



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

'We support our children to be their best.'

ISSUE 1

Thursday 10th September 2026

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

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Young Carers Award

I am delighted to tell you that Holly Park has been awarded a prestigious award for its work supporting young carers with their education. The school was presented with the Young Carers in Schools award at the end of July 2026. Young carers are children under 18 who are responsible for the care of a family member with who, due to illness, disability, mental health condition or addiction needs their support.

The award is part of the Young Carers in School programme run by charities: The Children's Society and Carers Trust. The programme provides primary and secondary schools across England with step-by-step guidance for teachers, leaders and non-teaching staff to gain the practical tools they need to help young carers. Holly Park gained the award by demonstrating how it supports young carers.

Statutory guidance makes clear that all school staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for young carers. The Young Carers in School programme is a way of helping schools address this.

Vicky Morgan, Carers Trust's Head of Young Carers at Young Adult Carers, said: "We're delighted to present the Young Carers in Schools award to Holly Park. Figures show there are two young carers in every classroom but balancing learning with looking after family members can be tough without help. By identifying young carers and putting support in place, schools and teachers can make a huge difference to their wellbeing and education. That's why the brilliant work done by staff at Holly Park is so vital and why this award is so richly deserved."

Lisa Witherden, Head of National Programmes at The Children's Society said: "Recent figures from the school census highlight that nearly 80% of schools reported they had zero young carers in their pupil population. We know this simply isn't true and that young carers are a hidden group of children and young people who need support to achieve the same level of success as their peers at school. We're absolutely thrilled that Holly Park has achieved the Young Carers in Schools award, demonstrating their commitment to identifying these hidden children and young people and ensuring they get the vital support they need to thrive in education and in life beyond school."

A massive thank you to Mrs Thomas who prepared everything for the award.



Chair Of Governors

I am very sad to share with you that Clare Hegarty one of our Co-Chairs of governors is stepping down as a governor at Holly Park. Clare's life is even more full and busy now and there are new chapters of her life to be opened and explored. Clare has given 9 years in this voluntary role (a long time) and she has seen several governors come and go. All good things have to come to an end. I can remember being on a school journey with Non-Stop Action and persuading Clare to be a governor at Holly Park. I was delighted that she accepted and I never looked back. Clare is one of a kind - reasonable, rational, clear of thought, calm, thoughtful and most importantly personable! I have been very lucky to have had Clare as Chair. She has always been a voice of reason and reassurance - with an outside perspective. I am sure that you will join me in passing on huge thanks to Clare for all the time and effort that she has given to Holly Park - in supporting the strategic direction of the school - in sharing in the highs and lows of school life and in sharing her insightful views and wisdom. Clare will be very much missed!

I am delighted to say that our current Co Chair Rhonda James will continue as Chair and Ally Birchall will continue as Vice Chair.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs every school day between 7.45am and the start of school at 9am. It is open to all children from Reception to Year 6. There is no need to book, simply turn up and register your child with a member of staff. Breakfast is prepared on the premises by the school cook and includes cereal, toast, drinks and regular 'specials' such as beans on toast. We also offer a range of activities including board games, drawing, large construction toys, books and sports activities. The cost is currently **£4.75 per child, per day**. (price correct September 2026)

Allergies

A reminder that it is essential that if your child has allergies that you make sure that Miss Iglesias is aware and that appropriate paperwork/ medications etc are kept.

Nursery & Reception Curriculum Meeting

There will be a meeting about the Early Years Curriculum at 9am in the school hall on Thursday 17th September. This will be led by Miss Michael (Deputy Head and Early Years Lead)

RE Meeting

There will be a meeting for parents about the new RE curriculum on Monday 21st September at 9am in the school hall. The meeting will be led by Ms Sampson (Assistant Head for Curriculum) and Ms Nichols (RE Lead). Please do come along if you would like to find out more or have questions.

Reception Phonics Meeting

There will be a meeting for Reception parents on Friday 25th September at 9am in the school hall. This will cover how we teach phonics and how parents can support at home. This will be led by Mrs Moore (Phonics Lead)

PHSE & RSHE Meeting

There will be a meeting for parents about PHSE at Holly Park on Friday 2nd October at 9am in the school hall. The meeting will be led by Mrs Pelham (Headteacher) and Mrs Mehtar (Assistant Head for personal Development). Please do come along if you would like to find out more or have questions.

Oracy in the Curriculum meeting

This will be on Monday 5th October at 9am in the hall. Miss Sampson (Assistant Head for Curriculum) will explain why Oracy is so important for learning and will share strategies that we use at school.

ADHD Coffee Morning

As part of our ongoing engagement with parents of carers we will be holding an ADHD Workshop on Thursday 8th October at 9am delivered by Lucy Baker (Lead Advisory Teacher for the Inclusion Advisory Team) and Mrs Kelly (Assistant Head for Inclusion)

Year 1 Phonics Meeting

There will be a meeting for Year 1 parents on Friday 16th October at 9am in the school hall. This will cover how we teach phonics, the upcoming national phonics check for all Year 1 children and how parents can support at home. This will be led by Mrs Moore (Phonics Lead)

Year 6 national Assessment Meeting

On Monday 19th October there will be a meeting for Year 6 parents at 9am in the school hall to share information about what is involved in the Year 6 National tests. This will be led by Mrs Pelham (Headteacher) and the Year 6 class teachers.

School Journey Meeting – (Year 4 parents)

There will be a meeting on Wednesday 21st October at 9am in the hall for current Year 4 parents. This meeting will be about the upcoming residential trip to Cuffley Camp – for September 2027 when the children will be in Year 5. The meeting will share important information and also cover deposits and payment plans. The meeting will be led by Mrs Kelly (Assistant head for Inclusion)

Attendance

Below are our attendance figures for the past four academic years:

HPS attendance 2025-26 was 96%	National was 95%
HPS attendance 2024-25 was 95%	National was 95%
HPS Attendance 2023-24 was 95%	National was 94%
HPS Attendance 2022-23 was 94%	National was 93%

Holly Park Playgroup

Our Holly Park playgroup will open next week on Wednesday 16th September in the morning from 9am to 10.30am. The playgroup will be run by Miss Nichols and Mrs Puzey. The playgroup is for 0-5 year olds who are not yet in school. There will be lots for babies and toddlers to do and a chance for parents and carers to come along and chat together. The playgroup will be open to our local community: parents, grandparents, carers, child minders, family friends and anyone living in our local community. There will be a very small weekly fee of £2. Do come along if you have a child of this age and please share the information with friends and family who live in the local area. Everyone is welcome.



Looking for a Reception Place for September 2027?

If you or any of your family, friends or neighbours are looking for their child to start school in September 2027 then please come and join us on a tour to find out more. Call the school office to book your place

Thursday 24th September 1.30pm

Friday 9th October 10.45am

Wednesday 4th November 10.45am

Monday 16th November 1.30pm

Thursday 3rd December 1.30pm

Monday 11th January 10.45am



The Start Of The School Day

A reminder that the school gate closes at 8.55am so children should be at school by 8.55am. Thank you.

Harvest Festival

Advance notice that we will be holding our Harvest assembly on Tuesday 13th October for Food Bank Aid. The theme for this term's Food Bank Aid school collections is '**Breakfast**', encouraging pupils to help everyone in our North London community to start their day with energy and focus. They are asking schools to concentrate on collecting oats, porridge, cereal and cereal bars.

Reading Volunteers



Reading Volunteers Needed!

We would welcome more adults to join our fantastic group of volunteers and come and read with some of our children, once a week.

If you are interested (or know anyone else who might be) or if you would like further information, please email Ms Sampson via the office (office@hollypark.barnetmail.net).

No experience required—training will be provided.

This is a unique opportunity for you to help the school whilst developing your own skills in supporting young readers.



ALL ARE WELCOME!



Holly Park Homework

Continuing from last year, we will keep the homework policy that we set up as it worked well and effectively met the need of our pupil cohorts across the school.

Our homework is clear and consistent. It is set weekly and builds on work done in class.

The homework set in each year group is designed to have the greatest impact and is intended to support children to meet national expectations at each stage.

Homework will be **set each week using Google Classroom** so that parents can see clearly what the weekly homework tasks are. Homework will be done either on paper (KS1 & Y3) on TTRS (Y4) or in a homework book (Y5 & Y6). It will no longer be uploaded to Google Classroom.

We want to make sure that children at Holly Park know that we value homework, therefore, 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.

In KS2, 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 etc supervised **by one teacher**

***Children who have not done the vast majority of homework that needs to be handed in will not participate in Golden Time supervised by the other teacher**

Attendance

Whole school attendance for the first 3 days of school was 96%

Well done to Y1 Pine Class with the best attendance at 100%.

Dates

Friday 11th September	INSET DAY
Wednesday 16th September	Playgroup begins 9am
Thursday 17th September	Meeting for Nursery & Reception parents – the curriculum 9am
Friday 18th September	Full day for all Reception children
Monday 21st September	Meeting for parents – the new RE curriculum
Wednesday 23rd September	Y5 to Cuffley Camp
Friday 25th September	Reception phonics meeting for parents 9am
Monday 28th September	Y6 to Norfolk Lakes
Monday 5th October	Meeting for all parents: Curriculum
Monday 5th October	NSPCC workshops for Y6,5 and 2
Thursday 8th October	Coffee Morning 9am
Monday 12th October	Walk to school week
Tuesday 13th October	Harvest Festival
Friday 16th October	Y1 phonics meeting for parents at 9am
Friday 16th October	Just One Tree Day
Monday 19th October	Y6 National Assessment meeting for parents at 9am
Wednesday 21st October	Meeting for Y4 parents about Cuffley camp 2027
Thursday 22nd October	Y1 Little City workshops
Thursday 22nd October	Y6 to Imperial War Museum
Friday 23rd October	Be Bright Be Seen Day

HALF TERM



WE HAVE ACHIEVED

