



Holly Park Highlights!



SPRING TERM 2026

Inclusion



We are very proud of our Inclusion at Holly Park. Recently we undertook some observations across the school to see how well different groups of children were included in the learning process. Lessons were suitably challenging and all pupils were well catered for. Lessons were suitably adapted and children could articulate their learning. TAs knew the children well and supported children so that they could contribute to lessons. Pupils we spoke to told us that they enjoyed school, felt safe and were keen to read to adults. Just this week we had a visit to our Treehouse from the senior policy advisor for SEND at the DFE. He was impressed with what he saw – particularly our close working relationship with the local authority



Zog

The infant show this term was fabulous. The children spoke, sang and danced beautifully. The scenery was superb. We hope that all of 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 – albeit our own version of Zog! The singing and dancing was joyous and everyone participated with speaking, singing and dancing.



Young Carers

At Holly Park we have had recent training about Young Carers and who they are. We now have one of the highest numbers of Young Carers in a Barnet primary school. A group of Holly Park KS2 Young Carers were invited to a fun day last week organised by Barnet Young Carers (BYCAS) at Cophall Leisure Centre. They had the opportunity to choose from a range of activities including multi-sports, arts and crafts etc. Over 80 children from across Barnet primary schools attended from giving the children a chance to mix with others who also have caring roles.

Our children had a great time with comments on the way home including 'It was the best day ever' 'I did art all day, which is my favourite' and 'Can we go again next week?'





Cafe Palm Class

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 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 cucumber sandwiches in the classroom!



Y2 Fire Of London



Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their learning about the Fire of London. They produced a range of fantastic work, including diary entries, timelines, and beautiful artwork inspired by the period. The children also brought their learning to life through storytelling and even created a dance to represent the events of the fire. As a highlight of the topic, we welcomed History Off the Page for an exciting workshop. The children dressed up and fully immersed themselves in the experience, taking part in a variety of hands-on activities such as candlestick making, loom weaving, ink making, surgeon roleplay, bread making, and archaeology.

YEAR 1 VEHICLES

Year One children spent an afternoon in the hall for their Vehicle Making Workshop. The children had looked at lots of designs for vehicles before planning their own moving car. They learnt how to attach an axle to the chassis of their car, before adding the wheels. They were able to add additional features such as

windows and wings before decorating it. The children really benefitted from the support that their adults were able to give. Great Teamwork Year One!



Nursery Growing Things

Using story books such as 'Ten Seeds' and 'Sam plants a sunflower', the nursery children have been learning all about growing. The children explored a variety of seeds, creating their own seed pictures and searching for hidden seeds in soil, where they were excited to observe changes over the weekend. They also investigated seeds in different foods and enjoyed exploring plants,



leading to some beautiful sunflower paintings. As part of our ongoing observations, the children have been watching broad bean seeds grow in a glass jar, and each child has planted their own sunflower seed, which they will continue to care for and observe over time.



YEAR 3 ROMANS

The Year 3 children have also been learning about the Romans. They have learned about how Rome was created, Roman inventions and Gods, the Roman invasion of Britain and the Roman Army. They had a wonderful Roman Day with 'History Off the

Page'. The children spent the morning making various things such as mosaics, frescos and wax tablets. In the afternoon the children had a Roman feast to celebrate the defeat of Boudicca. Entertainment was provided by dancers, actors and Roman soldiers.



YEAR 6 FROZEN LANDS

Throughout the term, Year 6 have been learning about the incredible continent of Antarctica in geography. Linked to this, their English writing has been based on Shackleton's Journey by William Grill. They wrote diary entries as crew members as well as poems inspired by the Wedell Sea. They then visited the Imax cinema at the Science Museum and



watched a documentary about Antarctica in 3D - the wildlife elements were especially popular.



Vicious Vikings!

Year 4 had a fantastic time during their Viking curriculum day. They came dressed in Viking clothes and learned more about the Viking way of life through a History off the Page virtual session. Throughout the day, they took part in a range of activities included creating a 'Thor's hammer' necklace, pottery, writing their names in runes and making a Viking game called hnefatafl.



FIRST AID



We are thrilled to be celebrating the fact that Holly Park is one of very few schools who teach first aid from Reception through to Year 6. In fact, we are the first school who have done this with Mini First Aid. In the 1 hour sessions, children learn to call 999, deal with bumps, burns, breaks and bleeding, carry out CPR and deal with choking. The children really enjoy the lessons thanks to Martin the trainer. To mark the fact that our current Y6 have done 7 years of first aid,

we held a celebration event for parents to attend and children were awarded certificates. There were special videos for the children from the company's founder Kate and from Sara Davies the Dragon who invested in the company 13 years ago on the BBC programme Dragon's Den.



Year 5 Beyond The Classroom



This half term, Year 5 visited the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square. During the trip, they were able to view some of the collections in the gallery and then took part in a myths and legends workshop which included paintings from the Adventures of Odysseus and other mythological stories. The children had a fantastic time and amazed everyone with their knowledge about this period in history.

Year 5, were also fortunate to welcome a visitor from the world of work. A journalist came in to speak

to the children about what his job involves, why a career in journalism can be so rewarding, and the different pathways into the career for those who are interested. This was particularly valuable as Year 5 have previously written their own newspaper articles about conditions in Victorian workhouses. The children also enjoyed watching a live demonstration of how an interview works, with Oscar taking part.



Barnet Schools' Dance Festival

Some of our Y6 children represented the school so well at the annual Barnet Dance festival at The Arts Depot. It was an amazing opportunity to perform in a proper theatre, on a stage in front of an audience of 500 people. Approximately 70 Barnet schools take part across several nights with over 1,000 children participating. Holly Park danced to music called 'cover

me in sunshine' with beautiful lyricism and enjoyment. They have been practicing for several weeks and were very excited to participate. Huge thanks and congratulations to Miss Yiannaki who has been rehearsing them at lunchtimes and always has very high standards for the children to meet.



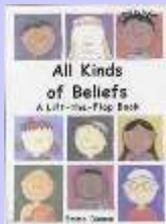
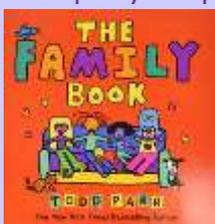
Equality Afternoon

At Holly Park we believe (in line with DFE guidance) that 'to embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy' DFE 2019. As part of Personal Development, we work to raise awareness with our pupils about the protected characteristics.

In January, we had an equality afternoon. Teachers talked to the children about discrimination, equality and the protected characteristics. Each year group had a particular focus and a picture book based on one of the themes from the protected characteristics. The class read their book and had a discussion about the concepts within the book. They then did some PHSE work based around the book. Work produced has been put in the class Floor Books or PHSE books.

Nursery (being Unique/ different) - Elmer
 Reception (Families) - The Family Book
 Y1 (Ethnicity) - The Colours of Us
 Y2 (Religion) - All Kinds of Beliefs
 Y3 (Age) - Harry and Walter
 Y4 (Sex Discrimination) - William's Doll
 Y5 (Disability) - Keep Your Ear on the Ball
 Y6 (Sexuality) - And Tango Makes Three

At Holly Park we have a planned curriculum programme for these topics so that children will consider all of these protected characteristics on their journey through the school. In addition, Mrs Mehtar leads regular assemblies about equality and protected characteristics.



Love Of Reading!

This term has been filled with so many activities linked to reading.

Miss Sampson took some pupils on a wonderful trip to the British Library to meet author Katherine Rundell.

The Holly Park annual book swap was a great success as usual. Children enjoyed browsing the books and choosing one to take home. A great way to get a new book - recycling & sustainability! World Book Day was a huge success with so many children dressing up as their favourite characters. There were so many exceedingly creative and imaginative ideas.

Our Holly Park Museum was a big hit with children creating all kinds of creatures out of all sorts of different

materials.

On World Book Day, children drew their own creature and wrote a description of it. Each class then put these together to make their own class 'Beastuary.' All of the 'Beatiaries' will be on display in the library for children to read. Library Club has continued this term with children enjoying reading books at lunchtimes. Even Maisy enjoys being read to in the library!

