



HOLLY PARK  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Holly Park Highlights!



HOLLY PARK  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SPRING TERM 2021

### Spring Term

So... we all came back in September with new routines and systems in place – the likes of which had never been seen before! Everyone adapted to the routines amazingly well and it was wonderful to be back at school with the children in a learning routine. It was then a complete shock that over the Christmas holidays we all heard the news of increasing cases and new strains and a second closure period for schools. The Spring Term began with another period of closure and remote learning and our HPS HUB for Key Workers. We then returned to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March back to our bubbles and zones. What an unusual Spring Term it has been.

Again, we have managed to hold the vast majority of our planned events: parent curriculum meetings, virtual trips, Curriculum days, First Aid, special days etc. A huge thank you to the PTA for their creativity in continued fundraising. Thank you to our HPS parents for your support with home schooling. Special thanks to the HPS staff who have yet again just been amazing.



## WORLD BOOK DAY 2021

We hope that all of the children enjoyed World Book Day 2021. There were lots of stories, poems and extracts from books read out loud by Holly Park staff on the school website – Story Corner. We hope children managed to work out who the masked readers were! Every year group had a reading bingo card of activities to complete. The activities included things such as: Choose a poem you enjoy and perform it to someone in your household. Create an original book cover for a book you love (fiction or non-fiction). Read an article in First News or on the Newsround Website. Create a comic strip of your favourite story/part of a story. Take some non-fiction text and create a

quiz sheet. Make a comfy den and read inside it. Build a setting from a book—use cardboard, lego, biscuits—whatever you have around! Take 5 different photos of you reading in different places. Make something by following an instructional text. Draw an illustration of one of your favourite book characters. Design a raft for the three Billy Goats Gruff. Write a book review of your favourite book. Design and make your own bookmark. Create puppets of your favourite book character. Create a new villain for a hero to defeat. Write a riddle about a book character. Instead of dressing up, children made some fabulous book themed cakes!

## REMOTE LEARNING



It was lovely to emerge from remote learning on 8<sup>th</sup> March and return to school. We used our blended learning policy for the Lockdown period, which followed DFE guidance and included daily-recorded lessons, extra PHSE and wellbeing lessons, daily assemblies, special days for the whole school, some virtual trips, a weekly Google meet and phone calls home. We were delighted with 95% take up.

During the lockdown we continued with planned parent meetings, staff meetings and governor meetings all via Zoom. Parental feedback was very positive with comments such as:

*'I just wanted to say how impressed I am by how amazingly well you and the rest of the Holly Park team have responded to the huge challenges posed by the current situation....'*

*'I would like to thank you all for fantastic work during this very uncertain time.'*

*'Thank you – you and your staff have all been completely unbelievable – so calm, caring and supportive'*

*'Thanks to you and the team for the amazing job you are doing as well!'*



## HPS MATHS DAY

All of the learning activities on maths day were maths based. There was the usual maths lesson and then four other maths activities to do throughout the day. The card game activity was about creating a math game. The playing card games given as examples, included maths skills from across each phase. The matchstick puzzles were of varying difficulty. There were practical maths activities to do – making the most of the children being at home e.g time, measure, volume, weight, bar charts etc. Some year groups had mathematical trails to do in the house and around the local area. There were maths quizzes and maths problems to solve. We hope that the children had a good day.

## No Screen Tuesday



After many weeks of lockdown and screen time we decided to have a day that was about activities that were educational, fun and different to the norm but didn't require a screen. We thought it would be a day that all the family could enjoy. We sent out the activities ahead of the day so that parents could prepare for the day with any necessary art and craft resources, baking ingredients, seeds etc. The activities included: sewing, jigsaws, puppet shows, cooking, reading, art, construction and much more. Parental feedback about the day was very positive.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The theme was about choosing to challenge equality. Assembly raised the theme about the jobs that men and women can do. Across the week there was a Guided Reading session looking at a historically important female figures. During PHSE lessons the children considered gender equality

in the world of work and they discussed gender equality and why it is important. Miss Michael did a Rights assembly about choosing to challenge unfairness and call out gender bias and inequality.



## 100 CHALLENGE

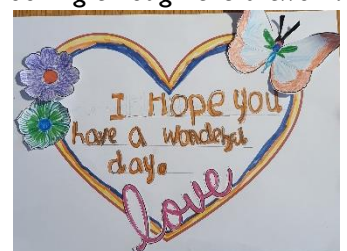
In April 2020, Captain Sir Tom walked 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday. He raised £33 million. In the spirit of captain Sir Tom we set a challenge of doing something 100 times e.g exercise, drawing, completing an activity for 100 minutes, doing something with 100 pieces etc.



## Hearts For Homes



We undertook a whole school community project to spread some cheer to elderly people in local care homes. We sent them some hearts for Valentine's Day. We asked the children to write a lovely cheery message in a heart or write a poem or draw a lovely picture in the heart. One home co-ordinator wrote: 'Thank you so much for the superb pictures. The "Hearts for Homes" project is a fabulous idea. Our residents have enjoyed receiving and looking through the artwork.'



## READING FOR PLEASURE

Over lockdown, we asked pupils to share pictures of themselves reading to someone. Reading is such an important skill. Having a love and enjoyment of reading is essential to being a good reader. Sharing a love of reading with others is very important. Reading to

someone else is such a lovely thing to do. Being read to can be very comforting. We want to encourage all of our children to read for pleasure.





## SAFER INTERNET DAY 2021

During the week, each year group did an Internet safety activity based on online safety from their year group curriculum expectation. The theme this year was about misleading and fake information online. In support of Safer Internet Day, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, Vicky Ford, said: 'As children are living in an increasingly digital world, it is vitally important that they are able to separate fact from fiction and

challenge or question any misinformation they may come across. This year's safer internet day is more important than ever. Children need access to the tools they need to navigate modern life, including how to identify disinformation and trusted sources, stay safe online, and make the right decisions when engaging with media content.'



## FIRST AID

As part of the PHSE curriculum it is a requirement to teach First Aid. All classes from Reception had a first aid session from 'Mini First Aid' this term. In Reception children learned about what happens to their bodies if they are hurt and how they would be treated by a grown up. In Y1-6 Children learned basic first aid skills. In the 1 hour session, children learned to deal with

bumps, burns, breaks and bleeding, carry out CPR and deal with choking.



## House Challenge

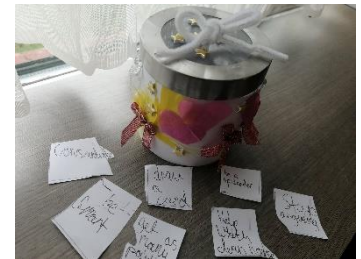


The Spring Term House challenge was linked to the Oliver Jeffers book – 'We'll Build.' The children (in pairs or small groups – within their houses) made a poster showing how to build good friendships. Miss Michael made a power point about what makes a good friend, what to do to resolve friendships problems, why filling buckets / acts of kindness are important etc. The children then presented and explained their poster to the rest of the

class. They earned points for their house for teamwork and presentation skills.



## Wellbeing Wednesdays



During the last school closure, we introduced Wellbeing Wednesdays. Each week there was a simple task or activity that needed very little preparation. There were family walks in the rain, some mindfulness, some yoga, stretches & fitness, gratitude jars, helpful hands, singing activities, sensory bottles and more.



# Children's Mental Health Week

The theme this year was 'Express Yourself'. By talking openly about mental health from a young age, children can learn to better understand their emotions, break down stigma, and feel safe enough to reach out for help when it's needed. One way to look after our mental health is to notice and share how we are feeling. Expressing

ourselves in creative ways can help us do this. Creative activities can also help us to feel calm and happy and express ourselves in ways that we might find easier than talking about them. The children were asked to express themselves in any creative way that they wanted to.



## What We'll Build

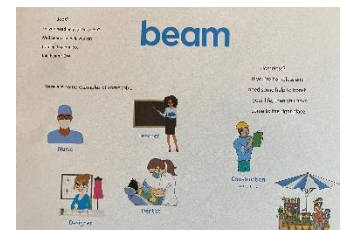


We have used a book called 'What We'll Build' as a one week project for our first week back together after Lockdown in order to celebrate the enjoyment and pleasure of being back together. The book talks about the physical building of things but also the more abstract ideas of building other less tangible things. E.g a future. It 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. 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. The book also focuses on building identity. Children engaged 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.

## Our Local Charity

This term we supported BEAM. BEAM helps people who are homeless by paying for them to have training so that they can learn to do a job and then it helps them to find a job. Beam supports homeless people to gain the relevant skills and training for jobs and also supports them to find employment. There was an activity for the children to do connected to this. We asked families to make a £1 donation



## GOODBYE MRS HASSAN



Mrs Hassan our school Business Manager is retiring today.

Mrs Hassan has worked in Barnet for 33 years and has been at Holly Park for 27 years. She has worked with six Headteachers over her time at the school. We have all been very lucky to work with her – benefitting hugely from her experience and knowledge of finance. Mrs Hassan will be missed very much. Mrs Hassan has definitely been a Holly Park Highlight!