



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

'We support our children to be their best.'

ISSUE 9

Friday 17th November 2023

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Anti-Bullying Week 2023

As a school we are always proud to take part in the national annual Anti-Bullying Week, with a range of activities, talk times and assemblies to raise awareness, promote a culture of inclusion and acceptance, and highlight the impact of bullying and the role we all take in preventing it. This is supported by our P.S.H.E. curriculum throughout the year when children learn the value of diversity, difference and acceptance.

The theme of Anti-Bullying week this year was "Make a noise about bullying".

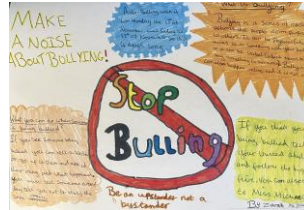
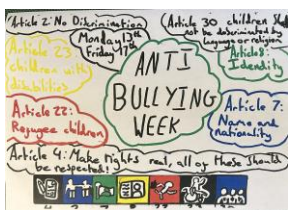
One thing we are aware of especially since COVID is that parents and children often use the word 'bullying' incorrectly when the issue is not bullying but is instead negative behaviour or friendship problems. When talking about bullying, it is very important for children, teachers, and parents to understand what bullying is not. Many times, a single act or behaviour is hurtful (and of course will be dealt with) but it is not considered bullying. It is very important everybody is clear about what bullying is and is not. This week Miss Michael led a parent meeting about bullying. This will be repeated later in the year on Zoom. Bullying is linked with the Rights Of The Child:

Article 2: No discrimination

Article 8: The right to be an individual

Article 28: Schools should be run in an orderly way

Children wore odd socks to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week, emphasising the message that its ok to be different.



Holly Park School is a happy and caring school where expectations of behaviour are high. We provide a safe and positive learning environment within which we seek to develop a mutually supportive culture where children can understand and express their feelings and respect those of others. Visiting inspectors last year described behaviour as 'exceptional' and 'impeccable' We aim to build a community based on relationships and partnerships with our school community underpinned by our behaviour strategy of **READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE** and our Holly Park Vision of **RESPECTFUL, RESILIENT, KIND and INQUISITIVE**.

There is no school that is exempt from bullying and it is the role of parents and staff to support children who are being bullied and also those who are bullying. It is **HOW** a school deals with bullying that is the most important thing.

At Holly Park we do not have a big problem with bullying and cases of bullying are rare. Below is the data on bullying for the past 3 years:

2020-2021 9

2021-2022 1

2022-2023 2

2023 – 2024 so far 1

As a school we have been awarded an Anti-Bullying Alliance Award in 2023 for the ongoing work we do on bullying.



At Holly Park we are proud of the way that we respond to bullying:

56% of the 171 parents who returned the parent survey in 2023 said their child had not experienced bullying and 41% said that any bullying had been dealt with quickly and efficiently = 97% total

97% of all staff felt in 2023 that any cases of bullying were dealt with effectively. 3% were not sure as it was not within their job role.

67% of pupils surveyed in 2023 felt that if there were cases of bullying that adults at the school dealt with it well. 23% of pupils didn't think that bullying happened at this school = 90%

How is bullying dealt with?

The school has an anti-bullying policy which we follow and which is on the school website.

There will be bullying in ALL schools. It is how the school deals with it which is important.

As a school, we take bullying seriously. Pupils, parents and staff should understand that reporting bullying is essential.

The Lead Staff concerned with Bullying after class teachers are The learning Mentor, The Deputy Head and the Headteacher

Our school definition of bullying is:

“Bullying is a repetitive series of actions, carried out on purpose, and designed to hurt someone’s feelings and make them feel ashamed of who or what they are. We will not accept it at Holly Park” (Holly Park School Council)

Bullying can be: physical, online, verbal, racist, sexual or sexist

The Holly Park School Council agreed that whatever its form, bullying consists of the following factors:

- It is ongoing and frequently repetitive, and takes place over a period of time
- It is deliberate
- It is based on a difference in power (age, strength, confidence, number of friends, etc)
- It has a serious effect on the target, including feeling ashamed, feeling like they don't want to be at school, or feeling that they wish they could disappear completely

If staff become aware of any bullying taking place, the staff member will inform the Deputy Head or Headteacher.

If an allegation of bullying has been brought forward by a parent, and not witnessed by the school then there will be an initial period of investigation – including observation and speaking to the children involved. The parents will be informed of the outcome. If the allegation is believed to be true then it will be dealt with as above. Where there is no evidence to support an allegation then we will continue to monitor for an extended time.

In more extreme cases, for example where initial discussions have proven ineffective, the Headteacher may contact external support agencies.

In all instances an ‘Allegation of bullying’ form will be completed by the school (we will establish that it is bullying and not just a one-off incident or friendship problems) This includes details of what has happened, actions so far, who is involved and future actions.

After initial discussion and action (if bullying IS happening) then there will be a review meeting approx 2 weeks later to see how things are progressing

Cultural Day

Cultural Day was about valuing the backgrounds of all of our children, to celebrate the diversity of our community and for children to get to know more about their class mates and their backgrounds. It was a wonderful day which the children really enjoyed. It was marvellous for everybody to get to know each other better, to understand and to show RESPECT for each other. What a lot of different cultures are present within our school community. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate everyone and their heritage.

During the afternoon the children designed a logo that represented their culture. These were then drawn on tiles and coloured in. They have been put together to make a class montage. These will be hung all together in the school hall and will make a wonderful celebration of the cultural heritage of the pupils in our school and will reflect the wonderful diversity of our community.



Attendance

In line with my continued messages about attendance, I just wanted to make you aware that you will be receiving a letter after the Christmas holiday about your child's attendance. ALL parents will receive a letter indicating how their child's attendance has been after the first term of the school year.

A green letter will indicate attendance of 96% or more – which is great.

An amber letter will indicate attendance of 94%-95% - which is around the expected percentage.

A pink letter will indicate attendance of 90% - 93% - this is of concern because it is below the expected attendance

A dark pink letter which will indicate attendance below 90% - which is of serious concern - this is persistent absence.

I thought it would be interesting for parents to see the chart below and to see how just a few days off can significantly affect attendance.

Percentage of Attendance:	Equivalent number of days absent up to the end of Autumn Term	Equivalent number of days absent up to the end of Spring Term	Equivalent number of days equivalent up to end of Summer Term
97% +	Up to 2 days absent during Autumn term	Up to 4 days absent in Autumn + Spring term	6 days absent a year
96% - 94%	between 2.5 and 4 days absent during Autumn term	between 5 and 8 days absent during Autumn + Spring term	7-12 days absent in an academic year
94% and below	More than 4 days absent during Autumn term	More than 8 days absent in Autumn + Spring term	More than 12 days absent in an academic year

PTA KS2 FESTIVE QUIZ

The PTA annual KS2 quiz will take place again this year for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the final week of term. The quiz is £1 to enter and should be paid for on the school money system.

The Classes will do the quiz in their classrooms in the final week – arranged at a suitable time by the class teachers.

The children will sit in their house groups and will compete against the other houses in their classroom. The quiz is always a very enjoyable event. Thanks in advance to Mrs Theuma for organising all of the questions. This will be a lovely event in the final week.

QUIZ TIME

Engine Idling

Whilst walking, cycling or using public transport to get to school is the best way to travel, there are undoubtedly families who have little option but to drive. We would ask these families to please do not sit outside the school with engines on- idling and belching out fumes.

It was brought to my attention that yesterday there were six vehicles with their engines on as people waited to drop off children in Bellevue Road immediately outside the school, all within a few metres of children queuing outside the gates. Aside from the environmental hazard, this is a real and immediate threat to children's health, with well-established links between nitrogen oxide/particulates from engines and levels of asthma and lung disease.

As we get into the winter months we do not want this issue to become more pronounced.



Being Well Enough For School

Just a reminder that if children are well enough to come to school then they are well enough to participate in the whole of school life and the full range of the school curriculum.

We do not have facility for children to stay inside and not go out to play unless they have a broken limb. If a child is well enough to be at school then they are well enough to be outside for playtime. Please make sure they have a coat and a hat and gloves if necessary.

Unless there is a very special circumstance or a child has a broken limb or are recovering from an operation, then if a

child is well enough to be at school then they are well enough to do PE lessons and swimming.

Attendance

Whole school attendance for last week was 96%

Well done to Year 2 Rowan Class and Y6 Lime Class with the best attendance at 99%.

Dates

Wednesday 22nd November	Parent Consultations for KS1 & KS2 4-6.30pm
Thursday 23rd November	Parent Consultations for KS1 and KS2 4-6.30pm
Friday 24th November	INSET DAY
Friday 1st December	Decorations Day
Tuesday 12th December	Nursery drop in for new children 4-5pm
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 15th December	Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Friday 15th December	Y5 and Y6 parties
Monday 18th December	Y3 Nativity at 2.30pm
Tuesday 19th December	EYFS parties
Tuesday 19th December	Y3 Nativity at 2.30pm
Wednesday 20th December	Year 1 and 2 parties
Wednesday 20th December	Y3 and Y4 parties
Friday 21st December	Term ends at 1.30pm

