



Holley Park Academy

Summer Term Newsletter 2025-2026

Acting Head of School's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we go into the Easter holidays, I wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank all of our staff and families for their unwavering support over the past term.

As always, there has been lots of exciting things going on across school such as PE visits, class assemblies, and charity fundraisers to name a few, but it has also been a privilege to see our pupils calm and settled in their classrooms eager to learn.

I appreciate that school has been undergoing a period of change, but with school working alongside families to form strong, positive home-school relationships, we are able to navigate this change effectively and ensure we always place the best interests of our pupils at the centre of what we do.

I will continue to assume the role of Acting Head of School in the absence of a substantive headteacher for the duration of the summer term. The recruitment process to appoint Mrs Curtis's replacement is currently underway and I will update families with the progress of this process in due course.

Thank you again,

Lee Garrett

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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28	29	30											23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
													30							

December 2025							January 2026							February 2026						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

March 2026							April 2026							May 2026									
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S			
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
													31										

June 2026							July 2026							August 2026							
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
													30	31							

School closed/Holidays
Bank Holidays
Inset Days – pupils not in school

1 - A reminder that school will close for the Easter holidays on **Thursday 2nd April 2026 at 3.15pm** and reopen to pupils on **Monday 20th April 2026**. Term dates for the academic year 2026 - 2027 are published on the school website.

Dates for Diaries: summer 2025 - 2026	
Friday 3 rd April - Friday 17 th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 20 th April	Summer term begins
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th May	Year 6 SAT week
Tuesday 19 th May 9.15 am start	EYFS Sports Day (times to be confirmed closer to date)
Wednesday 20 th May 9.15	Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 Sports Day (am)
	Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Sports Day (pm)
Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May	Half Term
Friday 5 th June 9am	Year 5 Puberty Talk (school nursing service in school)
Friday 12 th June	Colour Run (more information to follow closer to the date)
Wednesday 17 th June	Summer Fair (times to be confirmed closer to the date)
Tuesday 23 rd June 3.30pm - 4.30pm	Year 6 BBQ
Tuesday 30 th June – Thursday 2 nd July	Year 6 Transition Days at Oxclose Academy
Tuesday 7 th July	Parents Evening Drop in
Tuesday 14 th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly (time to be confirmed closer to the date)
Wednesday 15 th July 9.15-10.30am	EYFS summer Stay and Play
Thursday 16 th July	Year 6 Bowling Trip
Wednesday 22 nd July	Last Day of term
Thursday 3 rd September	School reopens to all pupils for Autumn term

With the retirement of Mrs Gallant, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Whyte will be stepping up to the role of Assistant Headteacher from 20th April 2026. Mrs Whyte has worked at Holley Park for many years and has built up amazing relationships with our pupils and families over this time.

I know Mrs Whyte will continue to work diligently to support the school, and I'm sure you will join me in wishing her every success in her new role.



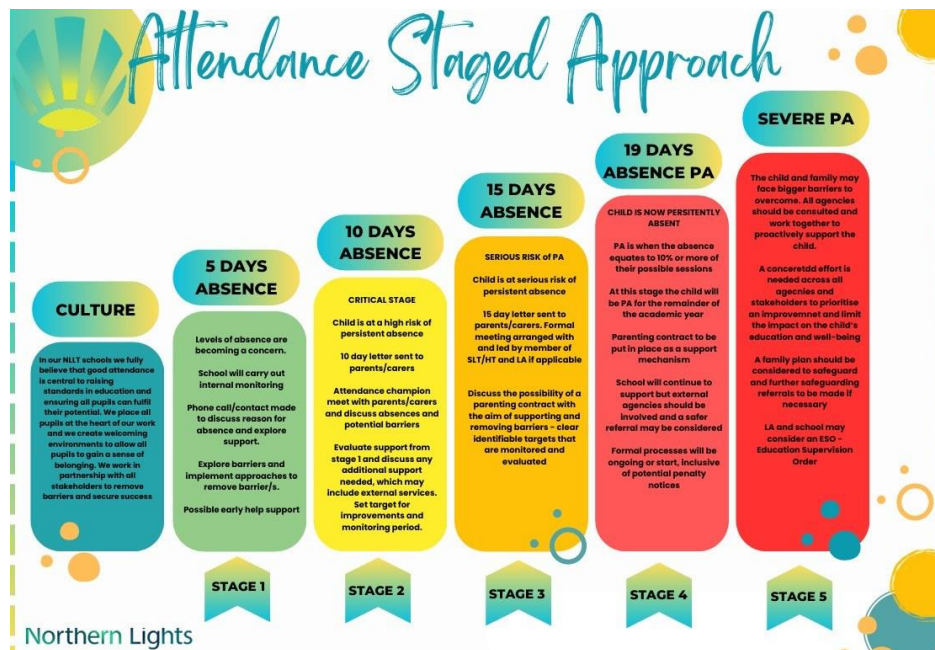
As communicated last week, Mrs Sharples, one of our supervisory assistants, will be leaving Holley Park Academy at the end of the term to continue her career supporting children in a different setting.

Mrs Sharples has been with the school for six years and the support she has given to our pupils and families over that time has been unwavering.

Everyone at Holley Park would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Sharples for her dedicated service to the school and wish her every success for the future.



Attendance and Punctuality



We fully believe that good attendance and punctuality is central to raising standards in education and ensuring all children can fulfil their potential. Children need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education: missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. For this reason, school will continue to proactively work in partnership with all parents/carers to promote and secure good attendance and overcome any barriers through strong partnership working. The current school's attendance policy is available to parents and carers via our school website.

Thank you for your support in ensuring the best possible outcomes for your children.

Holley Park Choir at One Voice



Holley Park joined forces with other school choirs within the Northern Lights Trust to wow the audience at Stockton's Globe Theatre. The annual 'One Voice' event is a fantastic opportunity for all pupils in the Trust to come together and dazzle with their wonderful singing! Well done to everyone who took part!



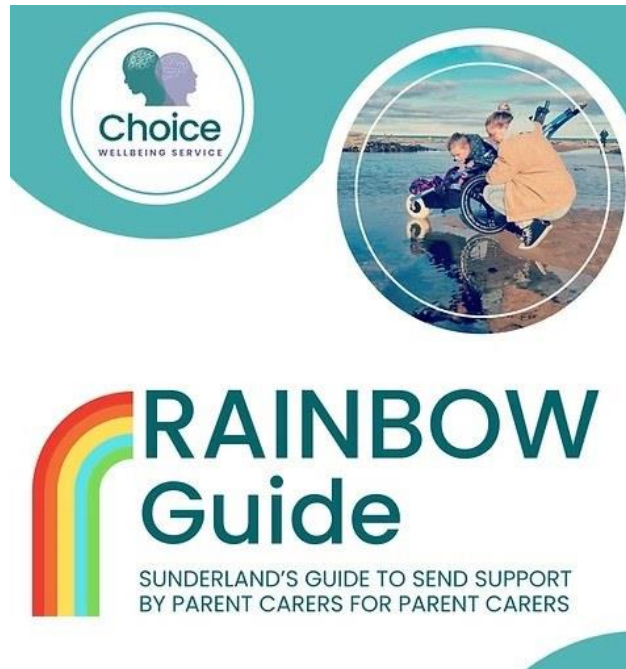
Our very own Trust Parliament pupils explore the Houses of Parliament

“Beautiful” and “Amazing” were two of the words used by pupils from 12 Northern Lights schools to describe their visit to the Houses of Parliament in London.

And while primary and secondary school age children and young people were touring the famous building last week, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky was also there, making history talking with MPs about the UK’s support for Ukraine during their ongoing conflict with Russia.

Two pupils from each school are representatives on Northern Lights’ own Trust Pupil Parliament, set up to strengthen the voice of the child and this year to work on the Trust-wide value of community.

Family Support



Choice Wellbeing Service are the creators of the Rainbow Guide. The Rainbow Guide is a Sunderland-specific guide to the local services and agencies that support families with SEND children. The guide was created by parents and carers for parents and carers and is very easy to follow. It gives up-to-date guidance on what each organisation can (and cannot) do to support Sunderland families of SEND children. Please download a copy of the guide here: <https://www.choicewellbeingservice.org/> or come into school, where we will happily provide you with a printed copy.

together for
children
SUNDERLAND

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme - named 'Wear Here 4' in Sunderland - is a Department for Education funded programme delivered locally and providing fun, enriching activities and tasty, nutritious meals during school holidays.

Wear Here 4 Spring, Summer and Winter programmes provide school-aged children with an opportunity to get involved in a range of activities centred around sports, culture, arts and

learning, as well as providing healthy meals and activities based on developing cooking skills and knowledge about nutrition, that families can use at home. Young people also get the chance to socialise with friends and make new ones, with children across the city coming together to get involved.

With more clubs and an ever-growing range of activities and provision, there is something for everyone. From sports to dance, crafts, outdoor fun and there is even a spot of science.

The HAF programme aims to give children the chance to have healthy happy holidays so they can:

- be more active
- learn new skills
- meet up with friends and make new ones
- get a tasty nutritious meal
- work together and stay safe

Funding for the programme has been provided from the Department for Education (DfE) to Together for Children for families eligible for **Free School Meals**.

Sessions are free for children and young people who:

- Live in Sunderland
- Are of school age (between 4 and 16 years old)
- Are eligible for means-tested free school meals during term time
- Have a special educational need or disability (up to age 25)

Booking spaces

Together for Children have introduced a **new booking system** to make it easier for families to secure places.

- **Free activities** are available for children aged **4-16 (or up to 25 with SEND)** who live in Sunderland and receive benefit-related free school meals.
- Each eligible child can book upto 4 sessions in Spring, 16 sessions in Summer and 4 sessions in Winter.
- **Healthy meals are included** with every session.

View and book events on our [EEQU - Together for Children Sunderland booking system](#).

Am I eligible for Free School Meals?

If you are a parent in receipt of any of the benefits listed below, your child is likely to be eligible for free school meals. If you aren't sure if you are eligible, please contact us on 0191 561 1417 or freeschoolmeals@togetherforchildren.org.uk and one of the team will try to help you.

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1 1999 • The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Easter Holiday Activities ran by the Foundation of Light

WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	
Tues 7-Thurs 9 April 3 Day Football Beacon of Light 9.30am-3pm £50	Mon 13-Wed 15 April 3 Day Football Beacon of Light 9.30am-3pm £50	
Tues 7-Thurs 9 April 3 Day Football Wellfield School 9.30am-3pm £45	Mon 13-Wed 15 April 3 Day Football Beamish Football Centre 9.30am-3pm £45	
Tues 7-Thurs 9 April 3 Day Football Beamish Football Centre 9.30am-3pm £45	Mon 13-Wed 15 April 3 Day Football Seaham High School 9.30am-3pm £45	FOOTBALL 1-9 APRIL / 13-15 APRIL
Tues 7-Thurs 9 April 3 Day Holiday Club Beacon of Light 9.30am-3pm £45	Mon 13-Wed 15 April 3 Day Holiday Club Beacon of Light 9.30am-3pm £45	
Tues 7 April Toddler Tales Beacon of Light 10am-12pm £5	Tues 14 April Toddler Tales Beacon of Light 10am-12pm £5	1.1 COACHING 13, 14, 15 APRIL
Wed 8 April Mini Bakers Beacon of Light 10am-12pm £15	Wed 15 April Mini Bakers Beacon of Light 10am-12pm £15	
Wed 8 April Beauty at the Beacon Beacon of Light 10am-1pm £15	Wed 15 April Beauty at the Beacon Beacon of Light 10am-1pm £15	MINI BAKERS 8 APRIL / 15 APRIL
Thurs 9 April 1 Day Football Chester le Street 9.30am-3pm £20	Thurs 16 April 1 Day Football Chester le Street 9.30am-3pm £20	
Thurs 9 April Junior Bakers Beacon of Light 10am-12pm £15	Thurs 16 April Junior Bakers Beacon of Light 10am-12pm £15	BEAUTY AT THE BEACON 8 APRIL / 15 APRIL
Thurs 9 April SEND Football Beacon of Light 9.30am-3pm Free	Thurs 16 April SEND Football Beacon of Light 9.30am-3pm Free	
Fri 10 April SEND Football Beacon of Light 9.30am-3pm Free	Fri 17 April SEND Football Beacon of Light 9.30am-3pm Free	SEND FOOTBALL 8, 9, 10, 16, 17 APRIL
Fri 10 April Train like a Pro Ford Hub 10am-3pm £30		

SCAN QR TO BOOK

Registered Charity No. 1089333

EYFS News

This term Early Years have been busy exploring the traditional tale Jack and the Beanstalk, and it has inspired learning across many areas of our curriculum! The children have used a variety of materials to design and build their own scenes from the story, showing great creativity and imagination. In literacy, we developed our writing skills by creating our own narratives and carefully drawing the characters from the tale. In maths, we investigated height by comparing objects and discussing the best ways to measure them—just like thinking about how tall Jack’s beanstalk might be! We even became young geographers, exploring map features and creating our own maps to help guide Jack on his journey to the Giant’s castle. It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged and excited about their learning.













Year 1 News

Year 1 have had a very busy spring term.

We began the term by looking at toys from the past. We spent time playing with them and finding out how they work, we then compared them to the toys we play with today. Our class favourite was the spinning top.

We celebrated World Book Day by sharing our favourite books and dressing up as our favourite book characters.

In PE we were fortunate to have a coach in who helped us with our gymnastic skills. By the end of the 6 lessons, we were able to perform a sequence of skills including jumps, rolls and balances.

Design Technology was all about moving pictures. We investigated sliding mechanisms, levers and wheel mechanisms then used one of the methods to create our own moving picture

In music we started learning to read and write music, we then put that into practise and began playing three notes on the glockenspiel. Whilst in computing we began programming and used algorithms to move the BeeBot to given places.







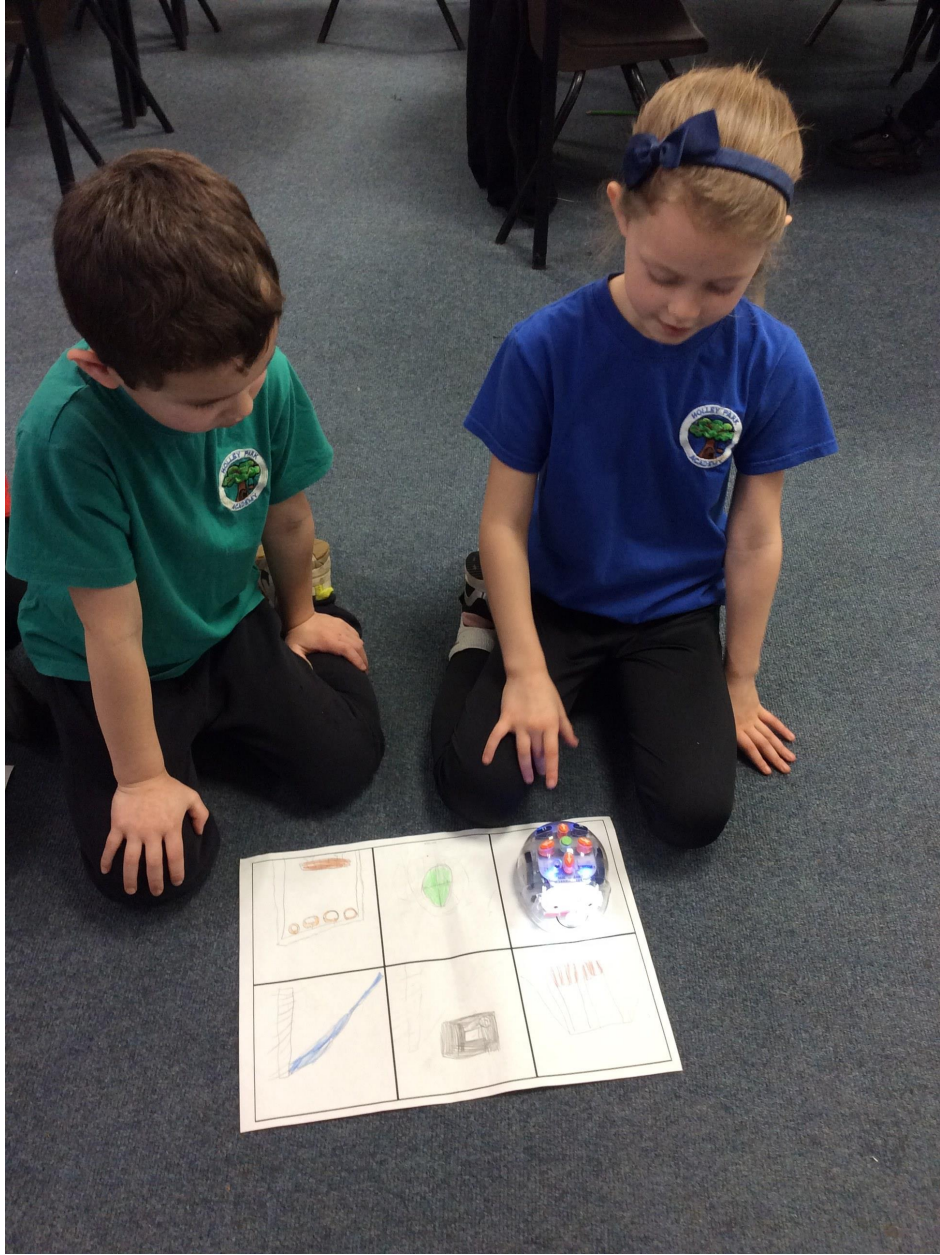
Year 2 News

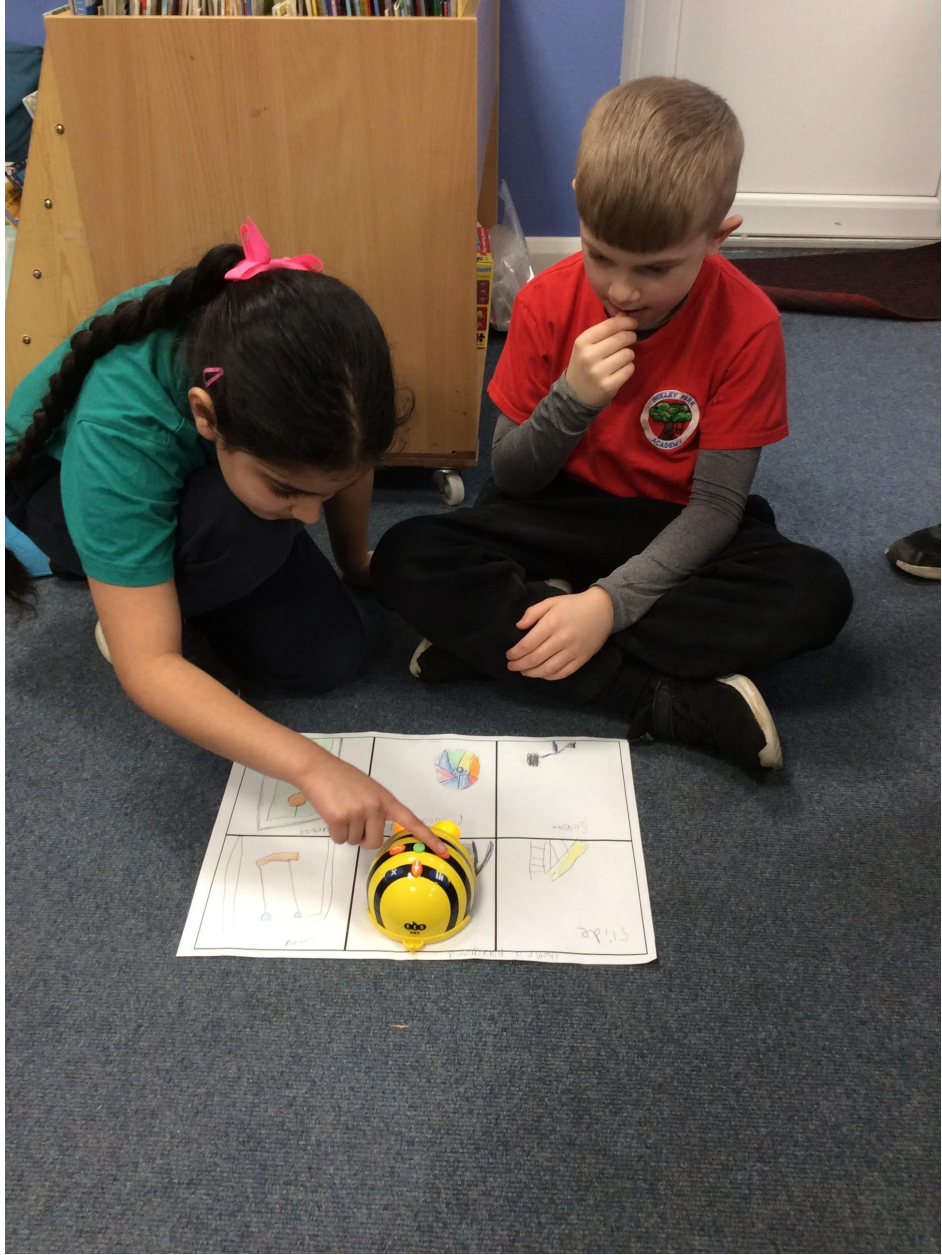
Year 2 have enjoyed a lively and enriching Spring term, filled with exciting opportunities and memorable experiences.

In ICT, the children developed their programming skills by working with Beebots, creating and testing their own algorithms with great enthusiasm. Learning extended beyond the classroom this term, with two fantastic trips. During our visit to the mosque, pupils gained a deeper understanding of Islam and its traditions, while the sports festival gave everyone the chance to practise and showcase a wide range of physical skills in a fun and energetic environment.

One of the highlights of the term was World Book Day, when the children arrived in wonderful costumes and immersed themselves in a reading theatre performance. It was a joyful celebration of stories, creativity, and a shared love of reading.









Year 3 News

Year 3 have had a truly fabulous and action-packed Spring term, full of creativity, exploration and hands-on learning!

In English, the children impressed us with their fantastic story writing, creating wonderful mood and atmosphere inspired by the short film *Francis*. They also became information experts, producing detailed and eye-catching leaflets all about flooding, linking beautifully with their Geography learning.

Our young historians stepped back in time to explore the world of the Romans, discovering how they lived and why they remain so important today. In Geography, the children investigated the importance of water around the world and sharpened their mapping skills by identifying key seas and rivers of the UK using DigiMaps.

Creativity has flourished in Art and DT. The children loved sculpting their own Roman pottery from clay and showed great perseverance and skill when designing and stitching their very own money wallets.

The children also thoroughly enjoyed completing the Nissan 'Lesson in a Box' activities, where they worked collaboratively, thought creatively and embraced exciting real-world challenges.

In PE, Year 3 have been developing their strength, balance and flexibility through Gymnastics, and they were fantastic ambassadors for our school when participating in an exciting trampolining festival.

What a brilliant term of learning, discovery and creativity — well done, Year 3! ✨







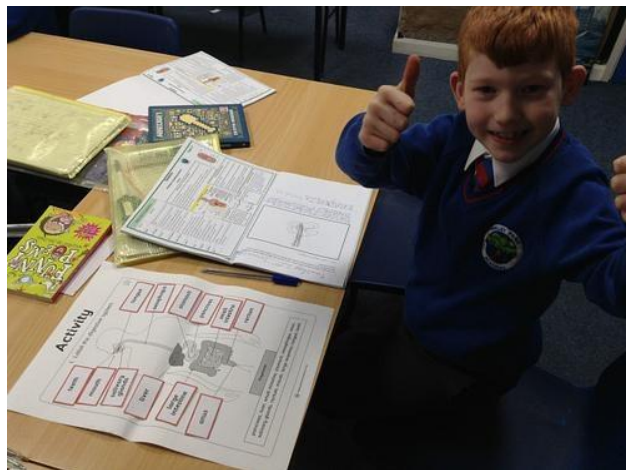






Year 4 News

What a busy term it's been in Year 4! On world book day, we had a book tasting session where we enjoyed looking at different genres of books. We were encouraged to look at genres of books which we wouldn't usually read and fill in a slip of paper which also included the question, 'After reading a few pages, what do you think of this book?' While we were doing this task we enjoyed juice and biscuits too. In science we have been learning about our digestive system. The children also enjoyed looking at the model teeth to learn about all the different types of teeth and their functions. In art children used the artwork of Norman Cornish and L.S Lowery as a stimulus to create their own commission sketch of an Industrial Revolution scene.











Year 5 News

Year 5 have continued to work their socks off this term! We have been learning about fractions and decimals in maths, and wrote some amazing fiction and non-fiction pieces in English. We were so proud that Lara and Leo represented us at the Pupil Parliament visit to London, and we thoroughly enjoyed presenting our assembly on resilience to our parents and carers. In geography, we have been exploring the topic of mountains and learning all about Judaism in RE. A few weeks ago, we had a brilliant visit to Farrington Academy where we competed in the Sunderland Dodgeball Festival.











London
King's Cross



Welcome to London

King's Cross Station

Fàilte Witamy
Bienvenido Benvenuto
Willkommen مرحباً بكم
Bienvenue ようこそ









Year 6 News

This term, Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed a range of exciting activities, including sessions with a rugby coach, celebrating World Book Day, and dancing at the Valentine's disco. In Design and Technology, they had great fun designing and creating moving toys, showing creativity and problem-solving skills. They have also been working incredibly hard in preparation for their SATs, demonstrating determination and resilience. We are all very proud of their efforts and the fantastic progress they have made.





Contact Us



Updates are regularly shared via the SchoolComms texting service, ClassDojo, and the school's official Facebook page.

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Key information around policy and curriculum for parents and carers is also published on our website:

[Holley Park Academy - Home](#)







