



HOLLY PARK  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Holly Park Highlights!



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SPRING TERM 2024

## New Clubs At Holly Park



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## Supporting a Local Campaign

This year we have again supported our local Food Bank Aid. Holly Park families have been extremely generous with their food donations both in the Autumn and Spring Term. The Food Bank have been extremely grateful. Food Bank launched a campaign called **'Can we bank on you?'** The campaign aimed to highlight what they do, and why their work is so important to families in desperate need.

This term we supported the campaign. We helped to spread the word about why Foodbanks are so important all year round – not just at Harvest time or during the winter months but all year round.

The children were given a plate to decorate with their favourite meal. As a school we feel that it is important for children to get involved in campaigns and to express their views and opinions about things in the world around them. As a Rights Respecting School it is important for children to be involved in campaigns.



Our big selection of new clubs has gone very well this term with many children participating and enjoying the activities. We now have on offer: football, yoga, gymnastics, karate, art, dance, chess, rugby and both coding and computer game design. There has been very positive feedback from both children and parents. Children are having lots of fun at the clubs and are learning some new skills. Parents have contacted me expressing thanks that the school is offering these clubs which helps to extend child care and means that the children can do these activities easily without parents having to find classes and take children to them in the evenings or weekends.

The activities on offer all contribute to personal development and a wider curriculum enrichment. Many of the clubs will enable the children to participate in competitions and shows such as: rugby tournaments, dance shows, chess tournaments and Karate gradings. Many children are eager to either sign up again for next term or sign for the first time having heard how enjoyable they are. The clubs will be running again next term and a new sign up is necessary if children want to continue next term or join a club. We hope that many parents will sign up to ensure a place for their child/ren.

OFSTED

As you know, we had an Ofsted inspection this term. The process was very rigorous, thorough and intensive with a complete 360 scrutiny of the school in all aspects of its work – Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Early Years. The inspection involved data, book scrutiny, planning scrutiny, discussions, observations, discussion with governors and also pupil, staff and parent voice.

I am able to tell you that we are very pleased with how the inspection went. Unfortunately, I am not able to share with you the outcome at this stage. Once the final report is written (in approximately 30 working days) I will be able to share this with parents. This is likely to be after the Easter holidays.

I want to express my huge thanks to the whole school community for coming together to celebrate Holly Park.

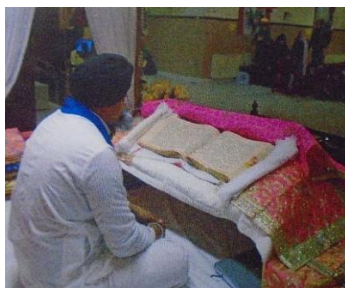
I look forward to be able to share the result with you in due course.



## Y5 At The Gurdwara

Year 5 had a fantastic trip to the Sikh Gurdwara. They showed respect by removing their shoes and wearing head coverings. They sat on the floor and were taught all about how the Gurdwara is

used in the Sikh community, as well as about the Sikh faith. The Gurdwara includes an enormous kitchen, called the Langar where Sikhs prepare food daily for people visiting the Gurdwara, as well as people in the local area who are in need.



## Year 2 At Kew



Year Two went on a fantastic trip to Kew Gardens. They were learning about the different plants that grow in different parts of the world, depending on their climate. The Palm House was very hot and had plants from near the equator in Africa and Asia. The Temperate House was mild, there were plants from places between the Poles and the Equator. The children completed the day by experiencing the Tree Top Walkway where they walked on a bridge above the trees - seeing some of London's Skyline. They were SO lucky with the weather, and even ate their lunch outside!

## YEAR 1 ANIMAL ADVENTURE

Year One have had a wonderful spring term. They learnt all about different animals: where they live, what type of animal they are and how to identify them. They found a lost elephant in the classroom and decided to take him home stopping at some amazing places before the journey ended in Botswana. One of their favourite days

(although also one of the wettest!) was their trip to Paradise Wildlife Park where they enjoyed seeing so many different animals, eating their lunch in a tent and going on a coach!



## Y6 Explore Antarctica

This term Year 6 have been learning all about Antarctica. In English, William Grill's 'The Adventures of Shackleton' was used as a stimulus for their writing; learning all about his epic expedition. In geography, they focused on the geographical features and what makes Antarctica such a unique continent. This culminated in them deciding what should happen to Antarctica in 2041 when the 'Antarctic Treaty' ends. A visit to the Science Museum to

watch a documentary in 3D allowed them to get up close with penguins, elephant seals and whales. Finally, they were lucky enough to be visited by Roseanne Smith; a scientist who studies ice. She has just returned from Antarctica and delivered a talk about her work and experiences there. Children got to try on specialist clothing and even hold ice that she brought back all the way from Antarctica!



## YEAR 3 VOLCANOES

At the start of the Spring Term, Y3 were learning about volcanoes and earthquakes in Geography. As part of their learning they participated in a Geobus workshop run by University College London. A scientist presented lots of interesting information

about volcanoes and earthquakes and the children had the opportunity to ask the expert lots of questions. The children used 3D glasses to look at different volcanoes! Both class have done some dance about volcanoes to the song Pompeii by Bastille.





## Nursery Living and Growing

The nursery have been learning about growing and life cycles. They started by reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillars* and were very excited to receive their very own caterpillars to look after. The caterpillars have turned into chrysalis's and everyone is hoping they will turn into butterflies soon! One child bought in his Giant African Snails for the nursery to look at. The children are now learning about plants and how they grow. They have planted their own sunflower seeds and are waiting for shoots to show.



## Y4 Vikings

Year 4 had a fantastic time during their Viking curriculum day. As well as learning more about day to day life for people living in the year 878 AD, they also enjoyed visiting different work stations to take part in a range of activities. This included creating a 'Thor's hammer' necklace, candle-making, pottery, creating medicine for various ailments, scribing, illumination, weaving and rune-casting. They spent



the afternoon taking on the role of archaeologists and using their reasoning skills to discover more about this time in history.

## FIRST AID



It is compulsory for primary schools to teach some First Aid as part of the PHSE curriculum. We feel it is a very important skill and that all classes should have sessions from Reception to Y6. We use a company called Mini First Aid. Their classes meet the UK National Curriculum requirements. In Reception children learn about what happens to their bodies if they are hurt and how they would be treated by a grown up. In Year 1-Year 6 children are starting to be

more independent and can understand basic first aid. In the 1hour session, children learn to deal with bumps, burns, breaks and bleeding, carry out CPR and deal with choking. The children really enjoy the lessons.



## Reception Café Experience

As part of their healthy eating Topic, Palm Class visited a local café to find out how a real café is run. They found out that cafés need cooks, waiters and shop staff to prepare and serve food for their customers. The children then created their very own Palm Class Café. They took turns to cut and prepare fruit and vegetables for salads. The children used their phonic skills to write menus, shopping lists and food orders. They worked cooperatively to run the café and used their mathematical skills to count out and share portions of food. This topic was also part of Personal Development and taught the children about the world of work.





# Barnet Schools' Dance Festival

Some of our Year 6 children took part in a huge Barnet Dance Festival at the Arts Depot this term. The festival included over 88 schools over a week - infant, junior, primary, secondary and special schools. The Holly Park routine was a lively rock and roll dance. The children performed with energy, coordination

and the Holly Park routine looked very professional. Many thanks to Miss Yiannaki for her hard work and choreography and to Mr Bourne for his support. The dance was a huge success and the costumes were very smart. We are proud of our dance team.



## Sporting Success Cross Country

On Wednesday 20th March Holly Park took part in the second leg of the Barnet Schools Cross Country event.

After the first leg, Holly Park was lying in 3rd place. For the second leg, once again all of our runners did fantastically well.

Thanks to Isabella and Alessia who stepped in at the last moment and did brilliantly in their races.

Special mention and congratulations go to Isabelle, Jevell and Bronagh who all collected silver medals for coming second in their respective races.

Huge thanks to Mr Bourne and Mr Carini for their work with the runners this year.

I am pleased to say that when all the points were added up that Holly Park came joint 1st in the whole event. Fantastic!



## Love Of Reading!

This term has been filled with many reading activities.

The PTA paid for an author to visit the school. This year we had Mini Grey who delighted the children with her illustrations and talking about her books. Many of the children purchased signed copies of her books.

We had our annual Holly Park book swap. Children enjoyed browsing the books and choosing one to take home. A great way to get a new book to read at no cost.

World Book Day was a huge success with children dressed as their favourite characters.

There was a World Book Day assembly. In class children did two activities: As a class, they created a stanza to create a whole school poem and there was also an art activity.

Children also made amazing book jars at home and these were curated into a wonderful exhibition.

