



# HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

'We support our children to be their best.'

ISSUE 23

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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

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

## Term dates for the academic Year 2025-26

Please find the term dates for the next academic year attached to the bottom of this newsletter. They are also on the school website.

## Hot and Cold Climates - Lessons From The Ends Of The Earth!

Last week we were very fortunate that one of our parents, Paul Gurney, came in to talk to Years 1, 2, 3 & 6 about his many adventures around the world. He presented slides and videos showing his experiences in various climates from the Sahara to Antarctica. He also brought in equipment which some teachers got to model for the children! Many thanks to Paul for such an interesting and inspirational presentation.



## Allotment help needed this Sunday 10am – 12pm

We need help with our allotment in order that it is ready for use in the summer term. Caroline Giles is looking for parents to help her this Sunday (16<sup>th</sup> March) in the allotment to clear, weed and tidy. It is not especially hard work. It would be fantastic if some Holly Park families could help from 10am - 12pm this Sunday. All that is required is to bring gloves - gardening gloves. If you are able to help for a couple of hours on Sunday - please call Miss Hounslow in the school office or email [office@hollypark.barnetmail.net](mailto:office@hollypark.barnetmail.net). A small working party will be SOOO helpful. If you are able to lend a hand we would very much appreciate it.



## Neurodiversity Week Book collection

A huge thank you to families who have already donated books – we are really so very grateful and it is very much appreciated.

We are asking parents to donate one or two books connected with Neurodiversity to the school. We feel that it is very important for Holly Park children to see themselves and their friends and relatives in the books they read. In the past we have asked parents to donate books about different families, different religions, women, different cultures and climate change.

To celebrate and raise awareness of neurodiversity we have a book list (at the end of this newsletter) and we are asking parents to choose a book or two from the list and to send them in to Mrs Pelham. This way we can increase the range of books in school.

Books can be bought at a book shop or on Amazon and brought in and given to Mrs Pelham or parents can send an Amazon parcel directly to the school (with a gift tag).

Every book donated will have a book plate inside saying which children or family donated it.

We would really appreciate your support with this.

We want to start collecting books now so that we have them available for Neurodiversity Week.

We would really appreciate your help in expanding our reading provision to include more books that will help increase our pupils' understanding of neurodiversity.

Thank you in advance for supporting our community of young readers. Thank you to the those who have already sent in some beautiful books. Here are some of the beautiful books. It's still not too late to send a book in.



### Barnet Dance Festival

Some of our Y6 children represented the school so well at the annual Barnet Dance festival at The Arts Depot this week. It was an amazing opportunity to perform in a proper theatre, on a stage in front of an audience of 500 people. Approximately 70 Barnet schools take part across several nights with over 1,000 children participating. Holly Park danced to music from 'Wicked' with energy and enjoyment. They have been practicing for several weeks and were very excited to participate. Huge thanks and congratulations to Miss Yiannaki who has been rehearsing them at lunchtimes and always has very high standards for the children to meet. Thank you to Mr Bourne who supported Miss Yiannaki with the rehearsals and performance.



### Year 4 Pyjama Party

The Y4 pyjama party last Friday night was great fun. The children arrived at school and played really exciting and fun games in the hall with Non-Stop Action and did orienteering in the dark with torches outside in the playground, ate pizza, changed into their pyjamas and watched a movie in the hall. It was a wonderful and fun experience in preparation for the residential in Y5 next year. Thank you to Ms Sampson (who organised it) and all the staff who helped on the evening.







### Rugby Tournament

Team Holly Park (made up from members of our rugby club) were brilliant at the All Valley Tag Rugby Tournament on Saturday. The team played so well and although the trophy was just out of their grasp they showcased their skills and cohesion as a team and should be very proud of themselves.



### PTA Spring Fair

The Spring Fair is on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March after school. Do come along and enjoy the fun.

### First Aid lessons

It is compulsory for primary schools to teach some First Aid as part of the PHSE curriculum. At Holly Park we teach it in all year groups. We buy in First Aid sessions annually for all classes from Reception to Y6 from a company called Mini First Aid. Classes meet the UK National Curriculum Requirements and learning progresses from year to year. 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 Y1-6 Children are starting to be more independent and can understand basic first aid. In the 1 hour session, children learn to deal with bumps, burns, breaks and bleeding, carry out CPR and deal with choking. This is our seventh year of first aid and it is great to see the progression of skills. Our current Y6 children have had sessions every year since they were in Reception. Every class will have a session over the next few weeks.



### Attendance

Whole school attendance for last week was 95%  
Well done to Year 4 Mulberry Class with the best attendance at 99%.

### Dates

|                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday 17th March  | First aid lessons this week |
| Monday 17th March  | Neurodiversity Week         |
| Monday 17th March  | Infant Dress Rehearsal      |
| Tuesday 18th March | Infant show at 2pm          |

|                                  |                                                  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March   | Nursery stay and play 4-5pm                      |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March | Infant show at 2pm                               |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March  | Infant show at 2pm                               |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March    | PTA Spring Fair                                  |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March    | Holly Park Well-being Week                       |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March    | Holly Park Wheel to School Week                  |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March    | PTA Mothers' Day Shop                            |
| Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March   | PTA Mothers' Day Shop                            |
| Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March   | KSI Book Look at 3.45pm                          |
| Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March | Y1 trip to Ally Pally                            |
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March    | Y3 Roman Day                                     |
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March    | Y5 to The Wallace Collection                     |
| Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March    | Parent zoom meeting 9.30am – learning strategies |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April  | Y1-Y6 Consultation evening 4pm – 6.30pm          |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April   | Y1-Y6 Consultation evening 4pm – 6.30pm          |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April     | End of term at 1.30pm                            |



## A Holly Park Booklist: Celebrating & Supporting... Neurodiversity



| Age Range                    | Name & Author                                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>EYFS+</b>                 | Thunderboots by Naomi Jones                         |
|                              | Cloud Boy by Greg Stobbs                            |
|                              | Giraffe and Half by Nicola Kent                     |
|                              | My Amazing ADHD Brain by Emily Snape                |
|                              | Loud by Rose Robbins                                |
|                              | This Beach is Loud by Samantha Cotterill            |
|                              | My Body has a Bubble by Nell Harris                 |
|                              | Bear: A Story or Autism and Difference by Val Jones |
|                              | Talking is Not my Thing – Rose Robbins              |
|                              | My Brain is Magic – Prasha Sooful                   |
|                              | Too much, an overwhelming day by Jolene Gutierrez   |
|                              | This is me by George Webster                        |
|                              | Me & My Sister by Rose Robbins                      |
| Too much by Jolene Gutierrez |                                                     |
| <b>KSI +</b>                 | Bee by Rachel Fuller                                |
|                              | What Makes a Lima Listen? by Samuel Langley-Swain   |
|                              | Leo and the Octopus by Isabelle Marinov             |
|                              | Aaron Slater, Illustrator by Andrea Betay           |
|                              | A Day with No Words – Tiffany Hammond               |

|                                                        |                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                        | Through the Eyes of Us – by Jon Roberts                       |
|                                                        | The Fizzy Brain by Noah Foria                                 |
|                                                        | My Brain is a Race Car by Nell Harris                         |
|                                                        | A Friend for Henry by Jenn Bailey                             |
|                                                        | Henry like always by Jenn Bailey                              |
|                                                        | Through the Eyes of Me - John Roberts                         |
|                                                        | Do you want to play? by Daniel Share-Strom                    |
|                                                        | Remarkable Remy by Melanie Heyworth                           |
|                                                        | I am a masterpiece by Mia Armstrong                           |
|                                                        |                                                               |
| <b>KS1/KS2</b>                                         | Cally & Jimmy: Twins together by Zoe Antonideas               |
|                                                        | Cally & Jimmy: Twintastic by Zoe Antonideas                   |
|                                                        | Cally & Jimmy: Twins in Trouble by Zoe Antonideas             |
|                                                        | Wonderfully Wired Brains – Louise Gooding                     |
|                                                        | Neurodiversity? What’s That! By Nadine Ramina Arthur          |
|                                                        | Amazing Me, Amazing You! By Christine Mc Guinness             |
|                                                        | My Mummy is Autistic by Heath & Joanna Grace                  |
|                                                        | Maria & Me by Maria Gallardo                                  |
|                                                        | Brilliant Bea by Shaina Rudolph                               |
| Too Sticky by Jen Malia                                |                                                               |
|                                                        |                                                               |
| <b>KS2</b>                                             | Casander Darkbloom and the Threads of Power by P.A Staff      |
|                                                        | Just Like Me by Louise Gooding                                |
|                                                        | Reggie Houser has the Power by Helen Rutter                   |
|                                                        | Scarlet Ibis by Gill Lewis                                    |
|                                                        | The Circle Breakers by Patience Agbabi                        |
|                                                        | The Boy with the Butterfly Mind by Victoria Williamson        |
|                                                        | A Different sort of Normal by Abigail Balfé                   |
|                                                        | Check Mates by Stewart Foster                                 |
|                                                        | Frankie’s World by Aorfe Dooley                               |
|                                                        | The Guggenheim Mystery by Robin Stevens                       |
|                                                        | The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd                        |
|                                                        | Counting by 7s – Holly Goldberg Sloan                         |
|                                                        | Can You See Me? By Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott           |
|                                                        | A Storm of Strawberries – by Jo Cotterill                     |
|                                                        | Not if I can Help It by Carolyn Mackler                       |
|                                                        | Boy Underground by Isabelle Marinov                           |
|                                                        | Vivi Conway and the Sword of Legend – Lizzie Huxley-Jones     |
|                                                        | Speak Up! By Rebecca Burgess                                  |
|                                                        | ADHD is our super power by Soli Lazarus                       |
|                                                        | Just Like me by Louise Gooding                                |
| This is my brain by Elise Gravel.                      |                                                               |
| Maya Plays the part by Calyssa Erb                     |                                                               |
| The girl who thought in pictures by Julia Finley Mosca |                                                               |
|                                                        |                                                               |
| <b>Upper KS2 +</b>                                     | Caterpillar Summer by Gillian McDunn                          |
|                                                        | The Space We’re In by Katya Balen                             |
|                                                        | The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson                             |
|                                                        | All the Pieces of Me by Libby Scott                           |
|                                                        | Like a Curse by Elle McNicoll                                 |
|                                                        | Show us Who you are by Elle McNicoll                          |
|                                                        | Like a Charm Elle Mc Nicoll                                   |
|                                                        | The Asparagus Bunch by Jessica Scot-White                     |
|                                                        | Rebel Girls: Celebrate Neurodiversity by Rebel Girls (series) |
|                                                        | A kind of Spark – Ellie McNicoll                              |



## TERM DATES FOR 2025 – 2026

### AUTUMN TERM 2025

|                                                                                                            |                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 1st September 2025:                                                                                 | Staff Training Day, <a href="#">school closed</a>    |
| Tuesday 2nd September 2025:                                                                                | Children return to school at 8.55am                  |
| Friday 12th September 2025:                                                                                | Staff Training Day, <a href="#">school closed</a>    |
| Friday 24th October 2025:                                                                                  | End of the first half of the Autumn Term             |
| <i>Monday 27 October - Friday 31 October: <b>Half Term Holiday</b>, <a href="#">school closed</a></i>      |                                                      |
| Monday 3rd November 2025:                                                                                  | Children return to school at 8.55am                  |
| Friday 21st November 2025:                                                                                 | Staff Training Day, <a href="#">school closed</a>    |
| Friday 19th December 2025:                                                                                 | End of the Autumn Term, <i>school ends at 1.30pm</i> |
| <i>Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January: <b>Christmas Holidays</b>, <a href="#">school closed</a></i> |                                                      |

### SPRING TERM 2026

|                                                                                                         |                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 5th January 2026:                                                                                | Children return to school at 8.55am                  |
| Friday 13th February 2026:                                                                              | End of the first half of the Spring Term             |
| <i>Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February: <b>Half Term Holiday</b>, <a href="#">school closed</a></i> |                                                      |
| Monday 23rd February 2026:                                                                              | Children return to school at 8.55am                  |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026:                                                                     | End of the Spring Term, <i>school ends at 1.30pm</i> |
| <i>Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April: <b>Easter Holidays</b>, <a href="#">school closed</a></i>         |                                                      |

### SUMMER TERM 2026

|                                                                                               |                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 13th April 2026:                                                                       | Children return to school at 8.55am                  |
| Monday 4th May 2026:                                                                          | May Bank Holiday, <a href="#">school closed</a>      |
| Friday 22nd May 2026:                                                                         | End of the first half of the Summer Term             |
| <i>Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May: <b>Half Term Holiday</b>, <a href="#">school closed</a></i> |                                                      |
| Monday 1st June 2026:                                                                         | Staff Training Day, <a href="#">school closed</a>    |
| Tuesday 2nd June 2026:                                                                        | Children return to school at 8.55am                  |
| Friday 17th July 2026:                                                                        | End of the Summer Term, <i>school ends at 1.30pm</i> |
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026:                                                            | Staff Training Day, <a href="#">school closed</a>    |