



Holly Park Nursery



Autumn Term Newsletter 2025

Hello and a very big welcome back to all of our amazing families. We hope you have had a fabulous Summer and are ready to start the Autumn term at Holly Park. We have spent the last couple of weeks getting to know new children and welcoming back our wonderful children who started nursery last year. A big thank you to those who welcomed us into your homes when we did home visits and we honestly believe that this has helped the children settle a lot faster.

Nursery information and reminders

Book bags – your child needs a red book bag to bring into school every day. Some children are bringing in small back packs but it is difficult to fit letters, pictures and other items into these bags. Every child should have a proper school book bag.

Toys and jewellery – please do not let your child bring in toys from home. It causes a lot of upset. Please do not let your child bring costume jewellery into school either such as bracelets and necklaces

Water bottles – please ensure that there is only water in children's water bottles. No juice. Put your child's name on their water bottle. Some children do not recognise their own water bottles yet and it really helps the nursery adults if a name is on the bottle so that we can ensure the children are drinking from the correct bottles.

Names – please ensure that EVERYTHING is labelled including shoes, scarves, hats and gloves if possible.

Packed lunch – please adhere to the school policy when it comes to packed lunches. This includes no chocolate and no fizzy drinks. Do not put Nutella in your child's sandwiches as this contains nuts and we have children with severe allergies in the school. New government guidelines also advise that fruit and vegetable should be cut into slices to prevent choking. Grapes and popcorn should not be given as a snack.

Fruit – We do get fruit given to us daily through the school but we can often get a lot of the same fruit and we like the children to have a variety to choose from at snack time. A random mango, pineapple, orange, banana or pack of raspberries is very much appreciated. **We cannot accept kiwis or grapes.**

Books – Once the children have settled and has a school book bag, they will get a chance to choose a book to take home. They can then swap their book whenever they want. Please ensure that these books stay in your child's book bag otherwise they will not be able to swap it for another.

Beginning of nursery session – Please say goodbye to your child at the door. **Do not come into the building.** Also if you bring your child late, please do not open the nursery door. Children could run out and it is not safe. Wait for a member of staff to open the door for you.

Lateness: It is very important that you arrive on time at the nursery. Nursery starts at 8.45am and we expect everyone to be here at this time. Also please ensure you are on time to pick your child up.

Snacks: Please do not bring in extra snacks for your child. We do not have individual snacks in nursery.

Shoes: Children need to wear appropriate school shoes. No laces and no crocs please.

Tell us everything – Please tell an adult if there have been any changes at home or something has happened that may affect your child's mood and behaviour. We are always willing to listen even if it is something you think is really small. We can find somewhere quiet to talk if needed or you can ask for Miss Wood to call you.

Nursery places for September, January and April

We have spaces in the nursery for children due to start in January 26, April 26 and September 27. If you know of anybody looking for a nursery place for their child please tell them to get in touch. They can apply online or contact the office to arrange a phone call or tour with the nursery teacher.

What can you do to help your child at home?

- Encourage your child to be independent. Give them jobs to do e.g. clean the table, put own dishes in the sink, pick up toys and put them in the box after playing with them.
- Read lots of stories! This will help with their speech and language development as well as their listening and attention skills.
- Point out numbers around you such as on the front of doors and on buses. Can they see any numbers?
- Ask children for small amounts of objects e.g. when in the shop ask your child to pick up 2 oranges or 3 apples and put them in the basket.
- Do lots of activities that will help strengthen your child's fingers. This will make it easier for them to hold a pen correctly and become good at drawing and writing. Good activities include playdough, slime, moulding foam, construction such as Lego and K'Nex, picking things up with tweezers, keys and locks and pins in corkboards.
- Give your child a variety of mark making equipment and just let them experiment with making different shapes and patterns. They can use gel pens, felt tip pens, pencils, crayons, chalk, pastels, glitter pens and paint. Give them note pads, coloured paper, cards and post-it's to draw on. Encourage them to talk about the marks they have made. Be positive about every mark they make!
- Talk about the world around you. When at the park, at the shops or just going for a walk; talk about what you can see, hear and smell. This will widen your child's experiences and get them thinking about their environment. It will also help them to learn new vocabulary and improve their language and communication skills.

A plea for donations

If you have any of the following at home and you no longer need/want them then we would love to take it all off your hands!

- Real objects for the home corner e.g. toaster, kettle, old mobile phones, computer keyboards, cameras
 - Any musical instruments
- Investigation equipment such as magnifying glasses and magnets, minibeast toy figures
 - Good quality puzzles
- Any arts and crafts stuff e.g. glue, paint, pens, paper, envelopes, card, pompoms, lolly sticks, boxes

Photos

Throughout the year we will be asking you to send photos of your children for various topics. You will get a separate letter closer to the time BUT you are more than welcome to send them now in advance. You can either give a copy to a nursery adult or email them to the school office.

- A family photo
- A photo of your child in a special place (somewhere they really love)
- A photo of any pets your child has

Thank you!

We would like to say a big thank you to all of our families for your continuous kindness and support. We are always here to talk and answer questions so never hesitate to either grab us at the nursery door or contact the office so that we can give you a call back.

Louise Wood & Clare Mornington

