



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

'We support our children to be their best.'

ISSUE 5

Friday 10th October 2025

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

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

How to be a Lion – Whole School Book

For the first two weeks back at school, we used a whole school book called 'How to be a lion' The book provided lots of opportunities for work on art, PHSE, and geography. Each class (and After School Club) made a display in their classroom based on the book. Here are some of the classroom displays:



Google Classroom

A reminder that Google Classroom is an extension of the classroom and from time to time teachers may upload photos or videos of the class on there. Access to this is only for Holly Park children and parents. A user name and password is required to access it. It is not a public forum and cannot be accessed by anybody outside the school.

In The Know Project - Waste

This year in our School Improvement Plan we have a target about reducing waste. We signed up to the 'In The Know' project and are happy to be looking at ways as a school that we can reduce waste. On Monday this week we met the team from the North London Waste Authority. They met with some members of the Senior leadership Team to look at what we would like to achieve. They then met Mrs Fitzpatrick and the Eco Council and they weighed out and measured our waste – this included general rubbish, recycling and food waste. They then led an assembly for KS2 where they talked about what happens to our rubbish when we put it in our bins. The message was very clear: Reducing waste in the first place is best, the next best is to Re-use and if an item cannot be reused then recycling is good. The team will come back and weigh our waste again towards the end of the year to see if we have made any improvements.



New Books

At the end of the last academic year I made a bid to the Angle House Foundation for £3,000 worth of books. I am delighted to tell you that the bid was successful. Miss Sampson and the Reading Champions decided what kind of books were needed for the library. They decided upon a selection of non-fiction books suitable for EYFS through to UKS2, some poetry books and some 'book bundles' on animals, history, adventure etc for pop-up selections that run for a month or so in the library.

£3,000 worth of brand-new books were delivered to our new library by Pickled Pepper Books which is a bookshop in Crouch End. Our teaching assistants sorted and stamped the books and they are now available in The Enchanted Forest for children to read.



Special Festival of Light Lunch – 16th October

There will be a special themed lunch next Thursday.

Sunshine Chicken (lemon & herb) and golden pilau rice

Rainbow Vegetable Biryani

Veggie Fireworks - carrots, beets, peppers, courgettes & peas

Starlight Rice Pudding

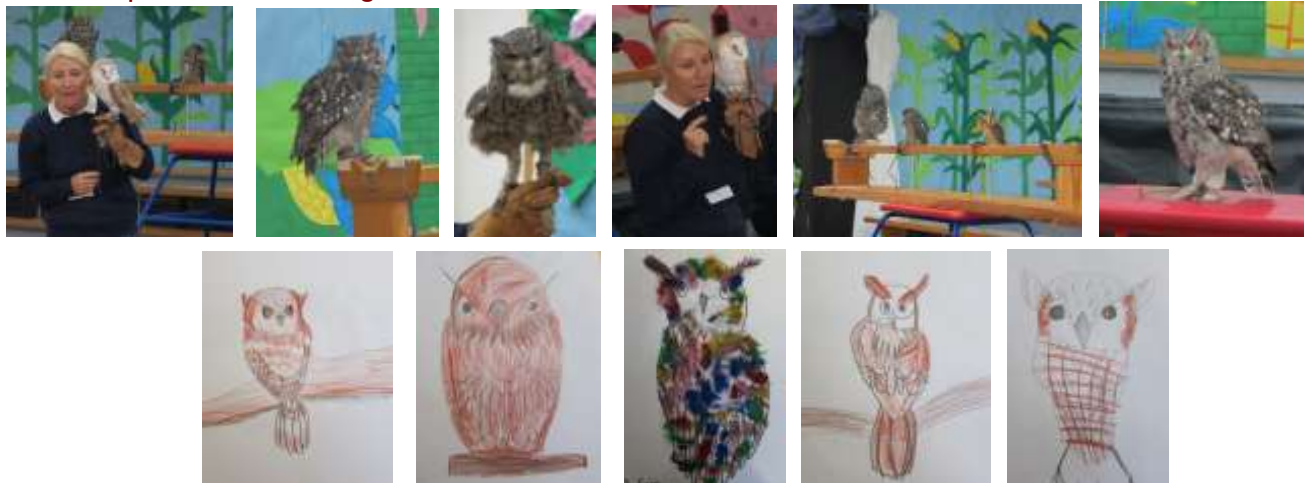


Homework

A reminder as we are approaching half term that Children at Holly Park will be rewarded each half term for doing their homework. Children in KS1 and Year 3 will receive house points for doing their homework. At the end of each half term children who have done the majority of their homework that needs to be handed in each week will receive Golden Time. Golden Time will be done in year groups. Golden Time for homework will be 15 minutes and will be extra playtime, Amazon Climber, ball area. Children who have not done the vast majority of homework that needs to be handed in will not participate in Golden Time.

Owl Visit

Today, Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and the Treehouse children had a visit by Nite Owls. The children got to see owls flying in the hall and to learn lots of interesting facts about them. Then each of the children got to hold an owl. We were delighted to be joined by children from Puddle Ducks Nursery too. Children in the Treehouse did some lovely art work as part of their learning about owls.



Black History Month - October

October is Black History month. Over the month we will be doing various assemblies. The theme this year is: "Standing Firm in Power and Pride," I will be leading a couple of assemblies about the scientist Dr Shirley Ann Jackson and the artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. Miss Sampson is also doing some reading assemblies based on Malorie Blackman, one on Benjamin Zephaniah. In classes all of the children will be having a PHSE session called 'dream clouds.' Teachers will be talking to the children about Martin Luther King and what he did. The children will be looking at part of his famous speech. The children will be making a cloud shape and decorating it before adding their own personal dream – in honour of civil rights activist Martin Luther King's famous 'I have a dream...' speech.

In addition, we will be holding a coffee morning on **Thursday 16th October** in the hall at 9am to celebrate and support our families of black heritage. All of our families of black heritage are welcome to attend.



Harvest Festival

Advance notice that we will be holding our Harvest assembly on **Tuesday 21st October** for Food Bank Aid. This year they have made a special request. They would like **JUST donations of breakfast cereals**. This is part of their breakfast champions campaign. As cereal is a key feature of Harvest, this is the theme of the Harvest collection this term. This is a new initiative to help ensure that no child or adult in North London has to start their day hungry. I am letting you know with advance notice in case when you are doing your weekly shop over the next month that you might want to buy a breakfast cereal from time to time and put it away ready for our collection.



Just One Tree – We are now a Planet Hero School

On **Friday 17th October** we will be joining Barnet schools in celebrating and raising money for 'Just One Tree Day' Just £1 plants one tree. The charity help to Combat Climate Change through reforestation. JUST ONE Tree, make it simple to plant trees! They are a non-profit initiative making an impact in the fight against climate change through global reforestation. They plant their trees in areas severely affected by mass deforestation, maximising the effect.

As part of a borough wide project on the environment, Barnet are asking all Barnet schools to participate in this initiative.

I am delighted to tell you that due to our commitment to this project over the past few years that we have now been recognised as one of the elite **Planet Hero Schools** because of our continued support.

Children need to wear green and/or brown clothes on 17th October and donate £1 on School Money. If every Barnet child brings in £1 for the non-uniform day, that is a lot of trees being planted by the charity in the Kenyan rainforest. You can find out more about the initiative at <https://www.justonetree.life/schools-sustainability.html>



Little City – Open session for toddlers

On Wednesday 22nd October, we are being visited by Little City – a wonderful interactive role play set up with marvellous resources. Children can be builders, vets, post office workers, hair dressers, shop assistants, doctors and so much more. From 9am to 10.30am we are holding an open session during our Play Group time for any toddlers in the local community to come and play. Attendees do not have to belong to Holly Park. So if you have friends, family or neighbours with children under 5 years of age please let them know they are welcome.



Parent Council

If you are interested in being on the parent council, please read the information at the end of the newsletter and email the Headteacher to express interest.

Membership will be by expressions of interest made to the Headteacher upon invitation to head@hollypark.barnetmail.net

Members will be expected to attend two meetings in a school term.

Membership of the council will be cyclical; a new parent will represent the year group (or class) every term.

We aim to ensure that the Parent Council members represent the diversity of the school.

If there are no expressions of interest made in a year group, the Headteacher will invite parents to attend.

Be Bright Be Seen Day

Our annual "Be Bright Be Seen Day", to raise awareness of the importance of being safe on the streets especially as the nights draw in earlier in Autumn will be on Friday 24th October. We ask all of the children to come to school dressed in bright clothes – not just colourful – but as bright as they can find.



Walk to School Week

Next week is Walk to School Week. We encourage the children to walk to school or to park a little further away and walk the last bit – this is called 'park and Stride'

Why walk to school?

Safety training – you can practice your road safety skills on the way to school

Congestion reduction – fewer cars on the roads make the roads safer

Hhealth benefits – you are getting exercise on your way to school

- On the ball! – you arrive at school awake and alert
- Our fun and friendship – you can chat to your friends and family on the way
- Learning for life – you can look at and learn about your local area



Attendance

Whole school attendance for the last week was 98%
Well done to Year 3 Hazel Class with the best attendance at 99%.

Dates

Monday 13 th October	Walk to school week
Thursday 16 th October	Black History Coffee Morning
Friday 17 th October	Just One Tree Day
Monday 20 th October	Y6 National Assessment meeting for parents at 9am
Tuesday 21 st October	Harvest Festival
Friday 24 th October	Be Bright Be Seen Day
HALF TERM	
Monday 3 rd November	Parents in Class to Read Together 8.45-9.15am
Monday 3 rd November	Notice for consultations Years 1-6
Tuesday 4 th November	Meeting for all parents: Maths
Friday 7 th November	Cultural Day
Monday 10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 12 th November	KS2 Book Look 3.30-5.30pm
Thursday 13 th November	Individual Photograph Day
Thursday 13 th November	KS1 Book Look 3.30-5.30pm



WE HAVE ACHIEVED



Holly Park Parent Council

**The definition of a 'parent' is an adult including mother, father, carers with parental responsibility or care for a child attending the school*

What is a Parent Council?

The Parent Council is a separate parent group from the PTA (our official school fundraising group) and the Governing Body. The Parent Council is a body of parents who represent the parents of children in each class. It is a focus group that provides a forum for parents to give feedback and opinions to the

Senior Leadership Team for matters that the Leadership Team would like to seek parental views on. The feedback will help to shape decisions made by the Senior Leadership Team.

The aim of the Holly Park Parent Council is to provide a direct link between parents and the school.

Parent Council Scope

The Governing Body remains the decision-making body and provides the strategic leadership of the school.

The Parent Council will provide a forum for consultation and advice on matters such as (but not limited to):

- Procedures which affect the day-to-day operation of the school.
- Systems of communication between the school and parents on matters concerning the operation of the school.
- Matters designed to foster greater parental participation and engagement in the education of pupils.

The parent Council is:

Constructive - Meetings are conducted in a positive spirit

A forum for gathering, discussing & conveying parental views, opinions and feedback on matters brought forward by the Senior Leadership Team.

A consultative forum.

A discussion forum to discuss/debate general issues that affect all children.

Not a decision-making body – The Governing Body continues to provide the strategic leadership of the school

Not about individual pupils, parents or members of staff

Not a channel for complaints

Parent Council Objectives

The Parent Council works in partnership with the school to:

- Strengthen the partnership between parents and the school
- Support the children's learning
- Facilitate parental understanding of the curriculum of the school
- Share and celebrate the successes of our community
- Provide clarification over any issues in order to avoid confusion
- Involve parents in the decision-making process for various improvements and changes within the school
- Act as a forum for feedback and a voice for suggestions
- Create a welcoming school which is inclusive for all parents by promoting a positive partnership between the school, its pupils and its parents
- Develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils
- Identify and represent the views of parents and carers on matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils

How does it work?

The Parent Council will meet once every half term during the school day.

The views and feedback from the Parent Council will complement the work of the Senior Leadership Team & the Governing Body and will be a useful source of information for decision making.

Membership

Membership of the Parent Council is open to all parents and carers who have a child currently at our School.

- One parent from each year group (as a minimum) at a time; ideally each class
- Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher
- Other members of staff will be invited to meetings as appropriate.

Membership will be by expressions of interest made to the Headteacher upon invitation to head@hollypark.barnetmail.net

Members will be expected to attend two meetings in a school term.

Membership of the council will be cyclical; a new parent will represent the year group (or class) every term.

We aim to ensure that the Parent Council members represent the diversity of the school.

If there are no expressions of interest made in a year group, the Headteacher will invite parents to attend.

The role of members

Members are encouraged to participate in discussions and positively represent their views

Members are expected to attend two meetings (across one term)

Members will express views openly, courteously and respectfully.

All members will respect confidentiality and will not name individual teachers, pupils, members of staff or parents.