



HOLLY PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Holly Park Highlights!



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SPRING TERM 2025

Supporting Neurodiversity



The national charity that we supported this year was "Autism on the Water". Autism on the Water is a charity designed to raise awareness of autism through the sport of sailing and yacht racing and encourages people with autism of all ages to access sailing and boating in a safe, fun and stress-free environment.

Thank you to families who donated neurodiversity themed books for our school library. We got a lovely collection. And this will help some of our children see themselves reflected back in the books they read. We also raised awareness by selling neurodiversity merchandise at the school gates.

A big thank you to one of our parents who led a fabulous assembly all about ADHD.



The Lorax

The infant show this term was a joy. The children spoke, sang and danced beautifully. The scenery was lovely. We hope that all the infant parents enjoyed it. Every child had a small part to play but together as a team they make up a lovely show. My personal thanks go to the KSI staff - teachers and all of our teaching assistants for their hard work putting it all together.



The show really brought a well-known children's book to life!

The singing and dancing were fun and whilst the Year 2 children had the speaking parts, the Year 1 children supported the show with their wonderful singing and dancing.



Wellbeing



The Wellbeing Champions decided to link their idea of 'Bloom with Kindness' with our work on getting involved with the local community. Being kind to others has a positive impact on our own wellbeing. Children from Reception to Y6 drew bright, happy pictures or wrote a happy cheerful message or a poem onto petals. These were made into flowers and then made into cards. The Wellbeing Champions took the cards to local care homes. Older people can quite often feel lonely or isolated – so we felt that this idea would be very kind. We hope that the cards will spread some kindness. We also hope that our relationship with the care homes will blossom and that we can form strong links with children visiting the care homes in the future to read, play games and sing to the residents.





Y5 Ancient Greeks

Year 5 have been learning about the Ancient Greeks. They visited the Wallace Collection to learn more about Ancient Greece through art. Some highlights were learning about the story of Apollo and Daphne, the story of Perseus and Andromeda, and doing their own drawings of paintings they saw. The children wrote thank you letters to the Wallace Collection, and are hoping for a response. Y5 would definitely suggest going there for all of the amazing art - and it's free!



Y2 Fire Of London



Year Two children travelled back in time to 1666 for their Curriculum Day all about the Great Fire of London. They experienced many trades of the time including candle making, sewing, apothecary, leather engraving and writing. In the afternoon, they experienced a 'dig' where they unearthed objects to give them clues about buildings at the time of the Great Fire. They were historians and used their enquiry skills to read information from a census and locate the buildings on a map. It was a great, busy day and a lot of history was learnt.

YEAR 1 TRANSPORT

Y1 have been learning all about transport. They learnt about the kinds of transport were around our school. They made their own cars and had a scooter parade with their decorated bikes and scooters. They learnt about how transport has changed over time and heard about the Wright Brothers inventing the first flying plane. To top it

off they had so much fun travelling on the bus to Ally Pally and doing a traffic survey. They travelled home by train and were excited to see the high-speed trains whizzing past!



Campaigning in Nursery

The nursery children have enjoyed learning about animals from all around the world. They then read books such as 'Where's the Starfish?' and 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley' where the children started to see the impact that littering has on animals. All of the nursery children went out into the street and around our school playgrounds to see what rubbish has been thrown on the ground.



They used litter pickers to collect the rubbish and started talking about the animals that could be affected by this rubbish. The children created their own posters to teach other people to put rubbish in the bin. Groups of nursery children showed their posters to other adults and children around the school to share their message.



YEAR 3 PLACE OF WORSHIP

In RE one of Year 3's topics is Hinduism. In January they visited the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden. The children got to admire the architecture and the amazing carvings as they walked around the temple. Then they were shown a short film

explaining the history and significance of the temple.



They were then able to ask questions about what happened at the temple etc.



YEAR 6 ANTARCTICA

This term Year 6 have been learning about Antarctica in geography. They have studied the location, climate, habitat, physical features and wildlife. Alongside this, they used the book 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill to learn about Ernest Shackleton's expedition there. They had an informative talk from Paul Gurney who has travelled there - he showed them a photo of him next to Shackleton's grave. They also went to the IMAX at the Science Museum and watched a 3D documentary all about Antarctica.



Y4 Vikings

Year 4 had a fantastic time during their Viking day. As well as learning more about day to day life for people living in the year 878 AD, they did 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. The children loved re-enacting battles using bows and shields. In the afternoon, they were archaeologists and using their reasoning skills to discover more about this time in history.



FIRST AID



As part of the PHSE curriculum children in primary schools need to learn some First Aid. At Holly Park we go above and beyond the requirement with all classes from Reception to Y6 having an annual session. We use a company called Mini First Aid.

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 one hour 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

Palm Class had a fabulous time visiting the local Café "Alzo" to find out how a real café is run.

Reception have been reading the classic story, 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' as part of their wider learning about Healthy eating.

During their visit to the café, the children looked at menus, gave the orders to the waitress and ate some yummy toast and jam. They were also able to explore behind the counter and watched the fresh coffee and orange juice being made.

Palm Class also opened their very own Palm Class Café serving healthy fruit salads in the classroom!



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 80 schools over a week - infant, junior, primary, secondary, special schools and a professional dance company. The Holly Park routine was a lively dance to a song from 'Wicked.' The children

performed with energy, and coordination. The children were bright in their green and silver attire. Many thanks to Miss Yiannaki for her hard work and choreography. The dance was a huge success. Thanks to Mr Bourne for his support at rehearsals and at the event itself.



Team Work

Holly Park rugby team were brilliant at the All Valley Tag Rugby Tournament this term. The team played so well and they showcased their skills and cohesion as a team and should be very proud of themselves.

The cross-country team 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!

Our two chess teams entered a national chess competition. This was their first ever national competition. Both teams did extremely well. The under 11 team ended in third place and won bronze medals. Both teams will be going forward to the national semi-final competition in May.



Love Of Reading!

This term has been filled with so many activities linked to reading. The Infant show was based on a familiar children's book. We were delighted to have our annual Holly Park book swap and it was a great success as usual. Children enjoyed browsing the books and choosing one to take home. A great environmentally friendly way to get a new book to read at no cost. The library continues to be a huge success with classes having a weekly slot and lunchtime clubs running most days.

Our HPS World Book Day was a huge success with children coming dressed as a hero or villain from a book. The Holly Park 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.

