Also, time with pets, in allotments and parks. Show the pictures to your child/ren and see if they can name all of the staff.







Miss Sampson Recommends some History Podcasts

I love podcasts and have recently discovered one that I am keen to share! 'Homeschool History' is made by Greg Jenner (a consultant for the Horrible Histories TV programme) and is available on the BBC Sounds App as well as the Apple Podcast App (all free). Each episode is only about 15 minutes long and are suitable for the whole family (children aged 7, up). There are a range of topics to choose from - I particularly enjoyed the one on The Space Race as it is not a topic I know much about. The Mary Queen of Scots one is great too! He tells you lots of information in a fun and engaging way and then ends with a quiz. Definitely something that the whole family can relax and listen to - please let us know if you do. Enjoy!



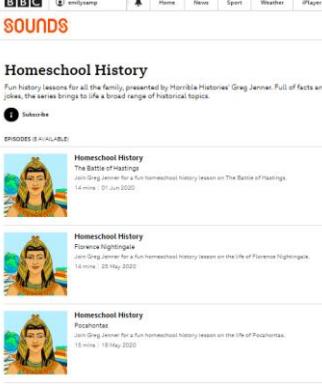
Homeschool History

Pocahontas

Join Greg Jenner in the 17th century as we look at the life of Pocahontas, a Native American woman who was captured by British colonists.

Show more

Download



SOUNDS

Homeschool History

Fun history lessons for all the family, presented by Horrible Histories' Greg Jenner. Full of facts and jokes, the series brings to life a broad range of historical topics.

Subscribe

EPISODES IS AVAILABLE

-  **Homeschool History**
The Battle of Hastings
Join Greg Jenner for a fun homeschool history lesson on the Battle of Hastings.
14 mins | 10 Jun 2020
-  **Homeschool History**
Florence Nightingale
Join Greg Jenner for a fun homeschool history lesson on the life of Florence Nightingale.
14 mins | 25 May 2020
-  **Homeschool History**
Pocahontas
Join Greg Jenner for a fun homeschool history lesson on the life of Pocahontas.
18 mins | 18 May 2020

Friendship Recipes

This week as a PHSE activity, the children were asked to think about the following questions - What makes a friendship? Why are friendships important? How can we keep our friendships strong during the Coronavirus pandemic? Why are your friends your friends? What are the qualities you look for in a friendship? The children were asked to think about their Holly Park friendships. They were then asked to write a friendship recipe and the ingredients that go into friendships. Here are some:



Class Photos 2020

Our school photographer was booked for the beginning of June this year to take class photos. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, we will not be able to have these done. However, one of our Y3 parents approached me with an idea which I think is a fantastic idea. Our lovely PTA team also liked the idea and have stepped forward to put the idea into action.

It would be a shame to have a year without a class photo and certainly this year will be a year in history and a year like no other, So what better way than to have a class photo like no other! This will mean the children can have a keepsake with their classmates and teachers from this extraordinary year.

We ask you all to participate to this initiative so that the class photos are as complete as possible with all children.

Instructions:

Take a photo of your child in their **summer school uniform**.

If possible take the photograph **Outside with some greenery behind them**

Make sure no other people are visible in the photo and that the shot is **portrait** and as clear and symmetric as possible.

Children should hold a simple positive drawing/message of their choice for the photo if they wish e,g pictures of a rainbow, a heart, a dove. Words such as – hope, love, peace etc

Email your photo making clear your child's **full name** and **class** to mskavara@gmail.com

Please do not send photos to me but to the PTA on the email above.

Deadline: This Sunday the 7th of June. This will be a strict deadline, they cannot take late entries. Don't miss out on your child being in this class photo.

Everyone will get a **FREE** digital copy of their child's class photo via school email.

All of the pictures will be produced in an A5 booklet with all proceeds going to the school. The booklets will be available to pre-order on the PTA events page.

Privacy and consent: *Please note that emailing your photo to the PTA will count as your permission for your child's photograph to appear in the class photo. No photos are to be shared on WhatsApp. The finished class photos will be sent out to parents from the school's official email.

Here are examples of photos received so far (with faces missing for now!)



A Message From The Chair Of Governors – Tim Graveney

Dear Parents

Holly Park has a rich and long history. But it's fair to say that none of our predecessors as children, parents, teachers, staff or governors have ever navigated a period like this. Like me, you have probably felt a mixture of emotions as you come to reflect on the last ten weeks. I hope that for many that initial period of anxiety and worry might have given way by now to cautious hope that it may be the right time now to emerge into a new future, inspired perhaps by our children's resilience and desire to learn, whatever the circumstances.

Amongst the uncertainty and confusion, I have been overwhelmed at the number of supportive messages I have

seen from Holly Park parents about the adaptability of the teaching staff and school leadership in this period. Many of these messages have made it clear that our children have valued this consistency during a time of upheaval. I want to pay tribute myself to the whole of the Holly Park community - parents, teachers, staff and - most importantly - the children for staying positive during the last ten weeks. New ways of learning have been found; challenges overcome in innovative ways that will better prepare all of us for the challenges of the future. The Government has requested that Primary Schools now re-open, with the children in Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery identified as the first priority. So Holly Park has been making preparations to re-open based on Government guidance. All schools have needed to consider carefully any limitations placed on them by virtue of their school buildings and site structure. All schools have therefore been given authority to make the decision that is right for them and importantly, Barnet supports this decision.

There are some things that remain clear, however: Holly Park school must offer each child a safe environment in which to learn, and a stimulating curriculum based on shared values. This should be delivered by an outstanding team of teaching professionals, supported by approachable and capable staff and governors in an atmosphere of innovation. We must be resilient, always.

The teachers have been consulted, and a thorough risk assessment has been performed. This has been reviewed by the Governing Body. In some matters, we have consulted with Barnet's educational and governance specialists to help guide our scrutiny. Based on this risk assessment, and with a clear framework in place, the Governing Body is satisfied that Holly Park school has suitable plans and procedures in place to allow us to re-open, as soon as we feel the time is right. In making decisions on appropriate timings, we will be guided by the views of the school leaders, the teachers, the education authorities, the Governing Body and our understanding of the external conditions relating to the risk of transmission of the virus - as we have been throughout the development of the risk assessment.

I'm sure you will all appreciate that we cannot offer guarantees, except to do the very best we can to follow changing guidance and still to deliver the best experience possible for the children. We will be keeping our ability to provide an optimal Holly Park experience in a safe environment under constant review. We will continue to communicate with parents regularly as we take this journey. And we will ensure that we continue to provide remote learning opportunities for all Holly Parkers who are not yet back in the school itself, including those children in the year groups where return is possible.

And so, when in due course you are offered the opportunity for your child to re-join us, we invite you to weigh up the situation as it appears to you. Like many others, you may find yourself in two (or more) minds about what is the right thing to do. Like the school itself, you can keep your decision under review.

When the time is right for you, we look forward to welcoming back each child with a smile and a cheer. I know that Holly Park staff, leaders and children are ready to thrive in this new environment just as in any other.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support of our Holly Park Community.

Tim Graveney
Chair of the Governing Body

The World Of Work

At Holly Park we aim to have high vocational ambition for all of our pupils. We want to increase their cultural capital and make them aware of the wider world they live in and have knowledge of the world of work beyond school. We want to develop skills for the future and learning about future employment within our children. Schools are crucial in preparing pupils for adult life, for promoting equal opportunity and for introducing children to work experiences and encouraging children to aspire to make good choices and understand what they need to do to reach and succeed in careers to which they aspire. In school we do Enabling Enterprise, have visitors in, visit some work places, discuss various jobs etc. We set some PHSE work this week to ask children to think about what a job is, what skills are needed in certain jobs and what they enjoy now in life that may make them think of pursuing a career based on these interests. We have a website page under 'learning' all about the world of work which shows some of the ways we have tried to encourage children to think about this and what might be available to them. The children thought of a whole host of jobs from gas engineers, architects, youtubers, nurses, doctors, vets, tailors, actors, designers, marine biologists, book illustrators, teachers, pilots, artists and Here are some of the jobs our children have thought about:

