



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 11

Friday 26th November 2021

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Meet The Mini Mentors

Mini Mentors are Children from Y5, who are trained to help Children in School to:

- Make friends
- Resolve low level conflicts
- Have more enjoyable playtimes
- Be kind to each other
- To create a safe positive environment

The Mini Mentors have been running successfully at Holly Park for several years now and have helped children to sort out problems using the restorative approach. This approach helps children to take responsibility for their own actions, developing the skills to problem solve, repair harm and avoid repetition of the same behaviours.

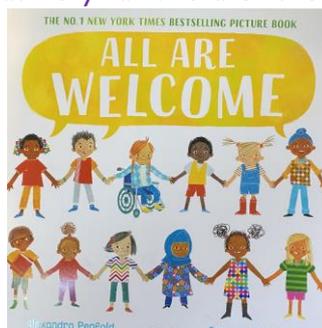
Each year children who want to become a Mini Mentor complete an application form and attend training. These sessions will equip them with the skills they need to be a Mini Mentor. The Children take full ownership of running the Mini Mentor programme but it is overseen by Mrs Puzey who will pick up any problems the Mini Mentors are unable to deal with.



Celebrating Equality - The Protected Characteristics

At our school we believe (in line with DFE guidance) that 'to embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy' DFE 2019. As part of Personal Development, we need to raise awareness with our pupils about the protected characteristics.

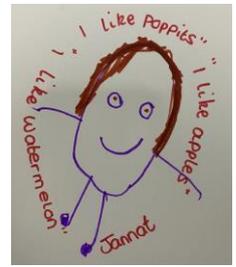
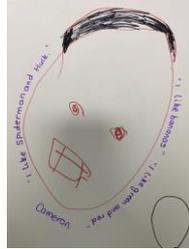
In assembly on Monday, I introduced the idea of equality and discrimination and that we are all different, that it is OK to be different and that we are ALL welcome at Holly Park. I shared this book with the children:



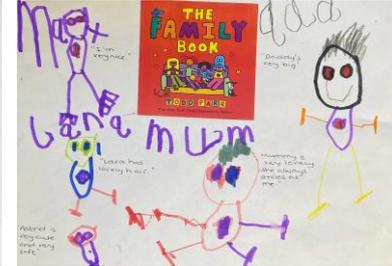
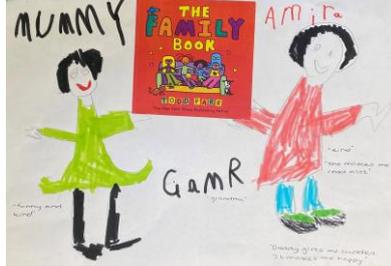
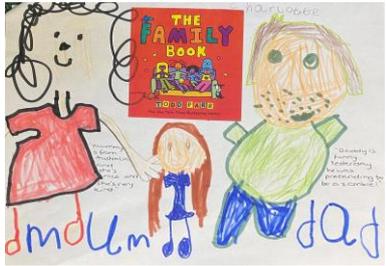
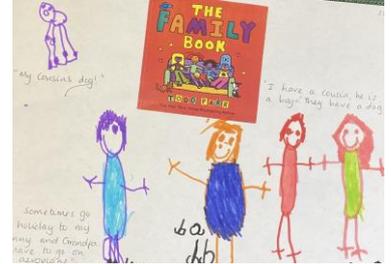
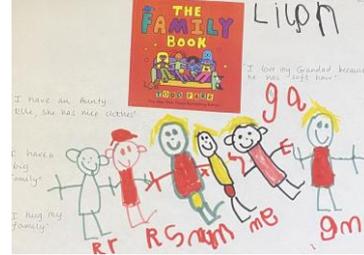
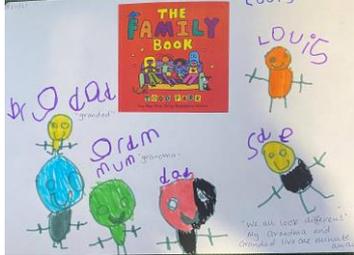
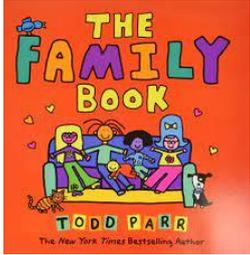
This week we had an equality afternoon. Teachers talked to the children about discrimination, equality and the protected characteristics. Each year group had a particular focus and a picture book based on one of the themes from the protected characteristics. The KS2 children watched this video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uXgJA-VfjI> The class read their book and had a discussion about the concepts within the book. They then did some PHSE or art work based around the book. Samples of the art work will be displayed together in the hall as an equality display.



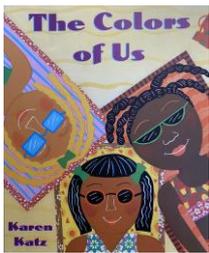
Nursery – Being Unique



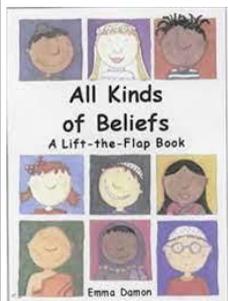
Reception – Families



Year 1 – Ethnicity



Year 2 – Religion

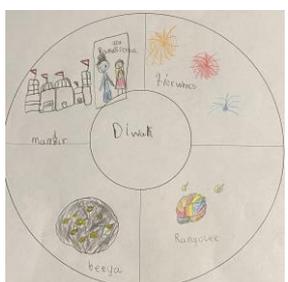
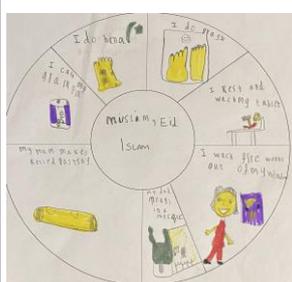
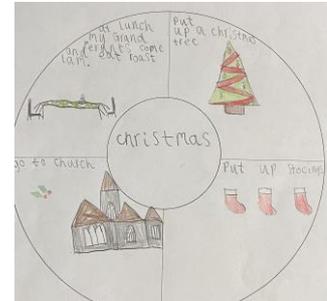
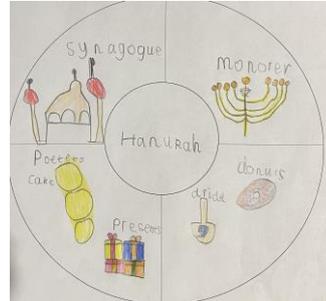


Religions in our class

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Jewish	No Religion	Not sure	Sikh
David	Maria	John	John	John	John	John

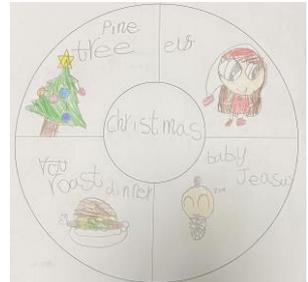
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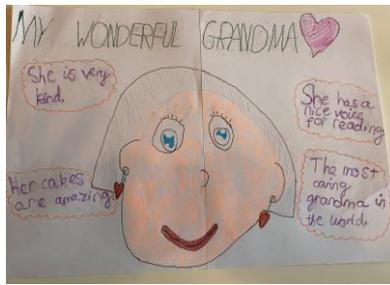
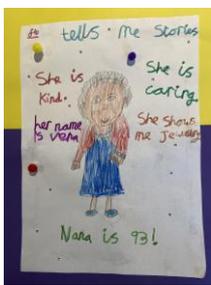
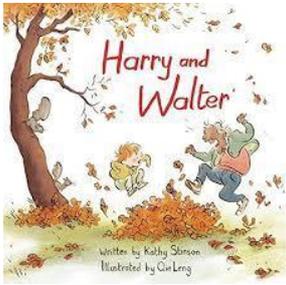


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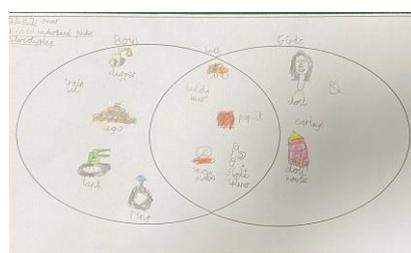
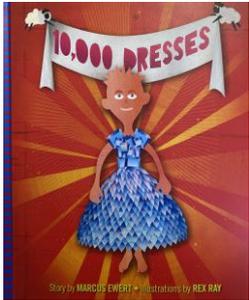
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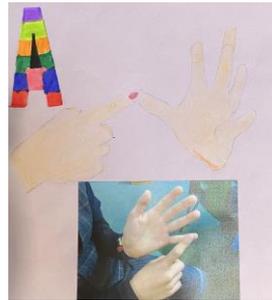
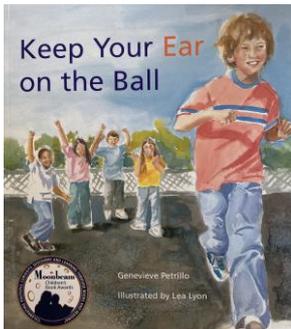
Year 3 – Age



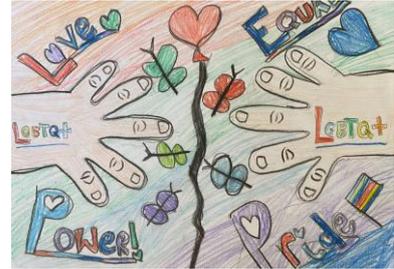
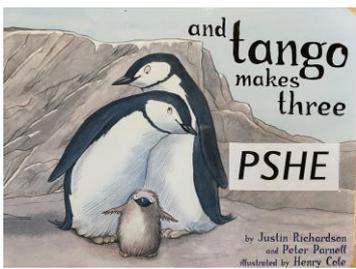
Year 4 – Gender



Year 5 – Disability



Year 6 – Sexuality





All of this work on equality and these characteristics link to articles from the UNCRC:

Article 2 - No discrimination - All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.

Article 7 - Name and nationality - Children must be registered when they are born and given a name which is officially recognized by the government. Children must have a nationality (belong to a country). Whenever possible, children should know their parents and be looked after by them.

Article 8 - Identity - Children have the right to their own identity – an official record of who they are which includes their name, nationality and family relations. No one should take this away from them, but if this happens, governments must help children to quickly get their identity back.

Article 14 - Freedom of thought and religion Children can choose their own thoughts, opinions and religion, but this should not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Parents can guide children so that as they grow up, they learn to properly use this right.

Article 23 - Children with disabilities - Every child with a disability should enjoy the best possible life in society. Governments should remove all obstacles for children with disabilities to become independent and to participate actively in the community.

Article 30 - Minority culture, language and religion - Children have the right to use their own language, culture and religion - even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live.

Relationships With Parents

Holly Park enjoys very good relationships with parents. The School welcomes the opportunity to receive positive comments from parents/carers and others when what we do is appreciated, but we are also keen to know when and where there are concerns. We are committed to dealing with concerns fairly and professionally. The vast majority of concerns are managed very successfully in an informal but thorough manner. However, a very small minority of parents/carers raise concerns that are vexatious or unreasonably persistent or conduct themselves in such a way that it is extremely difficult and unpleasant for the school to deal with and this has a negative effect on the wellbeing of staff. We ask that all and any contact with the school is polite and respectful and not passive aggressive in tone, unkind or threatening either by telephone, in meetings or in writing (including emails to the school and comments put about the school or school staff on social media). Thank you.

Supporting Our International Charity – UNICEF

We chose UNICEF as our International Charity for this year. UNICEF asked the world to turn everything blue to raise awareness for children's rights so we asked the children to wear blue last Friday and we asked families to donate £1 to UNICEF. Miss Michael led an assembly to explain to the children about UNICEF.



The Learning Council Meet The Governors For A learning Walk

Members of the learning Council spoke to school governors about how children at Holly Park respect the right to learn. They talked about all of the things that children do in classrooms to show they are respecting the right to learn. They then walked around the school with the governors and looked at the learning in the classrooms. They came back together and discussed what they had seen. They concluded that the vast majority of children in the school do respect the right to learn. The learning Council and the governors really enjoyed the experience.



The Back Pack Project

The Learning Council want the whole school to support the 'Back Pack Project' and support children in Malawi by filling backpacks with items that children in Malawi need to be able to go to school. They want the school to get involved and support this project by reminding Holly Park children why the right to an education is important. The project is organised by Mary's Meals.

They will come to school and collect our rucksacks and fly them out to Malawi. The flights are temporarily suspended but will resume in the new year. We will store the backpacks here.

The idea is that each Holly Park family gets a rucksack and fills it with the items below.

The items can be second hand but need to be in good condition. They can be items from your own home that are now too small. Families tend to fill the rucksacks with second hand clothing etc and put in new stationary.

First you need to decide if you are filling the rucksack for a girl or a boy and roughly what age they are (between 4 and 12years).

Then please fill the rucksack with all of the following:

- | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------|--------|-------------|
| A notepad | Pencils | Crayons | Sharpeners | Ruler | Eraser | Pencil case |
| Shorts or skirt (can be PE shorts) | T shirt | Flip flops or sandals | Small ball (e.g tennis ball) | | | |
| Soap | Toothbrush | Toothpaste | Towel | Spoon | | |

Supporting this project will be very helpful to those children in Malawi who need all of this equipment to go to school as it is not provided free and many families cannot afford it.

It would be marvellous if each Holly Park family could fill a rucksack. It will show the children at Holly Park that we all value the right to an education.

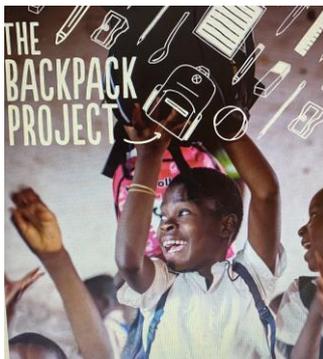
Recycling never felt this good!

The Backpack Project helps children receiving Mary's Meals in Malawi get the most out of their learning – and it's a great way to recycle old bags and P.E. kits. Don't buy new, recycle where you can! Please don't send drawstring gym bags. Please don't be tempted to put in toys or sweets. This can cause problems during delivery.

Please bring filled rucksacks into school by Monday 13th December.

The project also links well with the idea of kindness, generosity to others and the spirit of giving which many celebrate at this time of year.

Thank you for your support. The Learning Council would really appreciate your help with this.



The Holly Park Appeal 2021-22

This week we have officially launching the new Holly Park Appeal for 2021/22.

Our new appeal is to improve the IT infrastructure within the school.

Why have we chosen IT for the appeal?

Our IT infrastructure is 15 years old which means that classroom teacher desk tops that run the Interactive White boards are old, outdated, slow and failing, the wifi is slow, not all parts of the school have connection. We have made many repairs – but the equipment is now at the stage that it is passed repair. The school server which holds all of the

data is also very old

and past repair. More and more schools rely on IT and teachers use it as part of their everyday teaching.

What exactly would the money raised buy?

A new server, a huge WIFI upgrade, new classroom desk tops to run the Interactive white boards.

What is the total cost of this project?

The total cost to improve the system will be approximately £25k and this is not something that we can afford out of a very tight school budget.

How will the money be raised?

We are raising the money in several ways. We are making bids to charities and writing to local businesses. Our PTA are also supporting this appeal with donations from their events and activities. We have today launched a crowd funding appeal.

How can Holly Park parents help?

We are today launching a crowd funding appeal and asking for parent help and support with this We hope that parents will also share it amongst friends and family. You can donate to this on the front page of our Holly Park website.

Who is leading this appeal and driving it forward?

As with our last appeal, this appeal is driven by a committee of people – staff, PTA and governors – all working together for a great cause for the children. The team is led by Anna Sherrington who is the governor with responsibility for Income Realisation. Other governors on the committee include Tim Graveney and Fiona Quinton. The PTA is represented by Nathalie Hughes, Marilena Skavara, Otto Balsinger, Amanda Glaser and Daniel Bobroff. Staff members include myself, Mr

Turner & Mr Carini who are our IT leads in school and Gerard Davies our IT technician.

Who will benefit from this appeal?

All Holly Park children from nursery to Year 6 will benefit from this appeal. It will mean that children who go to teaching rooms outside the classroom will be able to access WIFI. Every classroom will be able to run the interactive whiteboards more efficiently to show the children videos, clips etc and children working on laptops and ipads in classrooms will also be

able to connect with the internet more easily and speedily.

What is the next step in terms of the appeal?

We hope that everyone in our Holly Park community will engage with this appeal and see how it will be able to improve the education on offer at the school and support all of our Holly Park children.

Please, please help us with this appeal and please make a donation on the crowd funding page of our school website. Please encourage grandparents and close family friends to donate too.

Every £1 raised will really help us to reach our goal. No donation is too small. All donations help.

Thank you in advance for your support. The staff and children will really appreciate your investment in this appeal.

If you are able to make a donation we would be very grateful. The best link for donations is the Holly Park School appeal page on the school website. <https://www.hollyparkschool.co.uk/the-big-holly-park-appeal/>

Here is the direct crowd funder link <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/hollypark>



Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 8th December

It is Christmas lunch on Wednesday 8th December. If your child normally has a packed lunch but would like a Christmas lunch – please ensure the office knows by Tuesday 30th November. The school kitchen need to know numbers to cater for. All of the school staff will be having Christmas lunch too.



Roast Turkey Breast
Chicken chipolatas
Christmas Vegetable Wellington
Roast Potatoes

Peas & carrots

Gravy

Stuffing

Chocolate Frosted Christmas Cake



A Reminder about Holly Park Homework (From Our Policy)

At Holly Park we believe that homework is vital to help the children and parents understand that learning is a life skill that does not just happen in the classroom. We nurture a belief that learning is a continuous process which should be happening outside as well as in school. We encourage parents to take an active role in their child's learning. Homework should enhance the child's experience of the curriculum, and should inspire the children to share their learning with their family and friends.

Learning and Education is a partnership between home and school and there are certain areas such as reading, spellings and multiplication tables which parents can really support their children with. Whilst we teach multiplication and spelling at school and we do not expect children to do all the learning of spellings, multiplication etc at home – those who do practice at home and are supported at home tend to be more confident with these skills and really embed them with confidence.

At Holly Park, homework is set weekly. Homework includes reading, multiplication tables, spellings and part of the planned programme of work for the class or whole school. Work will build on and consolidate class work, or pre-empt work to come - allowing parents a chance to help support their child's learning.

Homework will be acknowledged by the staff each week.

We expect that children will read at home regularly. In Reception and KSI children have a reading record and in KS2 children read from our Reading Challenge and complete a reading log. In Reception and KSI Key words will be sent home to learn.

We encourage parents to support their child's learning by supporting any activities set for home learning as set out below:

In Reception children take home books to read and key words. They also need to access Bug club online books

In Year 1 children have a weekly open-ended task to do from one subject in the curriculum. This is a broad and balanced range throughout the year. The children also take home weekly phonics words to practice. In Year 1 phonics words (both real and Alien) will be sent home weekly

In Year 2 the children have a weekly open-ended task to do from one subject in the curriculum. This is a broad and balanced range throughout the year.

In Reception and KSI children take home books from the book corner and have access to online Bug Club books that are phonetic and graded in difficulty and support the phonics approach to reading

In Years 3, 4 and 5 the children have a weekly open-ended question to answer and present in their own style. The questions allow for self-differentiation; fit with each individual's own learning style and are designed to show breadth across all subjects over the year. In addition, the children will complete either one maths task or one Spelling, punctuation and grammar task each week. These 2 tasks are alternated each week. Children in KS2 have access to My Maths which they can also access at home

Children in Year 3 and 4 are also encouraged to practice times tables each half term for a half termly tables test. Parents will be informed about which times tables should be practiced each half term. Times tables is an area where parents can really help to practice and reinforce quick recall. Children should practice times tables every week at home supported by parents. Just as children practice reading at home with parents they should now in KS2 be practising times tables at home too. Practising times tables at home is part of the Holly Park homework provision.

Year 6 homework is the same as the other junior years and in addition there is a weekly comprehension task. In Year 6, additional homework may be sent home as part of the preparation for the transition to Key Stage 3.

In KS2 children take home spellings every half term. These are a mixture of common words, national curriculum words, non-nonsense spelling pattern words and topic words. There is a half termly spelling test. Children should practice spellings every week at home supported by parents. Times tables is an area where parents can really help to practice and reinforce quick recall. Spelling is part of the Holly Park homework provision.

In KS2, children should read for 30 minutes every day. This is best done supported by an adult. Adults should discuss

the text with their child. This helps comprehension skills.

We encourage most homework to be done on Google Classroom as far as possible. For children who do not have easy access to an electronic device to do their homework, we will provide a large homework book.

The amount and frequency of homework increases as children progress through the school. Phase team leaders monitor the level and amount of homework to ensure it is consistent across the phase team, and in line with this policy.

Attendance

Attendance for the last week was 95%

Well done to Y1 Chestnut Class with the best attendance at 99%

Dates

Friday 26th November	INSET DAY
Monday 29th November	Decorations Day
Tuesday 7th December	Nursery drop in for new children 4-5pm
Wednesday 8th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 10th December	Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Friday 10th December	Y5 and Y6 parties
Sunday 12th December	PTA Winter Fair
Monday 13th December	Y3 Nativity at 2.30pm
Tuesday 14th December	Nasal Flu Immunisations
Tuesday 14th December	EYFS parties
Tuesday 14th December	Y3 Nativity at 2.30pm
Wednesday 15th December	Year 1 and 2 parties
Wednesday 15th December	Y3 and Y4 parties
Friday 17th December	Term ends at 1.30pm

