



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

'We support our children to be their best.'

ISSUE 15

Friday 10th January 2025

You can translate this newsletter and the whole school website at the bottom of the website home page

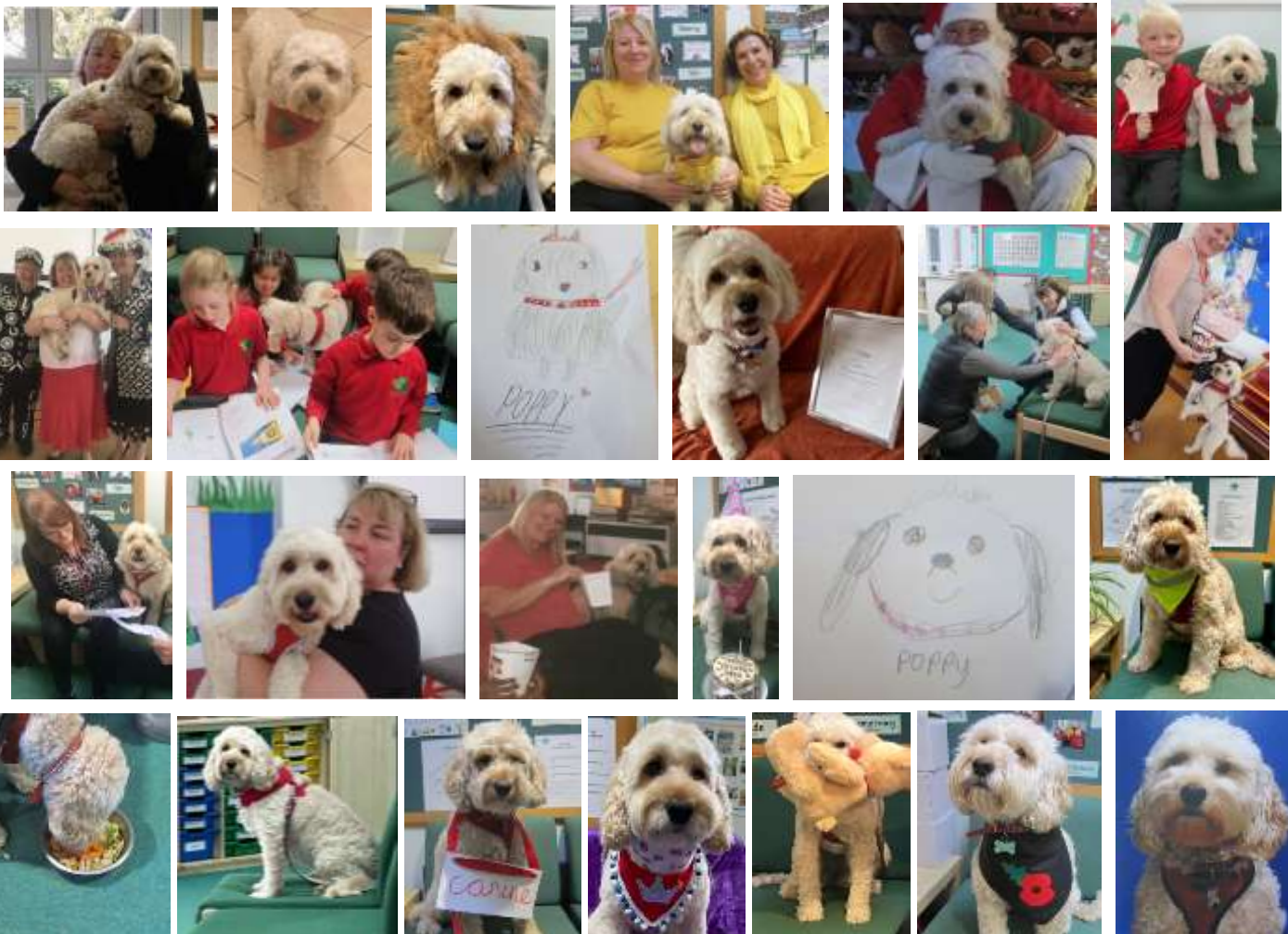
www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Happy New Year

Welcome back to the new term and to 2025 at Holly Park. I would like to thank you on behalf of myself and the staff for the gifts we received at the end of term. May I wish you a happy and healthy 2025. You will have received this week a leaflet of key dates (via e-mail) for this term. Next week you will receive a year group newsletter explaining what the children will be learning this term.

Poppy Our School Dog

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that Poppy passed away during the holiday. Poppy was ten and a half years old and she had been coming in to Holly Park for seven and a half years. Fortunately, she was only unwell for a few days and was not in pain. She went to the vet. Several times. Eventually they found a large mass in her stomach which had ruptured and spread to her heart and lungs. Sadly, she passed away at the vets. Poppy gave much joy and love to Holly Park children and staff. She was there for cuddles for adults and children. She listened and consoled children who were sad, unhappy, angry, anxious and bereaved. She played ball in the playground and went for walks around the site. In 2021, Poppy was awarded a PDSA Commendation Award for: providing support and enriching lives. She often joined in with dress up and charity days and was involved in the wider life of the school. She had her own Holly Park uniform bandana. Poppy even featured in two Ofsted reports! She will be very much missed. Her Dog Blog will remain on the school website for a couple more weeks if you and your children would like to look through it.



End Of Term Festive Sing Along

In the last week of the Autumn Term we had a very festive singalong in the hall with our Y2 classes and the Junior Choir. There were a selection of festive songs – some calm and gentle, some more jolly and raucous! Year 2 enjoyed singing the dreidel song. We enjoyed a couple of solos, silent night with Ukulele accompaniment and an appearance by Frosty the snowman. Well done to all of the children and a big thank you to Miss Halil.



PTA Junior Quiz

In the last week of term, KS2 enjoyed a very festive PTA quiz in their classrooms. Huge thanks to Tanja Theuma who put the quiz together. The children really enjoyed it and competed in their house teams. The scores were all added together. The overall results were:

First Place	34 points	Unicorn
Second Place	25 points	Phoenix
Third Place	23 points	Hydra
Joint Fourth Place	22 points	Dragon
Joint Fourth Place	22 points	Griffin

Congratulations to **UNICORN** who win the Quiz Trophy.



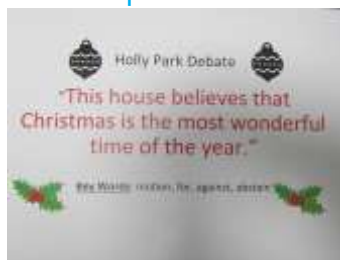
Parent Gym Success

Last term Mrs Puzey ran a series of Parent Gym sessions for Holly Park parents. Six Holly Park parents attended. The sessions were a huge success and gave the parents who chose to be involved a space to chat about parenting over a cup of tea/coffee and to share ideas based around the topics that Mrs Puzey introduced each week. I was pleased to award certificates in the final week (although 3 parents were away with sickness). Mrs Puzey will be running the sessions again later in the school year.



Christmas Debate

In the final week of the school term, some of our Y6 children led a formal KS2 debate. The motion was: This house believes that Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. Before the debate began, the children voted for, against or abstained. The two teams of Y6 children then presented their arguments. There was then time for questions from the floor. The children then had the opportunity to vote again. The Y6 children had prepared excellent speeches. The result was that the majority of KS2 children believed that Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. However, the team who did not believe that this was true, did manage to increase their votes and close the gap – winning over some of those who had abstained. Thanks to Miss Sampson and Mr Carini who had prepared the Y6 children. Thanks to Miss Sampson and Mrs Mehtar who led the debate. We look forward to the next one!



External Clubs for Spring Term

I have emailed out the details for paid lunchtime and after school clubs run by external providers. Please do sign up as quickly as possible if you would like your child/ren to participate in a club this term.

There is a Directory of clubs at the end of this newsletter with details of sign up contacts.

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>

Online Safety – Parent Session Friday 7th February

Do you know what your child is doing on their computer or ipad?

Do you know which sites are safe?

Are you aware of all of the dangers of your child having a mobile phone?

Are your children sending messages on x box?

Is your child watching videos on Youtube?

What are the dangers of Apps?

What social media is suitable for my child?

How much screen time is acceptable?

What are the latest online dangers?

On Friday 7th February we have paid for an outside company to come in and talk about online-safety all day with classes and also to do a meeting for parents at 9am to help parents think about keeping children safe at home on computers, ipads etc when they are playing games and using the Internet. We have run these sessions for the last few years and they have been a great success. Parents found it scary, thought provoking and extremely useful. It is very important to be one step ahead of your child as technology becomes more a part of children's everyday lives. Whatever your child's age or year group, the meeting will be appropriate and useful.

I would urge as many parents as possible to come along to the school hall at 9am on Friday 7th February



Snow & Icy Weather

As always as we move into the New Year, there will inevitably be a higher risk of inclement weather, linked with the possibility of school closure or later opening. In the event of heavy snowfall, parents should check for closure notices on the school website, as well as looking out for emails and texts from the school. Any decision to close is not taken lightly. We make decisions that we think are for the best at the time for our school and our circumstances and at the heart of everything is the health and safety of the children in getting to and from school, the safety of staff and ensuring there is adequate supervision. Decisions are made with senior staff, the chair of governors and other local Headteachers. Every school in Barnet is different due to location and also where staff travel from.

For various legal reasons, we are not able to grit the pavements outside the school – our responsibility is for the school site only. However, the council have provided a grit bin opposite the school which parents are very welcome to use to grit the paths and entrance outside the school gates in icy weather. Please do make use of this. We will also send out a text if necessary to ask for a group of volunteer parents with shovels to help Mr Reid clear paths – this has been very helpful in the past.

There is also the possibility of a late opening during snowy weather to ensure the grounds are prepared and also early closing – should more snow fall be forecast.

Please note that we do not provide online work if the school closes for a day – this is in line with our blended learning policy. Online activities (probably seasonally related to snow) will only be provided from the second day of any closure. We would hope that on the first day of snow that children go outside and enjoy the snow experience.

Please be assured that we always have the health and safety of the children uppermost on our mind. We continually risk assess, consider and evaluate what we do in snow and icy weather.

Thank you for your support in advance with what inevitably is always a difficult and stressful time.

Smartphone Free Schools

As you know our school is supporting the Barnet Smartphone Free School Campaign. When children first started getting smartphones a decade ago, there was no research about their impact. Now there is, and it's overwhelming. Exposing children to things their brains aren't yet developed enough to deal with can cause a whole host of problems, from triggering anxiety and eating disorders, to opening the door to cyberbullying or sexual predators, according to the latest research. As schools we want to work together with parents to protect our students from harm. The Smartphone Free School Campaign is not just about 'phones in school' but is about recognising that social media use will impact on children's development and mental health and ultimately on their learning outcomes. The recent documentary on Channel 4 Swiped highlights that as parents we may not be as tuned-in to what our children are doing online, even though we think we do, and reinforces that this is a significant safeguarding concern.

There is a borough wide meeting on 23rd January on this issue where professionals from mental health and tech will be sharing their expertise and providing solutions. We would encourage parents to go along to the meeting on 23rd so that you can be informed and make sound choices to keep your children safe. A flyer with all the details was emailed out this week.

Attendance

Whole school attendance for last week of Autumn term was 92%

Well done to Y1 Pine with the best attendance at 98%.

Attendance for the last half term (4th Nov - Dec 20th) was 94%

Attendance for the whole Autumn term (3rd Sept – Dec 20th) was 95%

Dates

Wednesday 15 th January	Y3 spelling and phonics meeting for parents at 9am
Wednesday 15 th January	Y6 Friend v Friendly workshops in class
Thursday 16 th January	Y6 and Reception height and weight
Tuesday 28 th January	Y2 Great Fire of London Day
Thursday 30 th January	Y3 trip to the Temple at Neasden
Friday 31 st January	Parent meeting – support your child with playtimes 9am
Friday 31 st January	Y4 Viking Day
Monday 3 rd February	Children's Mental health Week
Monday 3 rd February	Annual House Challenge
Tuesday 7 th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 5 th February	School Journey Meeting for Y4 parents
Friday 7 th February	Online Safety Meeting for parents at 9am
Friday 7 th February	HPS Online safety day
Monday 10 th February	Y6 meeting about sex and relationship education 9am
Friday 14 th February	Y1 car making workshop - afternoon
Friday 14 th February	End of Half term at 3.30pm

HALF TERM



WE HAVE
ACHIEVED



External Clubs Quick Sign Up Directory

KS1 (Year 1-2)

Football	Monday 3.30pm	https://nonstopaction.co.uk/02084460006
Gymnastics	Thursday lunch	07725818655 info@vickyracademy.co.uk
Art	Friday 3.30pm	Vera Moore 07741126151
Chess Y2	Tuesday lunch (Y2)	johnfleetwoodj@aol.com
Computer Game Design Y2	Monday Lunchtime	www.eAssistant.co.uk 077 4849 3383

KS2 (Year 3-6)

Street Dance	Monday 3.30pm (Y3/4/5/6)	info@dancewright.co.uk 07482693890
Chess	Tuesday lunch	johnfleetwoodj@aol.com
Tag Rugby	Tuesday 3.30pm	deanna@accelerate-sports.co.uk 07507798271
Gymnastics	Thursday lunchtime	07725818655 info@vickyracademy.co.uk
Computer Game Design	Monday Lunchtime	www.eAssistant.co.uk 077 4849 3383
Computer Coding	Thursday lunchtime	www.eAssistant.co.uk 077 4849 3383
Football	Friday 3.30pm	https://nonstopaction.co.uk/02084460006
Art (Y3/4/5)	Friday 3.30pm	Vera Moore 07741126151