



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

'We support our children to be their best.'

ISSUE 23

Friday 25th September 2026

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

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Y5 Cuffley Camp

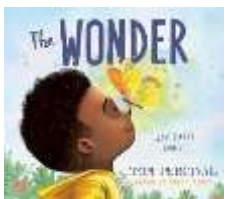
Most of our Year 5 children have had a marvellous action packed residential three days at Cuffley Camp. The weather has been very kind to them and they have had lots of fun and enjoyment. They did many fun activities including: camp fires, building fires, archery tag, cameo concealment, problem solving activities, and more. The children will have made life long memories. Many thanks to Mrs Kelly who led the trip and to all of the staff: Miss Mornington, Mrs Gaskell and Mr Carini for accompanying the children. There will be lots of photos on the website in due course.



The Wonder – Whole School Book

For the first two weeks back at school, we have been using a whole school book called 'The Wonder' The book provided lots of opportunities to discuss feelings.

This week in assembly each year group presented to the rest of the school about what they had been doing based on the book.



Nursery

Nursery are still settling but they will be going on a Wonder Walk taking photos of the things in the natural environment that make them feel happy. They will be stopping and listening to sounds around them and talking about the sounds that make them happy. They will listen to happy music then use a variety of instruments to make their own happy musical sounds. They will end the week making their own wonder potions using lots of wonderful things such as petals and glitter.

Reception

Reception listened to the story and talked about all the different things that make them stop and say "wow". They created their own Wonder garden full of all the things they see that give them joy.



Year 1

In Year 1 the children read *The Wonder* and thought about their feelings, they looked at the Zones of Regulation and thought about times when they were sad. They thought about how to change their sadness into happiness. They looked at the Holly Park Tool kit and thought what things helped them. Year 1 thought about the happiness they can feel when they are at school and in the world around them. They listed things that made them happy and put it into a song to sing! They looked at art work, including starry night by van Gogh and art work by Minnie Pwerle. They created their own art work.



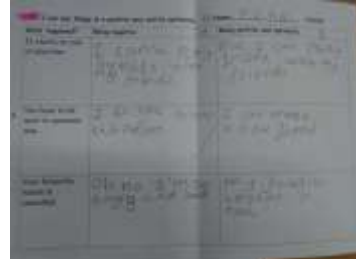
Year 2

Year 2 explored how emotions can be expressed through art. The children drew different emotions, paying close attention to how eyebrows can convey feelings. They experimented with mixing tints and tones using black and white, naming their new colours after different emotions. They also painted things that filled them with wonder and created their own Books of Wonder, celebrating the magic in the world around them.



Year 3

Willow Class talked about how the book related to one of our school values - OPTIMISM. They talked about different scenarios and how you can have either negative thoughts or positive/optimistic thoughts. Hazel Class used what they had learned about the colour wheel and the complementary colours to make paintings pop. They painted butterflies using these, which were one of the small things which bring Daniel in the book joy.



Year 4

Year 4 listened to music and discussed how it made them feel. In pairs they moved to the music and then created their own dances. They wrote poems about all the 'wonders' in the world. They designed new front covers for the book and wrote letters to their friends and family to remind them of all the 'wonders' in the world.



Year 5

After reading *The Wonder*, Year 5 spent time reflecting on the different things in life that can make us feel happy or sad. They then created their own self-portraits, using one half to represent the things that make them unhappy and the other half to celebrate the things that bring them joy. Alongside their portraits, they also composed their own songs which were based on life's challenges and how they can turn these into positive ones.



Year 6

Y6 have learned about the seven wonders of the world and chose one to research and learn more about. Then, they created two pieces of art. One shows a small thing that brings them wonder and the other uses contrasting colours in the style of the book to highlight what brings them wonder. They also spoke about how the book teaches optimism and how having an optimistic mindset can help navigate through Y6!



Sensory Tactile Games

We are asking parents and carers for any donations of sensory mats, boards, games or books that could be useful at school for our SEND children with sensory needs. If you have anything like the pictures below and no longer need them we would be very grateful for them.



Junior Duke Award – KS2 for the next Academic Year

Many of you will have heard of an award scheme for secondary aged pupils called the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Many of you may have done this yourself when you were at school. It is a fantastic opportunity to help develop pupils in many ways other than the academic.

There is now a version available for primary school aged pupils. This award is very good for personal development. To

encourage independence, confidence, resilience and self-motivation, Holly Park will be running this award scheme called the Junior Duke Award. It is aimed at helping junior aged children to learn and practice a large variety of important life skills.

There is a level designed for each year group in KS2:

Year 3 Bronze Year 4 Silver Year 5 Gold Year 6 Platinum

Each of these levels has a selection of challenges and, in order to complete a level, the children need to finish a pre-determined number of these successfully. These include skills such as First Aid, ICT, Eco awareness, Drama, Music, Sport and other life skills such as cookery and puncture repair.

The majority of the challenges will require a good deal of time and effort out of school with friends and family.

On completion of a level, a well-earned certificate and badge will be awarded at a special celebration event in July 2027.

Children should aim to finish their challenges by the end of the school year. However, if your child's booklet remains incomplete by the end of the school year, he or she may carry it on into the next year.

Children can start with the level of the year group they will be in in September. The award will begin in October.

There is a cost to participating in the award. The cost to do the award is £10 per child for each level to cover the cost of the booklet, badge and certificate.

If your child would like to take part, please go on to school money and make a payment of £10.

Sign up is at the start of the school year. It cannot be joined part way through the school year.

The closing date to pay online is: Monday 28th September.



Gold Travel Award

I'm delighted to say that our reaccreditation application for travel plan gold has been successful and we are now a gold school until 2029. Thanks to our JTAs and our school community for all the work on this. Special thanks to Mrs Thomas as our Travel Plan Champion for all her work and co-ordination enabling us to get the award.



Barnet Street Tag Scheme

Holly Park is taking part in a Barnet initiative called Street Tag.

Street Tag encourages schools to compete against each other while encouraging pupils, families, and staff to be more active through everyday walking, cycling, wheeling, and other forms of physical activity.

What is Street Tag?

Street Tag is a free app-based activity program that rewards participants for being physically active. Users earn points by walking, cycling, wheeling, and collecting virtual tags, helping schools climb the leaderboard while promoting healthier and more active lifestyles within the school community.

Each participating school can have up to 250 members on its team. This can include pupils, parents and carers, teachers and school staff, grandparents, other family members or individuals with a close connection to the school.

There will be prizes for both school teams and individuals.

The Barnet Schools Leader board will run from 22nd Sept to 17th Nov 2026 (ending at 1 pm)

*This is NOT encouraging children to have their own phones - parents can log the street tag info on their phone

Please help Holly Park to get first place:

1st Place School: £150 plus a second-hand bike market delivered by PedalUK, where all proceeds raised will go to the school

2nd Place School: £100

3rd Place School: £75

4th & 5th Place Schools: £50

Main video :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcH7hAuZEDQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZtlB8D8XuM>

How to join a school team:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/gKGtlls4cel>

How to add a child account:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/hrJeACF4kA8>

If you have any questions - please speak to Mrs Thomas.



Street TAG – UPDATE

Thank you and well done to everyone who has already joined the Street Tag scheme. We currently have 38 members of the Holly Park team, but there are still plenty of spaces if you'd like to join too. We are currently 3rd on the Barnet leader board.

Team members can earn extra points with a PE code, worth 1000 points.

How to redeem

Open the Street Tag app → Menu → Playground → PE Code → Enter code → tap *Earn Points*

This code is **Welcome_WNQM**

You earn virtual Street Tags by walking, cycling and scooting. There are virtual tags all around Barnet, including parks, adventure playgrounds, and libraries. Once you are within a 40-metre radius of any virtual tag, your app will automatically collect the points; steps can also be synced and converted into Street Tag points. The app can work in offline mode, and your points will be added to the leader board when you are back online. Please ensure you sync your tags within 24 hours of collection in offline mode.

For more information look at the email sent out last week with all the details, see Mrs Thomas, or maybe ask a friend who is already part of the team. Good luck!



Special Lunch Day – Thursday 1st October

Olive Dining will be offering a special Favourites Menu for Census Day, featuring some of the students' most-loved dishes. Alongside this, they are also running a fun pupil engagement activity, giving children who eat a school lunch on that day the chance to win one of three prizes.

Three lucky children who have lunch that day will be selected completely at random. The prizes include:

- Cinema vouchers
- Book vouchers

The menu will be:





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.

RE Meeting

There will be a meeting for parents about the new RE curriculum on **Monday 5th October 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.

COFFEE MORNING

ADHD Coffee Morning

As part of our ongoing engagement with parents and carers we have an ADHD Workshop on **Thursday 8th October** at 9am delivered by Lucy Baker who is the Lead Advisory Teacher for the Inclusion Advisory Team Specialist Inclusion Services to support SEND learners. Everyone is welcome.



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.



Attendance

Whole school attendance for last week was 96%

Well done to Y1 Chestnut Class with the best attendance at 99%.

Dates

Monday 28 th September	Y6 to Norfolk Lakes
Monday 5 th October	Meeting for all parents: RE Curriculum
Monday 5 th October	NSPCC workshops for Y6,5 and 2
Thursday 8 th October	Coffee Morning 9am
Monday 12 th October	Walk to school week

Tuesday 13 th October	Harvest Festival
Friday 16 th October	Y1 phonics meeting for parents at 9am
Friday 16 th October	Just One Tree Day
Monday 19 th October	Y6 National Assessment meeting for parents at 9am
Wednesday 21 st October	Meeting for Y4 parents about Cuffley camp 2027
Wednesday 21 st October	Y1 Little City workshops
Thursday 22 nd October	Y6 to Imperial War Museum
Friday 23 rd October	Be Bright Be Seen Day

HALF TERM



**WE HAVE
ACHIEVED**

