



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

'We support our children to be their best.'

ISSUE 8

Friday 25th October 2024

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

House Captains

Below are our House Captains for this academic year.



GRIFFIN



PHOENIX



UNICORN



HYDRA



DRAGON

Individual Photograph Day

Due to the Infant music festival, we have had to move Individual Photograph Day to **Thursday 14th November**. The school photographer will be here that day to take individual and sibling photographs.

If you have ticked no school photographs on the form, then your child/children will not have their school photograph taken. If you are not sure, please check with the school office today.

***IF your child normally has PE on a Thursday – please do NOT come to school on Thursday 14th November in PE Kit for the school photographs – please come to school that day in school uniform (for the photographs) and bring the PE kit in a drawstring PE bag. Children will change for PE in school that day and take their PE kit and uniform home on the same day

Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice is very important to us at Holly Park. Through pupil voice we can find out more about what pupils think about school and the ideas they have for improving things. Having such a large number of groups that the children can be involved in means that they can contribute to their school community and get involved. They can also help other pupils to enjoy their time at school.

Here are some of our pupil voice groups:



Healthy Living Council



Wellbeing Champions



Mini Mentors



Play Leaders



Junior Travel Ambassadors



School Council



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



Rights Respecting Champions



Learning Council



Reading Champions



ECO Council

Parental Contributions

Thank you so much to those parents who have already contributed following my letter to all parents this week. This is very much appreciated. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

We are asking parents across the school to contribute towards the cost of resources to support the learning of the children. School budgets are tighter than ever. Falling pupil numbers in Barnet, seriously affects all school budgets. The teacher pay rises were not completely fully funded by the government and this has to come out of existing budgets – budgets that were already set in March last year. This means that money has to be taken from areas that would have been spent on resources for the children. Energy bills and rising costs generally affect schools too. We have cut back as much as we can and we have been ruthless on spending. Parent contributions last year were very generous and an enormous help which meant that we were still able to buy resources for art, DT etc so that curriculum provision in the classrooms was not affected. We know that we are not alone as a school in asking parents to make a voluntary contribution each year. Most schools both primary and secondary now ask for contributions from parents annually. All of our local schools do this. We are asking parents across the school to help us again with this so that we can continue to buy resources. We want to be able to continue to offer as broad and balanced a curriculum as we possibly can. Resources inevitably get broken or worn out with such a lot of use. We are therefore asking all of our parents to contribute **£30 per child** for the academic year 2024-25. We really appreciate your support with this. If you would like to offer less or more than £30 then please call Miss Hounslow and she can alter your payment on school money to accommodate this. Several parents have already done this – which is amazing. We really do appreciate your support and we are very sorry that we have to ask.

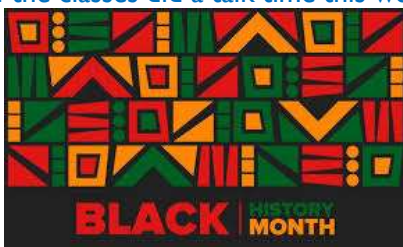
Black History Month

Nursery children have read the book called Baby goes to Market by Atinuke, They cooked and ate Chin Chin biscuits. We have celebrated Black History Month in three assemblies over the month of October.

I led an assembly introducing Black History Month and talking about how and why it was started. We looked at the achievements of Black people throughout history including: Rosa Parks, Alice Coachman, Jesse Owens, Professor Dame Elizabeth Anionwu, Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama, Wangari Maathai, Benjamin Zephaniah and Bishop Wilfred Wood. Ms Sampson did an assembly about the Black Lives Matter movement - showing a video about George Floyd and the subsequent protests. She also talked about Benjamin Zephaniah and read a few of his poems.

Mrs Kelly did an assembly this week about Black sporting heroes.

All of the classes did a talk time this week based around Black History Month.



Cultural Day

As part of our work on Personal Development we will be having a Cultural Heritage Day on **Friday 8th November**. On this day we would encourage children to **come to school dressed in clothes that represent their cultural heritage**, wearing flags from their cultural heritage or colours of the flags.

The point of our day is to value the backgrounds of all of our children, to value and celebrate the diversity of our community and for children to get to know more about their class mates and their backgrounds. Knowing their cultural heritage can build children's confidence and give them a sense of belonging.

Cultural heritage is about a person's unique, inherited sense of family identity: the values, traditions, culture, and artefacts handed down by previous generations. We absorb a sense of our heritage throughout our lives as we observe and experience the things that make our family unique. Cultural heritage includes: cultures, customs, beliefs, rites, rituals, ceremonies, social customs and traditions, arts, crafts and music. A cultural heritage is anything that was passed down from one generation to another. The heritage passed down can be tangible, like an heirloom, location, or object. It can also be intangible, like a tradition, belief, or skill.

In assembly this week we discussed the meaning of cultural heritage and I told the children about our day after half term.



Parents Cultural Day Tea Party – Food Event on Friday 8th November 2.30pm

Let's celebrate the different cultures and cuisines of our Holly Park families

We are inviting our parents/carers to come into school on Friday 8th November for a Cultural Day Tea Party. We would like parents to come with a plate of cakes, biscuits, sweet treats or savouries from their own cultural heritage to share with other parents. It will be an informal gathering to share food from around the world with other Holly Park parents. Come and sit in the hall and enjoy tasting some cuisine from around the globe. It can be homemade or shop bought. Come and tell us about what you have made. Bring along some of your favourites to share with others. Come and try foods from other cultures that you haven't tried before. Our only request is that there are no nuts in the food. Please do try to come along and to bring some food to share and enjoy a lovely event.

We are asking parents to come along with a plate of food (not hot food like curry etc) but cakes, sweets, pastries and savouries from their own cultures (home made or bought) that can be put on a table and shared with other parents
Could you bring along: welsh cakes, spring rolls, sushi, baklava, spanakopita, Victoria sponge, lamingtons, Bundt cake, macrons, Babka, Panetonne, Meskouta, Trilece cake, Maamoul or Barazek cookies, Halwas, Drozdowka, Gevulde Koek, Porter cake, Pasteis de Nata, scones or something else?



Noah's Ark Children's Hospice – Our Local Charity – Thank you

A huge thank you to the Holly Park families who made donations to our local charity – Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. With donations doubled and with gift aid, Holly Park families have raised a very generous **£1,217** for the charity. The charity aimed to raise one million pounds in 36 hours. Amazingly, they achieved their target and raised an incredible **£1,008,306** (and rising) which is just fabulous. Later in the term we will be having a visitor coming to do an assembly all about Noah's Ark, we will be having an HPS charity day and I will be taking a group of children for a visit to Noah's Ark. There is a certificate of thanks at the end of the newsletter.



Letting Our School Hall

Over the past couple of years we have been letting out our school hall at weekends for all kinds of events including parties. We also hire the hall out after 6pm on weekdays for clubs and groups e.g Karate. All lettings are booked through a company called 'Sharesy'

If you would be interested in having a birthday party in the school hall you can book this through the Sharesy website. Booking can include the main hall, the dining hall, the Astro ball area or the playgrounds.

If you would be interested in hiring a part of the school for an event you can go to:

<https://www.sharesy.com/v/holly-park-primary-school>

New Chef Manager

I would like to introduce you to Boris Nikolov the new Chef Manager at Holly Park. Boris has been at Holly Park for a couple of weeks now. Boris has a lot of experience in the education industry. He has catered in both nurseries and primary schools. He is enjoying providing nutritious and tasty meals at Holly Park. Boris has two children of his own, aged 4 and 7 years and knows how important a good meal at lunchtime is. Boris is delighted to be at Holly Park.



Read Together In Class

On **Monday 4th November**, parents are invited to come into school with the children to read. The session is from 8.45am to approx. 9.15am. Parents are welcome to read to children or listen to children read a book to you. Children love to read and share books with adults. You will be reading with a small group of children. If you have more than one child you will need to decide which class to go to as there will only be time for one class. The event will be repeated in the Spring and the Summer term so there is a chance to read with your other children to. We hope that many of you will be able to visit. The event is not really suitable for toddlers to join you in the classroom.



Consultation Meetings for Year 1 to Year 6

Notice booking the consultations for your child/ren via the 'Teachers to Parents.' system that we use for texts and e-mail will go out on Wednesday 6th November.

Please do ensure that the school has your correct mobile number or you will not receive the texts.

On the day the bookings do go live, you will get a text telling you that you can now book.

You just need to follow the link to book your slot with your teacher.

It is a first come first served system and parents can only book on available slots. This is a fair system we hope. Early booking when the link goes live is advisable.

Attendance

Whole school attendance for last week was 95%

Well done to Y4 Mulberry Class and Y5 Juniper Class with the best attendance at 97%.

Dates

Monday 4 th November	Parents in Class to Read Together 8.45
Tuesday 5 th November	Infant Music festival
Wednesday 6 th November	Notice for parent consultations
Wednesday 6 th November	Meeting for KS2 parents: Maths
Thursday 7 th November	Y4 to the British Museum
Friday 8 th November	Cultural Day
Friday 8 th November	Parents Cultural Day Tea party 2.30pm (Please bring food from your culture to share)
Monday 11 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 12 th November	Y5 parents meeting about the Y6 school journey 9am
Wednesday 13 th November	KS2 Book Look 3.30-5.30pm
Thursday 14 th November	Individual Photographs
Thursday 14 th November	KS1 Book Look 3.30-5.30pm
Tuesday 19 th November	Maple Class Assembly 9am
Wednesday 20 th November	Local Charity day – Noah's Ark
Wednesday 20 th November	Parent Consultations
Thursday 21 st November	Y6 to the Imperial War Museum
Thursday 21 st November	Parent Consultations
Friday 22 nd November	INSET DAY
Tuesday 26 th November	Mulberry Class assembly at 9am
Wednesday 27 th November	Meeting for parents Y1-Y3: Reading
Monday 2 nd December	Meeting for all parents: Learning

Monday 2nd December	Decorations Day
Wednesday 4 th December	Reading meeting for Reception parents
Friday 6 th December	Jazzy Jumper Day
Saturday 7 th December	PTA Christmas fair
Tuesday 10 th December	Y1 Church Visit
Tuesday 10 th December	Nursery stay and play
Wednesday 11 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 12 th December	Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Monday 16 th December	Y3 Nativity at 2.15pm
Tuesday 17 th December	EYFS parties
Tuesday 17 th December	Y3 Nativity at 2.15pm
Wednesday 18 th December	Y5 and Y6 parties
Thursday 19 th December	Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4 parties
Friday 20 th December	Term ends at 1.30pm

There is facility to translate this newsletter and the whole school website at the bottom of the website home page.

