



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 22

Friday 12th March 2021

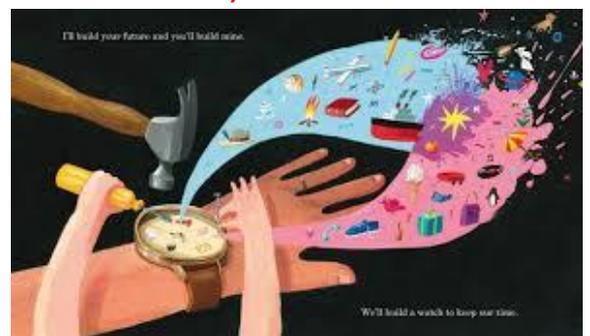
www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

'What We'll Build' By Oliver Jeffers

Following on from the book 'Here We Are' By Oliver Jeffers that we used in the Autumn Term when the children returned to school as a whole school project, we have used another of his books called 'What We'll Build' as a one week project for our first week back together after Lockdown Three in order to celebrate the enjoyment and pleasure of being back together. The book talks about the physical building of things but also the more abstract ideas of building other less tangible things. E.g a future.

It also talks about the idea of building a wall or a fortress – both literally as a structure and metaphorically. It explores the idea of protecting your feelings, trying to stop yourself getting hurt or scared, and how by opening up, listening and talking together this can really help. With younger children, this is more about exploring the concept of getting on and falling out, how to make friends and what to do if you get angry or argue. For older children it is also about looking at the kinds of things that bring people together and the things that can be divisive. It draws on wider world knowledge around building walls and creating borders –the divisions created between people. There is a focus on key figures that have striven to overcome divides and build peace throughout history. The book also considers how humans have constantly innovated and invented to solve problems and improve life, from the earliest times - discussing the impact that inventors and inventions have had on the progress of human civilisation since it began. With younger children, the focus is more on objects we have around us that improve our lives and help us fulfil our basic human needs. The book also focuses on building identity. Children engage in thinking more deeply about 'What makes me ME?' allowing the children to reflect on themselves and their identity and their hopes for the future.

Each class will make a display of the work related to this project for their classroom by the end of term.



International Women's Day 2021

It was International Women's Day on Monday. The theme this year was about choosing to challenge equality. In the Monday assembly I raised the theme of International Women's Day and asked a variety of questions about the jobs that men and women can do. Across the week there was a Guided Reading session looking at a historically important female scientist/athlete/politician etc or sharing a book that features a positive female role-model and promotes gender equality. During PHSE lessons the children considered gender equality in the world of work and they discussed gender equality and why it is important. Today Miss Michael did a Rights Respecting assembly. The theme of the assembly was about choosing to challenge – choosing to challenge unfairness and call out gender bias and inequality.



Mrs Hassan

It is with sadness that I have to tell you that Mrs Hassan will be retiring at Easter. Mrs Hassan has been working in Barnet for 33 years and has been at Holly Park for 27 years. In that time she and has worked with six Headteachers and we have all been very lucky to work with her – benefitting hugely from her experience and knowledge of finance. Mrs Hassan's role and responsibilities at the school have evolved over the years: starting from school secretary when she began to School Business Manager and part of the Senior Management Team. Mrs Hassan will be missed very much when she leaves in a few weeks' time. Unfortunately due to COVID, we will not be able to give her the farewell that she deserves. Hopefully in the summer term when restrictions have been lifted further we can say a proper goodbye.

Lateral Flow Testing For Families

This is just to let families know that you are able to get lateral flow tests if you want to do testing at home. Households and bubbles of primary school children have access to rapid lateral flow tests.

The important information is:

From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- **through your employer if they offer testing to employees**
- **at a local test site**
- **by collecting a home test kit from a test site**
- **by ordering a home test kit online**

The nearest site for test collection is **Osidge Lane Car Park, EN4 8JT, Barnet, EN48JT**

Also Rapid tests are currently available from 7 am to 2 pm Monday to Friday at:

Bethune Pavillion, Bethune Park, Beaconsfield Road, London N11 3AL. There is no step free access for this site. A small number of walk-in tests will be available at each test site on a first come, first serve basis. You can book up to 2 tests per week, but they must be 3 to 5 days apart.

Reading Friends Groups for Children Experiencing Isolation or Loneliness

Barnet Libraries are launching weekly group sessions for children and young people to talk about books and reading. The aim of these groups is to address the social isolation and loneliness many children have experienced over the last year. The sessions are very informal and no reading is required in advance. We will be talking about any books that children have read, either at school or at home as well as reading extracts, newspaper articles and poems and discussing these. Initially there will be two groups; one for children aged 8-11 and one for 12-15 year olds. The sessions will run after school once a week for between 30 and 45 minutes. Groups will meet online on MS Teams. Children can join online or by telephone. If you know of any young person who might benefit from taking part, please ask them to contact us at libraryevents@barnet.gov.uk.

Dates

Monday 15th March – First Aid lessons in school begin

Friday 19th March – House Challenge

Monday 22nd March – First Aid lessons in school continue

Tuesday 23rd March – Y4 PHSE parent meeting

Thursday 25th March - Y3 Reading parent meeting

Friday 26th March – Y5 Maths parent meeting

Monday 29th March – Wellbeing week

Wednesday 31st March – End of term at 1.30pm



THINKING OF BOOKING A HOLIDAY...?

IF SO, MAKE SURE YOU READ THIS FIRST

Holly Park Primary School will no longer be authorising any term time holidays. In **limited EXCEPTIONAL circumstances** (this does not include weddings, anniversaries etc), a written request for special leave of absence may be considered by the Headteacher during term time, only where the circumstances warrant it, namely:

1. For service personnel and other employees who are prevented from taking holidays outside term-time and only if the holiday will have minimal disruption to the pupil's education; and

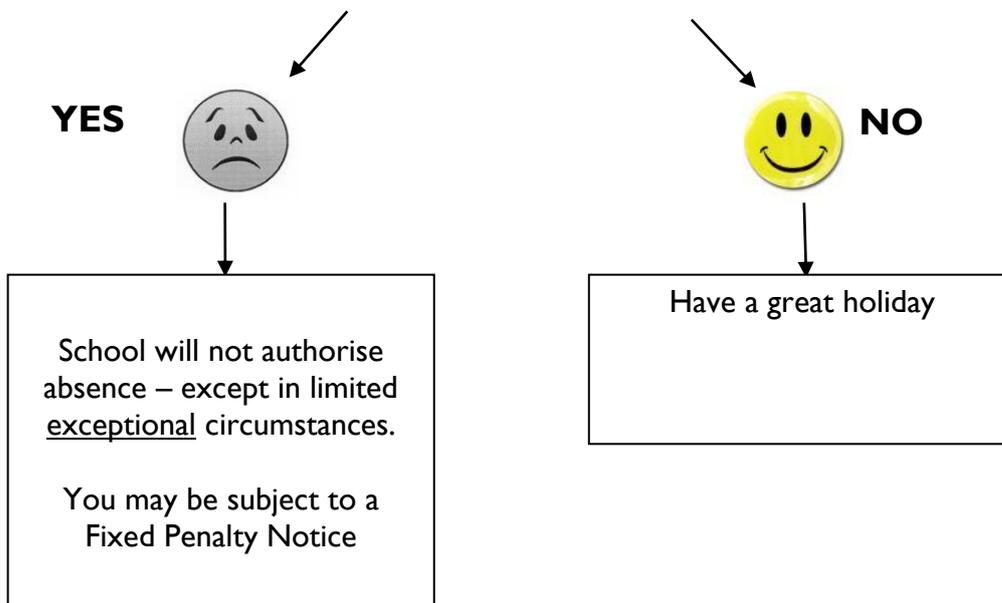
You will be asked to provide evidence that your request for leave is exceptional

The cost of a holiday is not considered an acceptable reason to take term time holidays.

If in doubt, please make an appointment to speak to Mrs Needham

BEFORE YOU BOOK A HOLIDAY:

Is it during School Term Time?



**LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET EDUCATION WELFARE TEAM AND
HOLLY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
WORKING TOGETHER.**