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'We support our children to be their best.'

September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Autumn Term and for your children another new year at Holly Park. The children have settled well. The school is a very happy place as we walk around the classrooms. We are all looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

The start of any new academic year is always important for your children. There is always excitement and some apprehension about what their new teacher will be like and about what the expectations of the new year will be. As well as hard work and good effort, we are sure we will have a year that will be full of fun together.

In March 2024 we were delighted to continue to be graded as a 'Good' School by Ofsted. In fact, the inspector said that the school was a very securely good school. The inspector commented on the warm relationships at Holly Park and how high expectations for behaviour start in our Early Years and that in the Early Years, the school ensures that pupils have a solid foundation for future learning. We are very proud of the report. Most importantly we liked how the inspector summed up our school by saying that:

- Holly Park is a school that doesn't stand still and is always striving to be the best it can be
- Children's interests are at the heart of everything
- The school has safe, happy children
- The school is a warm, welcoming environment
- The school provides a well-rounded education

Of course, we have continued to work to ensure that we remain a Good school. It is my belief that every child should have the opportunity to be the best they can be - to enjoy their schooling and to achieve.

Last year there was a great deal to be very proud of:

- Our PTA team who worked so hard and helped to raise much-needed funds.
- The Treehouse, (our new SEND space) which has grown from an idea to a space repurposed from the nursery and now into a provision that is setting the standard for other schools. The impact it has had on the children has been inspiring.
- Our forest-themed library, beautifully placed at the heart of the school. Watching the shelves fill and hearing the children's excitement and appreciation for this growing resource has brought much joy.
- The outreach to parents, building links through parent council, meetings, coffee mornings, reading sessions, and more.
- Our special days - our curriculum days and weeks –British Values day, online safety, sports days, Cultural Day, Be Bright Be Seen, World Book Day, Diversity day, Science workshops, Equality afternoon etc.
- Our school performances – nativity, KSI show, Y6 show – The Wizard of Oz!
- The ongoing pastoral work the school did throughout the year with children, parents and outside agencies.
- Continued good attendance data.
- Receiving a Healthy School Award.
- Working Walls in classrooms across the school – which have supported children to retrieve information and remember more in maths and English.
- Our work on Trauma Informed Schools – we are delighted to have been awarded the Silver Award.
- Our curriculum enrichment –school trips and curriculum days. The Y3 team-building day, Y4 pyjama party at school and Y5 and Y6 residential,
- Our work on publishing writing – where children have produced letters, books, leaflets etc
- The work on campaigning across the school where children have raised issues locally, nationally and internationally
- The increased work on debating – in talk times, in assembly and also with our debate team competing with other schools.
- Work on memory and retrieval across the curriculum so that teachers are planning activities to ensure that children remember what they are learning for longer.
- The SMART boards installed last September in all classrooms have made teaching more productive.

Headteacher: Mrs. A. Pelham

Deputy Headteacher: Miss. M. Michael

Every new school year, a school will make a whole school improvement plan. This year some of the other things that we will be working on in our School Improvement Plan are:

- Making the Treehouse a permanent space
- Better identifying Young Carers
- Monitoring more closely achievement in writing
- Changing the school homework policy and practice
- Enhancing the school's reputation and profile in order to increase pupil numbers - Marketing the School to attract more children
- Setting up a new Holly Park Playgroup
- Developing oracy within the curriculum
- RE - Introducing a new RE Curriculum in line with the new Barnet agreed syllabus
- Continuing to strengthen the teaching of computing in KS2
- Improving the teaching of sentence level work and grammar work for writing
- Improving writing achievement across the school with greater focus on the mechanics of writing
- Developing a Relational Policy – to embed relational approaches to behaviour & that reflects trauma informed approaches
- Embedding character education further
- Strengthening community links – locally
- Introducing Economic education
- Achieving Healthy Schools Gold Award
- Participating in the 'In the Know' project
- Improving early identification and targeted and universal support for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs – ELSEC project
- Embedding the work done on Trauma Informed Schools to achieve a Gold Award
- Increasing staff awareness of ADHD

The Meet the teacher meetings will be held via Zoom at 9.30am over the next week so that as many parents as possible can attend – from work, cars etc. An invitation link will be sent to you via email.

The 'Meet the teacher' packs will be emailed home to you on the day of your meeting.

You have already been emailed a letter about what to expect for the current year ahead in your child's year group. If you have misplaced it, you can find it on the year group website page and also in the Meet the Teacher packs.

A letter about our initial two-week whole school learning project has been emailed and is also included in the Meet the Teacher pack. After our Inset Day on 12th September, you will receive a letter from the year group teachers about learning and the curriculum for the rest of this term.

You have already received a term dates leaflet for the Autumn term. These are important dates. Dates can also be found on the school website and are repeated in the weekly newsletters.

Please continue to read our weekly newsletters over the year to find out about what has happened and what will be happening. Please keep your eye on the school website as this holds an enormous amount of information. Enjoy the Holly Park Highlights at the end of each term.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with governors, staff, parents and children over this next year. I hope that together we will continue to take the school forward and continue to make Holly Park the best it can be.



Ann Pelham
Head Teacher

Headteacher: Mrs. A. Pelham
Deputy Headteacher: Miss. M. Michael