



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

'We support our children to be their best.'

ISSUE 22

Friday 7th March 2025

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

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Parent/Carer Coffee Mornings

Before COVID, Miss Michael and I held coffee mornings for parents/carers in different year groups. The coffee mornings were an opportunity to chat and discuss matters about the year group. It was a good opportunity for us to talk to parents and hear parent views on a range of topics specific to the year group and for parents to ask questions. We are going to run these coffee mornings again over the rest of this academic year – with two year groups combined. There will be a Nursery/Reception coffee morning, a Year 1/Year 2 coffee morning, a Year 3/Year 4 coffee morning and a Year 5/Year 6 coffee morning. This time we will also be inviting along Mrs Puzey, Mrs Kelly and Miss Iglesias. Mrs Puzey is our learning mentor and deals with friendship issues, behaviour problems and also social and emotional issues. Mrs Kelly is our special needs lead at Holly Park. Miss Iglesias is our Pupil Support Officer and deals with requests for absence, attendance, first aid, accidents, allergies and medicines. Parents may have questions they want to ask these staff members. The coffee morning for Nursery and Reception will be this half term. The other three will be in the summer term.

The coffee morning for Nursery and Reception parents will be: **9am on Monday 24th March**

Cross Country

Last Wednesday Holly Park took part in a very wet and muddy Barnet Cross Country event. Despite the atrocious conditions all of the children showed remarkable resilience to complete the swamp like course, some even losing a shoe in the mud, on the way round! Well done to all of the children for their amazing efforts but a special well done to Demi who came 4th, Jevell who came 3rd and Bronagh who stormed to a fantastic 1st place. Thank you to Mr Bourne and Mr Carini for supporting the children with this event.



Reporting & Recording of Accidents

Holly Park staff have a duty to report all **serious and significant accidents** to a child's parent. This is generally by telephone. Children will have normal playground injuries during their time at school. Not all bumps, cuts and scrapes require reporting. Small scrapes, falls and tumbles are a natural part of growing up. With a school of approx. 400 children we cannot possibly inform parents of all small bumps and bruises. Time and personnel are limited and this is put to best use caring for the children rather than making unnecessary administrative phone calls. We report what we believe to be appropriate and proportionate. Administering first aid as necessary, and logging the injury in an accident book if it is reported is what is required when it comes to dealing with minor accidents and injuries. An accident book is kept in the welfare room.

At Holly Park we do not fill in accident report slips to give to parents as this is not necessary and is far too time consuming. Serious accidents will be reported to parents. We cannot report every small bump, scratch and graze. If necessary a phone call will be made to the parent if there is an injury/accident causing concern. Not everything recorded in the accident book is required to be reported to parents. Staff make an informed judgement of whether an accident should be reported to a parent. Small cuts, falls, bangs and grazes and minor injuries cannot be reported.

Accident numbers are reported to the Governors termly. Accidents in the accident book are analysed for the number of accidents and type of accidents.

The Headteacher ensures that serious accidents where children are sent to hospital by the school are reported to Barnet.

World Book Day 2025

The theme of our World Book Day this year was heroes and villains. Children were invited to dress up as their favourite hero or villain from a book of their choice. There was a lovely array of costumes.



The Holly Park World Book Day Pop-Up Museum was back! This year children were asked to bring in a decorated empty toilet roll – made up as a hero or villain from a book. These were collated in to an exhibition and every class made a visit. There were some very creative characters made.



Holly Park Book Swap Friday 7th March

For the Holly Park book swap children brought in a couple of books from home to swap for another book that they would like to read. The book swap is a great way to re-use and recycle children's books.



Neurodiversity Week Book collection

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).

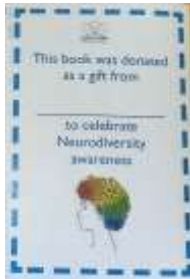
Every book donated will have a book plate inside saying which children or family donated it.

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 families who have already sent in some beautiful books.



ECO Council – Recycling Felt tip pens

Last week the Eco Council went to Ryman's in High Barnet to take a huge box of over 1,000 used felt tips. The idea was that Ryman's would take them and would give them to a company who would recycle them. Unfortunately, when the group arrived, Ryman's has stopped using one recycling provider and hadn't started with the new provider. The group came away with all of the pens. They called the recycling centre at Summers Lane - but they don't take them. The group came back and rather than be disappointed, Mrs Fitzpatrick and Ally Birchall (governor) encouraged the group to campaign about this problem. They therefore wrote a letter to Councillor Alan Schneiderman who is the cabinet member for environment and climate change. They pointed out that if our school had over 1,000 pens from between October to February then with 184 schools in Barnet – there must be hundreds of thousands of pens going to landfill each year. The council came up with some suggestions to improve the situation.

Councillor Schneiderman wrote back very quickly. He was impressed that we had an Eco Council and was apologetic that they had not been able to recycle the pens. He said that he would talk to people in the council and to the North London Waste Authority to see what can be done. He ended his letter by saying that he hoped that they could find a way of recycling old felt tip pens. We wait to hear more.



PTA Spring Fair

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

Maths Parent Session for KS2 parents - the 4 Rules of Number

A reminder that on **Tuesday morning (11th March)** Mrs Mir will be leading a session for KS2 parents about how we teach the 4 rules of number.



She will demonstrate the methods we use to teach them and the progression of stages that the children go through from Year 3 to Year 6. The session will be in the spare classroom at 9am. Do come along.

Supporting A National Charity

The national charity that we are supporting this year is called "Autism on the Water". During Neurodiversity Week which is on 17th - 23rd March, we will be raising awareness of different neurological differences as well as raising money for the charity. Autism on the Water is an awareness charity, designed to raise awareness of autism through the sport of sailing and yacht racing and also encourages people with autism of all ages to access sailing and boating in a safe, fun and stress-free environment. They regularly take children who are autistic and their families on fun boats trips for free, allowing them to have new experiences that are fun and memorable.

The Infant Show – The Lorax

Each year at Holly Park, the Infants (Years One and Two) put on a show for the parents. The children in Year One perform the songs and dances. The children in Year Two are given the acting and speaking roles. It is a great experience for all of the children involved and they develop many skills such as working as a team and developing their confidence.

The show performances this year takes place on:

Tuesday 18th March (2.00pm)

Wednesday 19th March (2.00pm)

Thursday 20th March (2.00pm)

The children will need a costume and you will receive a letter about this very soon. Your child will also be bringing home some songs to learn. Year Two children will be bringing home their lines to learn. Please support them in learning them by heart and saying them **loudly and clearly**.

To come and watch the show you will be given **one ticket per child for each performance. (3 tickets total)**

- The show is not ideal for babies and toddlers to watch – so it is best if you can make alternative child care arrangements for the performance times.
- We cannot accommodate buggies or prams in the main hall as it will be filled with chairs.
- If toddlers or babies have no choice but to come along – you must leave the performance if they are making a noise or are unsettled as it would be unfair for other audience members and the children performing to have too much disturbance. You may therefore miss part of the show.
- If your child has a sibling who comes to Holly Park, they will get to see the dress rehearsal.

Each child will be given a role to play and they will be practising with their classmates. Every child only has a small part but together it makes a whole performance. When children participate in performances, they experience all the excitement and feelings of success at participating; they are also making great memories that will stay with them. We believe that performance is an important part of the school curriculum.

If you would like to support the school with a financial contribution towards the show, there will be collection buckets available at the end of each performance.

The Infant staff and children thank you in advance for your support with making this show a success.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to your child's class teacher.



Book Looks – Year 1 to Year 6

These happen a week before the consultations. They are advertised in the dates section of the newsletter.

There are 2 book looks so do be sure to get the right date

There is a KS1 Book Look – this is for Y1 and Y2

There is a KS2 Book Look – this is for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6

The idea is that you can go into the classroom and sit down with your child and look at their work.

This will give you an idea about how you think your child is doing ahead of parent meetings. I attach below a series of things that you might look for.

The classrooms are open from 3.45pm to 5.45pm. You can come along any time within that window. (At the end of the school day, the teacher will indicate when you can come in once the teacher has made sure all of the children are safely accounted for)

I would estimate that you will probably spend approximately 20-30 minutes with your child and their books.

The teacher will not be present in the room as this is for children and parents to look together.

The event is not really suitable for toddlers. However, if it is unavoidable that they have to attend due to child care, we do ask that they stay with you and do not wander round the classrooms and play with equipment.

At the end of the session, please leave your child's work in a pile on the desk.

This term the book looks are:

Tuesday 25th March KS1 Book Look (Years 1-2) 3.45 to 5.45pm

Wednesday 12th March KS2 Book Look (Years 3-6) 3.45 to 5.45pm

Attendance

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

Dates

Monday 10 th March	First Aid lessons this week
Monday 10 th March	Times released online for parent consultations
Tuesday 11 th March	KS2 maths meeting (4 rules of number) at 9am
Tuesday 11 th March	Barnet Dance festival
Wednesday 12 th March	KS2 Book Look at 3.45pm
Monday 17 th March	First aid lessons this week
Monday 17 th March	Neurodiversity Week
Monday 17 th March	Infant Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 18 th March	Infant show at 2pm
Tuesday 18 th March	Nursery stay and play 4-5pm
Wednesday 19 th March	Infant show at 2pm
Thursday 20 th March	Infant show at 2pm
Friday 21 st March	PTA Spring Fair
Monday 24 th March	Holly Park Well-being Week
Monday 24 th March	Holly Park Wheel to School Week
Monday 24 th March	PTA Mothers' Day Shop
Tuesday 25 th March	PTA Mothers' Day Shop
Tuesday 25 th March	KS1 Book Look at 3.45pm
Wednesday 26 th March	Y1 trip to Ally Pally
Friday 28 th March	Y3 Roman Day
Friday 28 th March	Y5 to The Wallace Collection
Monday 31 st March	Parent zoom meeting 9.30am – learning strategies
Wednesday 2 nd April	Y1-Y6 Consultation evening 4pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 3 rd April	Y1-Y6 Consultation evening 4pm – 6.30pm
Friday 4 th April	End of term at 1.30pm



WE HAVE
ACHIEVED



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



Age Range	Name & Author
EYFS+	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 of 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
KSI +	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
KSI/KS2	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
KS2	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 Balfe
	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

Upper KS2 +	
Upper KS2 +	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
	When I see Blue by Lily Bailey
	Anything but typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin