



# HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

'We support our children to be their best.'

ISSUE 1

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

[www.hollyparkschool.co.uk](http://www.hollyparkschool.co.uk)

## Welcome Back to School

Welcome back to everybody for a new school year. We have been delighted to see the children last week and look forward to a positive year ahead.

## The Holly Park Vision

We have been working on writing a Vision for Holly Park – one that captures what we are about as a school. A vision is a destination, something that helps everyone know what they are working towards.

Last term the SLT worked with a consultant to look at a suitable vision for our school – something that captured the things already embedded within the culture and ethos of our school. We thought about what we want the children at our school to be like. A vision creates a sense of belonging and community and unites us with a common purpose. A vision outlines the core values of our school to create a positive school culture shared by all. A clear vision contributes to a clear school identity. It sets a tone for behaviour, attitudes and interactions.

## At Holly Park we want our children to be:



**Respectful**



**Resilient**



**Kind**



**Inquisitive**

**and to achieve their full potential**

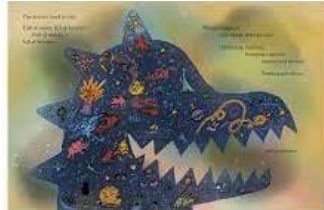
We have assigned visuals and actions to each value to help the children to remember them. The vision is displayed in every classroom and around the school.

## School Shoes

Please can you ensure that children are wearing all black school shoes. Trainers are not school shoes. Black shoes with a white stripe or flash or a thick white sole are not appropriate school shoes. School shoes should be completely black. Thank you

## The Artist – Whole School Start Of Year Project

For the first two weeks back at school, we will be using a whole school book called 'The Artist' The book provides lots of opportunities for PHSE, Art and writing. Each class will produce a classroom display based on the book. After our Inset day next week, you will receive the usual curriculum letter for what each year group will be learning for the rest of the term.



## Free School Lunches for KS2

For this academic year, the mayor of London is providing funding so that every KS2 child in KS2 (Years 3-6) can have a free school lunch.

Children at Holly Park who have a lunch will not be charged.

We are not sure what will happen at the end of this year – however I hope that lots of parents will take this up as it is a money saving option for households. You do not need to inform the school office. The lunch register is called each morning and children just need to tell their teacher they are having school dinner.

### Rights Respecting Schools Award – GOLD

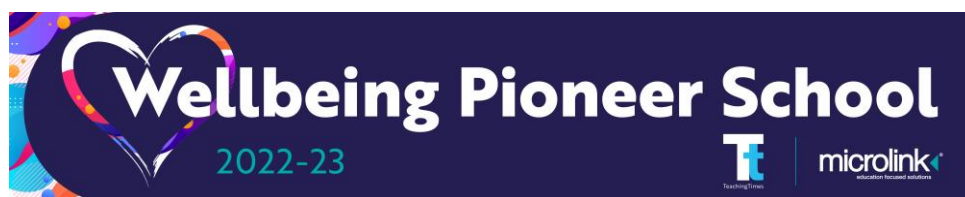
I am delighted to tell you that in the summer term we were awarded the Rights Respecting Schools GOLD Award. This is no mean feat and the assessor was extremely thorough in her search for evidence to check that we had met the standard. Strengths included:

- Very articulate children who demonstrated very good knowledge and understanding of the Rights.
- A strong commitment to Rights by leaders and this tied into the vision and values of the school.
- Relationships based on mutual respect and trust. Learning about Rights is affecting relationships in a positive way.
- The school has a strong culture of inclusivity and respect.
- A strong emphasis on health and wellbeing of students within the context of rights so young people feel supported and protected.
- Pupil voice is valued highly. The range of pupil voice groups give ample opportunity for all young people to put their opinions forward.



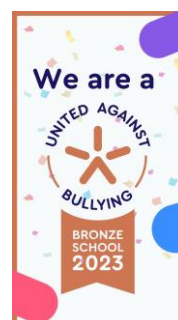
### Wellbeing Award

I am also delighted to tell you that over the summer holidays we were also awarded an award for our work last year on wellbeing. We received both the National Silver Whole School Wellbeing Award and Wellbeing Pioneer School status. The awarding body said that it was excellent evidence-based submission and that the quality of evidence submitted was excellent. They really thought that there were candid and heart-warming comments made by children in response to the survey. They also liked the way that children confidently talked about zones of regulation.



### Anti-Bullying Award

Last year we decided to revisit our work on antibullying and to evaluate our processes and procedures with the anti-bullying alliance United Against Bullying (UAB) programme. The programme is aimed to reduce bullying and improve wellbeing for pupils. We were awarded the United Against Bullying **BRONZE** School status. Our work continues this year and Miss Michael will be running some sessions for parents across the next academic year.



### Travel Plan Award

I am also pleased to tell you that we have been awarded the Gold Travel Plan for the last academic year. A School Travel Plan is a document which sets out how a school will promote safer, active travel. It benefits pupils by improved health, fitness and wellbeing from walking, scooting and cycling and Improved travel awareness and road user skills.



## School Streets

I am very pleased to inform you that the responses to the engagement on the Holly Park Primary school street were very positive, which means the school street on Bellevue Road can go ahead! The project officers are currently in conversations with their construction partners as to a timeline for the installation of the signs and camera of the school street – there will be more information in due course about timings etc. This is very good news for the safety of children outside the school.



## Junior Duke Award – KS2

Many of you will have heard of an award scheme for secondary aged pupils called the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Many of you may have done this yourself when you were at school. It is a fantastic opportunity to help develop pupils in many ways other than the academic.

There is now a version available for primary school aged pupils. This award is very good for personal development. To encourage independence, confidence, resilience and self-motivation, Holly Park will be running this award scheme called the Junior Duke Award. It is aimed at helping junior aged children to learn and practice a large variety of important life skills.

There is a level designed for each year group in KS2:

Year 3 Bronze    Year 4 Silver    Year 5 Gold    Year 6 Platinum

Each of these levels has a selection of challenges and, in order to complete a level, the children need to finish a pre-determined number of these successfully. These include skills such as First Aid, ICT, Eco awareness, Drama, Music, Sport and other life skills such as cookery and puncture repair.

The children may be given some of the necessary skills in school, however – just like at secondary school, the majority of the challenges will require a good deal of time and effort out of school with friends and family.

On completion of a level, a well-earned certificate and badge will be awarded. Children should aim to finish their challenges by the end of the school year. However, if your child's booklet remains incomplete by the end of the school year, he or she may carry it on into the next year.

Children can start with the level of the year group they will be in in September. The award will begin in September.

There is a cost to participating in the award. The cost to do the award is £10 per child for each level to cover the cost of the booklet, badge and certificate.

If your child would like to take part, please go on to school money and make a payment of £10.

Sign up is at the start of the school year. It cannot be joined part way through the school year.

**The closing date to pay online is: Today Friday 15th September.**

You can find out more by watching this video at home: <https://youtu.be/eY8ltVS2uj8>



## Important New Message with regard to Attendance

As they do annually, The Department for Education (DfE) has published an updated version of the statutory safeguarding and child protection guidance for schools in England. There has been an update on attendance which I need to share with parents. They have decided that being absent from education can be a warning sign of a range of safeguarding concerns, including sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or child criminal exploitation.

Children who are absent from education refers to children who are registered pupils at a school but not attending regularly. This could include persistently absent pupils (who are absent 10 percent or more of the time from school) or severely absent pupils (who are absent 50 percent or more of the time). Schools are required to Put in place appropriate safeguarding responses for pupils who become absent from education, particularly on repeat occasions and/or for prolonged periods. Children who attendance of 90% or less will be referred to the Barnet Educational Welfare officer.



## Attendance

Below are our attendance figures for the past two academic years:

HPS Attendance from September 2022 to June 2023 was 94%      National was 93%

HPS Attendance from September 2021 to June 2022 was 95%      National was 94%

Our attendance was better than national which is good. We hope that overall attendance will be even higher this academic year.

## The School Office

Please be advised that the school office is closed to parents at the end of the school day as there are not enough staff to deal with lots of parents at this time. Please do not come into the office area at the end of the school day unless it is urgent. If you need to ask questions or give any information – please telephone or email. Thank you for your understanding.

## Attendance

Attendance for the last week was 95%

Well done to Year 5 Maple Class with the best attendance at 99%

## Dates

Monday 18th September	INSET DAY
Wednesday 20th September	Meeting for Nursery & Reception parents – the curriculum 9am and 1pm
Wednesday 20th September	Y6 workshops about gangs and knife crime
Friday 29th September	Reception phonics meeting for parents 9am
Monday 9th October	Y6 assessment meeting 9am
Tuesday 10th October	Y2 visit to the synagogue
Wednesday 11th October	Harvest Festival
Thursday 12th October	Nasal Flu
Monday 16th October	Walk to school week
Wednesday 18th October	Y3 to Neasden Temple
Friday 20th October	Be Bright Be Seen Day

