



Holley Park Academy



Summer Term Newsletter 2025-2026

Acting Head of School's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and families for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. This term has seen a number of changes within our school community, and I am incredibly grateful for the understanding, patience and positivity you have shown throughout. Your support has been invaluable and has helped us to continue providing the very best for our children.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff team. Their commitment, resilience and hard work throughout the year have been exceptional. Every member of staff

has gone above and beyond to ensure our pupils have enjoyed a happy, safe and enriching learning experience, and I am immensely proud of all they have achieved.

Finally, we say a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 6 pupils. As they prepare to begin the next exciting chapter of their educational journey, we wish them every success and happiness. They leave us with many happy memories, and we are confident they will continue to grow, thrive and make us proud.

On behalf of everyone at the school, I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in September for another exciting year ahead.



Term Dates 2026 - 2027

September 2026	October 2026	November 2026
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December 2026	January 2027	February 2027
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March 2027	April 2027	May 2027
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June 2027	July 2027	August 2027
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School closed/Holidays

Bank Holidays

Inset Days – pupils not in school

1 - A reminder that school will close on **Wednesday 22nd July at 3.15pm**. We will reopen to welcome pupils back on **Thursday 3rd September 2026** for the new academic year.

Dates for Diaries: Autumn Term 2026 - 2027	
Thursday 3 rd September 2026	School Reopens for Academic Year 2026 - 2027
Monday 7 th September 2026	EYFS Parental information Session 3.30 – 3.50pm
Tuesday 8 th September 2026	Y1/ Y2 Parental Information Session 3.30 – 3.50pm
Wednesday 9 th September 2026	Y3/ Y4 Parental Information Session 3.30 – 3.50pm
Thursday 10 th September 2026	Y5/ Y6 Parental Information Session 3.30 – 3.50pm
Monday 21 st September to Wednesday 23 rd September 2026	Book Fayre 3.30 – 4pm
Wednesday 23 rd September 2026	Y5/6 Police Workshops – The Internet and Us
Monday 28 th September – Wednesday 30 th September 2026	Y5 Bike Ability (in school)
Tuesday 29 th September 2026 – Tuesday 13 th October (weekly)	Y5/6 Healthy Heads Workshop: Managing Emotions
Friday 2 nd October 2026	Year 1 and Year 2 Reading Café 9.30 – 10.30am
Friday 9 th October 2026	Year 3 and Year 4 Reading Café 2 – 3pm
Friday 16 th October 2026	Year 5/6 A Reading Café 2 – 3pm
Tuesday 20 th October 2026	Year 4 Vikings Workshop (all day)
Tuesday 20 th October 2026	Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop (afternoon)
Wednesday 21 st October 2026	Nasal Flu Immunisations
Thursday 22 nd October 2026	Year 1/2/3 Halloween Disco 4 – 5pm
Friday 23 rd October 2026	Year 4/5/6 Halloween Disco 4 – 5pm
Monday 26 th October 2026 – Friday 30 th October 2026	Staff INSET Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 2 nd Tuesday 3 rd Wednesday 4 th November 2206	Half Term
Friday 6 th November 2026	Parents' Evenings 3.30pm -5pm
Friday 13 th November 2026	Year 5/6 B Reading Café 2 – 3pm
Wednesday 18 th – Friday 20 th November 2026	Year 5/6 C Reading Café 2 – 3pm
Monday 23 rd November 2026	Year 6 Derwent Hill Residential
Friday 27 th November 2026	Individual school photographs
Tuesday 8 th December 2026	Christmas Bauble Family Craft Afternoon 1.45 – 3pm
Wednesday 9 th December 2026	EYFS Christmas Songs and play session (am)
	EYFS Christmas Party (am)
	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity for parents with pre-school children (pm)
Thursday 10 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity (am)
Monday 14 th December	Y1 and Y2 Christmas Party (pm)
Tuesday 15 th December	Y3 and Y4 Christmas Sing-along (am)
	Y3 and Y4 Christmas Party (pm)
Wednesday 16 th December 2026	Christmas Jumper Day
	Whole-school Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17 th December 2026	Y5 and Y6 Christmas Sing-along (am)
	Y5 and Y6 Christmas Party (pm)
Monday 21 st December 2026 – Monday 4 th January 2027	Christmas Holiday
Tuesday 5 th January 2027	School Reopens for Spring Term 2026 – 2027

2 - Here is a list of key dates for autumn term 2026 -2027 as we like to give our working families as much notice as possible of any upcoming events happening in school. More details of each event will be shared closer to the time.

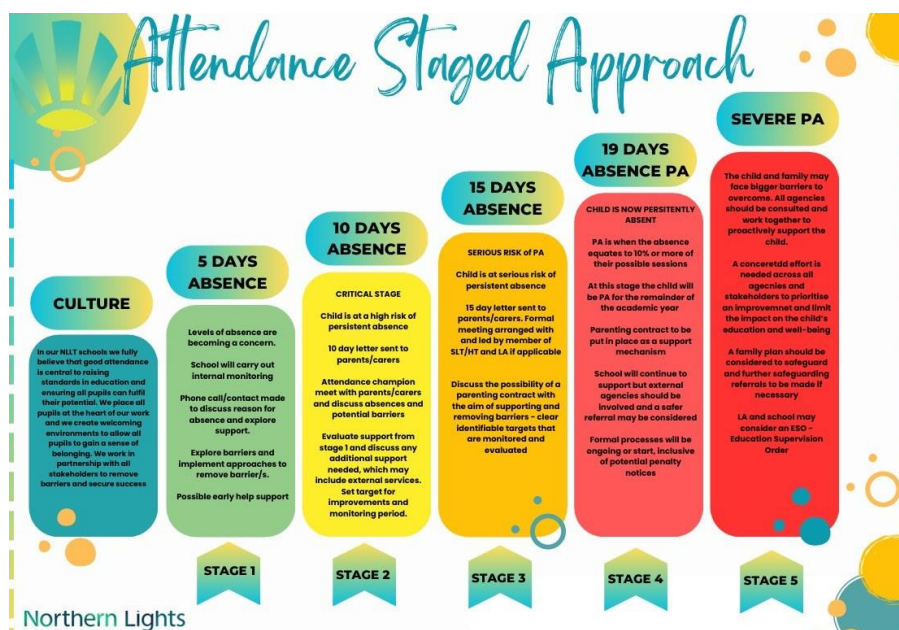
A warm Welcome to Our New Head of School...

With the start of the new academic year, we are pleased to welcome Gemma Ridley to Holley Park Academy as our new Head of School. Mr Garrett will return to his substantive role of Deputy Headteacher and also Year 4 class teacher. Mrs Ridley has had the opportunity to meet many of you and get to know the children over the course of the summer and I know she will be a welcome addition to the Holley Park community.



3 - "I am absolutely delighted to be joining Northern Lights as Head of School at Holley Park Academy. I was incredibly drawn to the Trust's values of "Shining Stronger Together," and I am very much looking forward to working closely with Leanne Yates, Associate Headteacher, and the wider team.

Attendance and Punctuality



Colour Run Madness!

Our recent **Colour Run** was a fantastic success and a real highlight of the term! It was wonderful to see the children and staff taking part with such enthusiasm, laughter and team spirit. The event was filled with smiles, colour and fun from start to finish, creating memories that will last for a long time.

A huge thank you to all of our families for your incredible support and generosity through sponsorship. Thanks to your kindness, we have raised valuable funds that will help provide enriching experiences and opportunities for our children, enhancing their learning beyond the classroom.

Events like these are only possible because of the wonderful support of our school community. Thank you for helping to make the Colour Run such a memorable and successful occasion!







Budding Entrepreneurs...

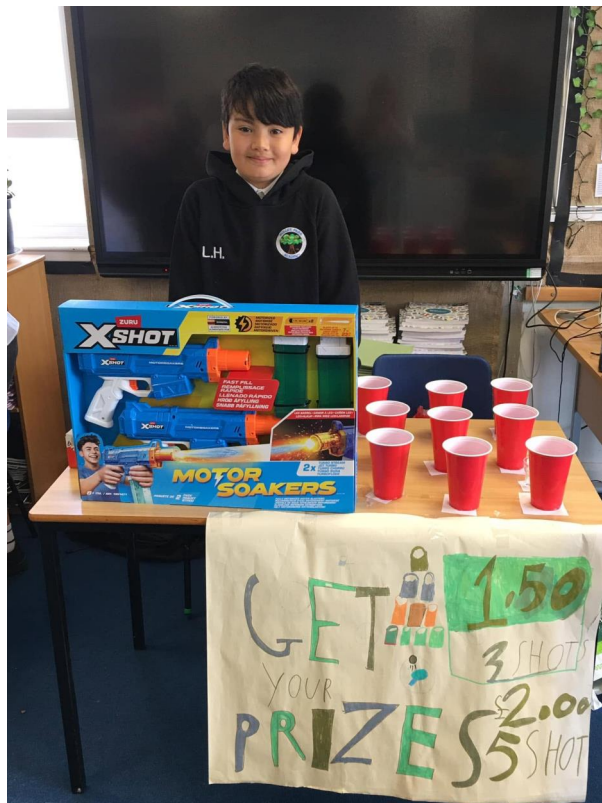
Congratulations to our amazing Year 6 pupils on the outstanding success of their **Enterprise Fayre!** The children demonstrated fantastic creativity, teamwork and entrepreneurial skills as they planned, created and ran their own stalls. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm, confidence and problem-solving abilities on display throughout the event.

The fayre was a huge success, and we are incredibly proud of the hard work, resilience and determination shown by every pupil. Thank you to all the families and members of our school community who came along to support the event. Your encouragement and generosity helped make the day such a memorable occasion.

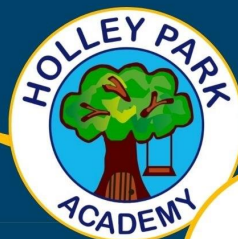
Well done, Year 6—you should all be incredibly proud of your achievements!







SUPPORT OUR DISCOVERY GARDEN PROJECT!



We're excited to share that our school has been selected to take part in the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme, giving us the chance to secure funding for our Discovery Garden Project.

Our aim is to transform our currently unused garden into a vibrant outdoor learning space where children can:

- Grow their own fruit and vegetables
- Learn about healthy eating
- Cook with the produce they have grown
- Enjoy a peaceful outdoor environment that supports wellbeing
-

If we're successful, the funding will help us create raised planting beds, purchase soil, seeds and gardening tools, and develop a small sensory Zen Zone to provide a calm, quiet space for children who benefit from it.

From now until the end of the voting period, every time you shop in one of the Tesco stores below, you'll receive a blue token at the checkout. Simply pop your token into the Discovery Garden Project voting box.

You can vote in the following stores:

- Fullwell Express (SR6 9AE)
- East Herrington Silksworth Road Esso Express (SR3 3PN)
- Sunderland Retail Park Extra (SR6 0DA)
- Sunderland Bridges Express (SR1 3LD)

As there isn't a participating Tesco store in Washington, we'd be incredibly grateful if you could also share this with family and friends who live or shop in these areas.

The project with the most votes will receive £1,500, second place will receive £1,000, and third place £500. Every single blue token makes a difference, so please vote if you're able to.

A Change in Role...

We are delighted to share with you that Mr Hopkinson (or Mr Frank as he is better known) is expanding his role across other Northern Lights schools. Mr Hopkinson will form part of a support team that work with schools in managing their IT needs, but do not worry - Mr Frank will continue to be in and around Holley Park as part of his exciting new post.



Goodbye and Good Luck to Miss Scott and Mr Anderson

As the school year comes to an end we have to say goodbye to Miss Scott and Mr Anderson. Miss Scott has been with us as a trainee teacher since September. Her support in Year 4B has been fantastic and I know she will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike. We wish her all the best for her new teaching post which starts in September. Mr Anderson joined school in October as supply in Year 5. His dedication to supporting our Year 5 pupils has been unwavering and we wish him all the best for all his future endeavours.



After-School Club Enrichment

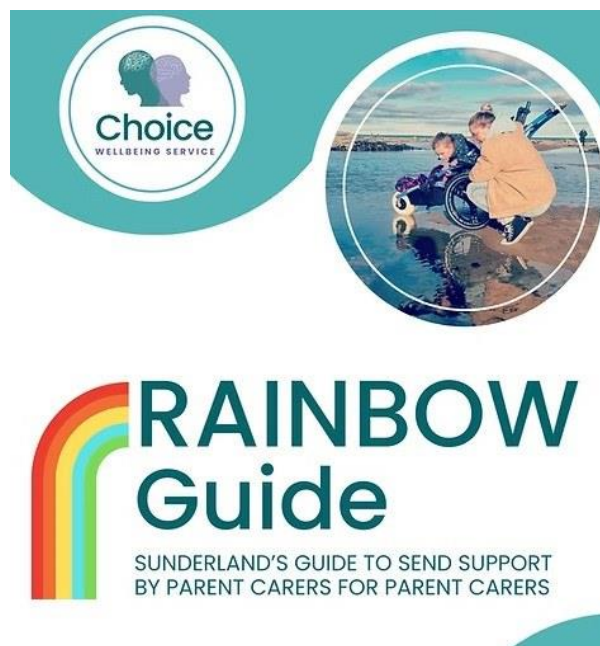
We are delighted to share some exciting developments to our after-school provision, which will provide children with an even wider range of activities and greater flexibility for families from September 2026.

Our new after-school programme will include a combination of school-led clubs, specialist external coaching sessions, and a daily sports club offering, ensuring there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Our internal clubs and externally coached clubs will now run from **3:15pm to 4:30pm**, giving children an additional 15 minutes to enjoy their chosen activity.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.15pm – 4.30pm	Monday Makers (Craft Club) Dodgeball Club	Flex n Flow (Gymnastics Club) Racket Club	Musical Theatre Football	Make, Bake Create (Cookery Club) Tag Rugby	Film Fridays (Movie Club) Girls Football
4.30pm – 5.30pm	Mr Roger's Multisport Club	Mr Roger's Multisport Club	Mr Roger's Multisport Club	Mr Roger's Multisport Club	

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.

Active Families NE

Summer 2026

@Holley Park Academy
Ayton Road, Washington NE38 0LR

Activities Include:

- Sports & team games
- Nerf battles
- Fitness & wellbeing activities
- Dance & music sessions
- Creative & STEM workshops
- LEGO challenges
- Outdoor adventures
- Themed event days
- Fun day trips

AND an end of summer celebration!

Beach Trip
Thursday
6th August!

All sessions are
9am-3pm

16 sessions throughout
the summer

First session
Monday 27th July

Full timetable can be
found online

Paid spaces
also available
£16 per day

Scan the code to book places

Places can also be booked online at:
www.activefamiliesne.co.uk/active-camps

#wearhere4summer

Activities for 5-11 year olds

FREE* & hot meal provided

Exciting themed activities every week

*FREE for eligible children, assessed on booking. Paid for spaces also available at a cost of £16 per child per day. These can also be booked online. You must book a space on every session you wish your child to attend and you will receive an confirmation email via the booking system.

0191 516 6083 | wendy@activefamiliesne.co.uk | Active Families North East CIC
Active Families North East CIC | ACTIVEFAMILIESNE | www.activefamiliesne.co.uk

Holley Park are proud to be hosting a summer holiday HAF club over the summer holidays! Please scan the attached poster for more information...

EYFS News

Wow, what a fantastic Summer Term we have had in EYFS!

We have enjoyed a wide range of exciting learning opportunities, including exploring the world around us and investigating natural materials. We have developed our knowledge through stories and had great fun learning about our bodies and the important jobs different organs do.

We have also been exploring money, problem-solving, and many other exciting topics. Nursery children have been busy preparing for Reception by developing their mathematical understanding through concepts such as *full* and *empty*, as well as identifying initial sounds in words. Some children are even beginning to blend sounds together to read simple words.

Our Reception children are more than ready for the exciting challenges of Year 1. They have worked incredibly hard and made wonderful progress throughout the year. While the EYFS

team will miss them greatly, we are so proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success and happiness as they move on to the next stage of their learning journey.

Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for all of our children!









Year 1 News

Year 1 have had a fantastic summer term filled with creativity, curiosity and hands-on learning. In Art and DT, the children especially enjoyed practical sessions, using clay to create their own pots inspired by Zizipho Poswa before moving on to sculpt clay animals in the vibrant style of Tinga art. In Design Technology, our focus on food led to designing and making seaside-themed picnic treats, including sandwiches, fruit sculptures and cupcakes. Science has been full of exciting investigations, from a session with Alexandra from Northern Gas to planting beans and proudly watching them grow tall and strong. Some of our

favourite memories from the summer term, which we will treasure for years to come, include Rock Star Day and, of course, the Colour Run.







Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a fantastic summer term! We spent the day at the Winter Gardens and took part in a great workshop and learnt lots about plants and even planted our own pea seed! We explored the winter gardens and saw a variety of tropical plants. After lunch we had time to look around the rest of the museum!

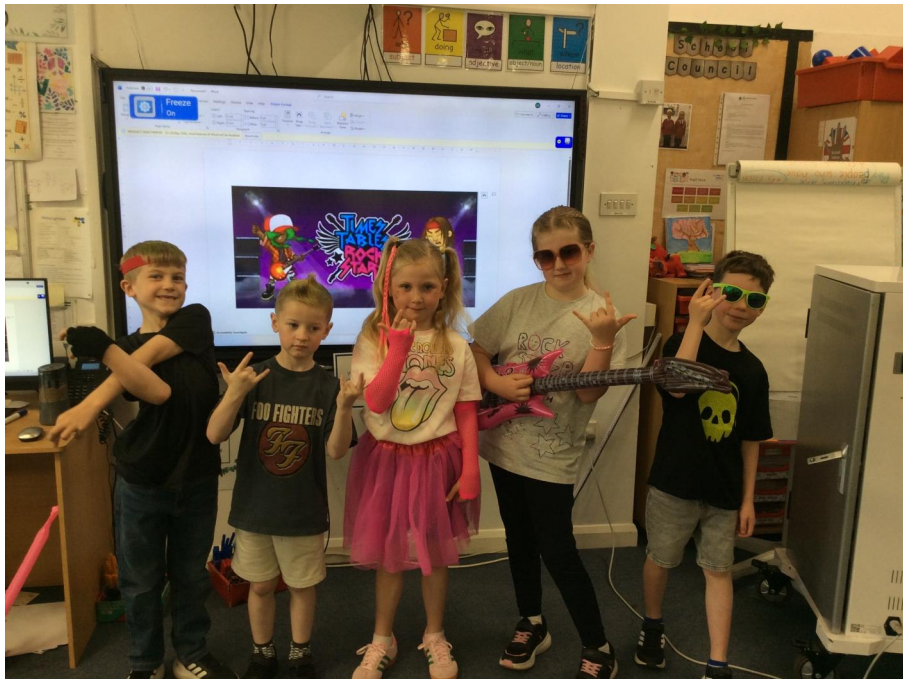
Year 2 did some bread tasting in preparation for our DT topic 'making bread'. The children thought about how the different types of bread tasted and came up with some good adjectives to describe the taste and texture! We then made our bread and were happy with the final product which we enjoyed tasting in school.

We have also enjoyed other exciting events this term including Maths Rocks Day and the colour run! Well done Year 2 for a super summer term!













Year 3 News

What a fantastic year it has been in Year 3! We have enjoyed a wide range of exciting learning experiences and have worked incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum.

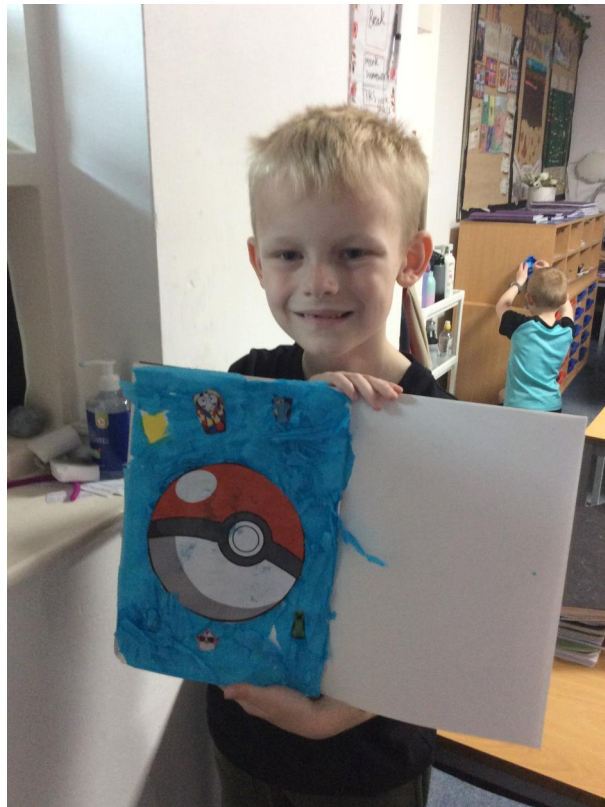
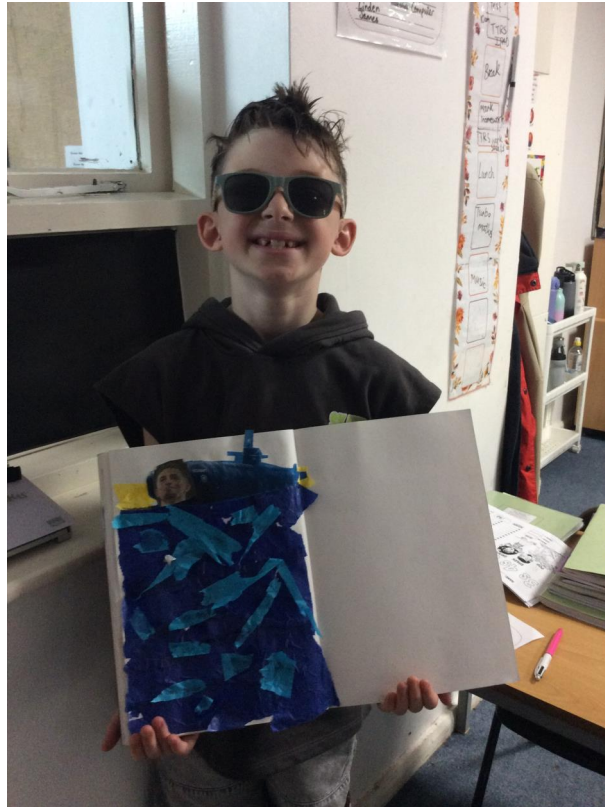
In summer term, in English, we were inspired by *The Butterfly Lion*, producing some wonderful pieces of creative writing. We also developed our persuasive writing skills by writing convincing letters and speeches to argue for the return of chairs to our classroom!

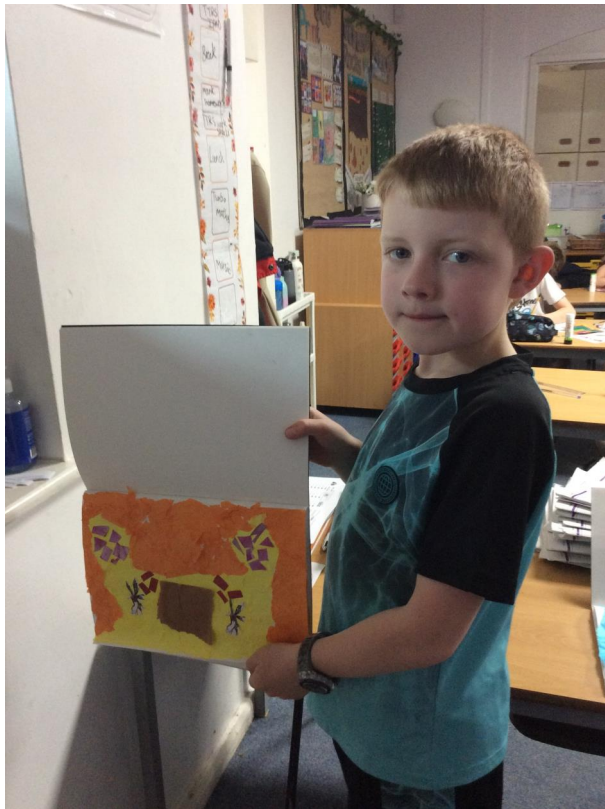
In Science, we investigated different animals, their diets, and their skeletons, learning how living things are adapted to survive. Our French lessons introduced us to the names of a variety of fruits, helping us to build our confidence in speaking another language.

Alongside our classroom learning, we thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Sports Day and had great fun getting covered in colour during the Colour Run. These events created wonderful memories and showed fantastic teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm.

It has been a brilliant year full of learning, laughter, and achievement. We are incredibly proud of everything Year 3 has accomplished and wish everyone a happy, safe, and relaxing summer break!







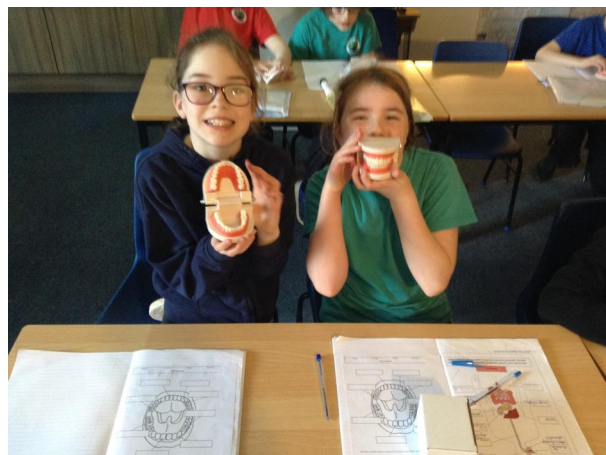


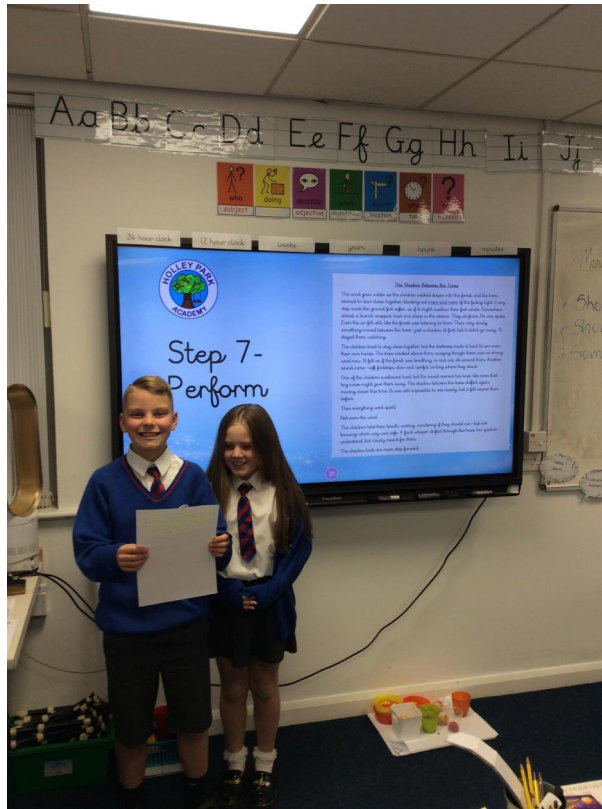
Year 4 News

The summer term has been a busy one, where everyone has been amazing and working hard. We have written stories with a strong central character and performed brilliantly doing Reader's Theatre based on poems. In maths, we have learnt all about symmetry and shapes as well as area and perimeter. Everybody looked fabulous dressed up for Rock Stars day and the class did really well on their times table check after all their hard work on TTRS this year. We made our own classification keys to group and order living things after a hunt around the gardens in science. In art, we used watercolour techniques to create art based on local landmarks. We met some American students, who taught us how to play American football, learnt all about fossil fuels and renewable energy in a Northern Gas Network Workshop and learnt how to play tennis in P.E. One of our favourite things to take part in was the colour run! We loved it.

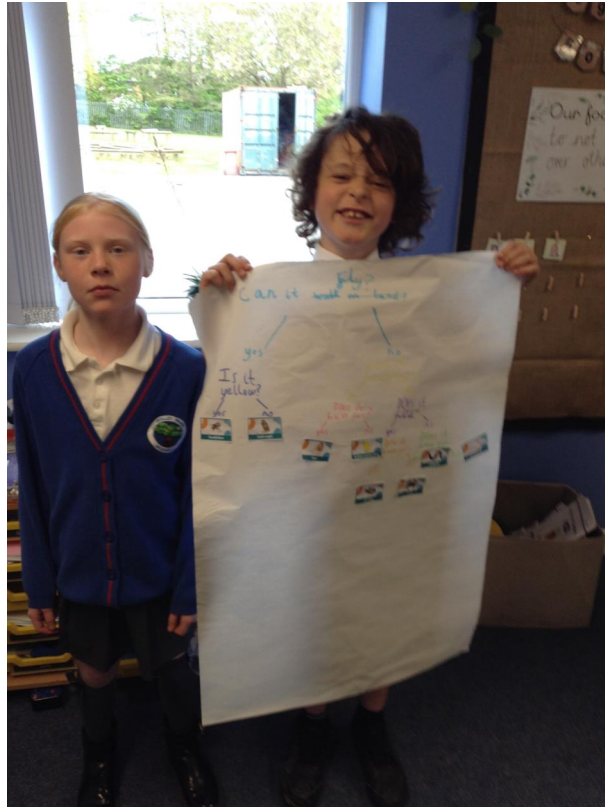


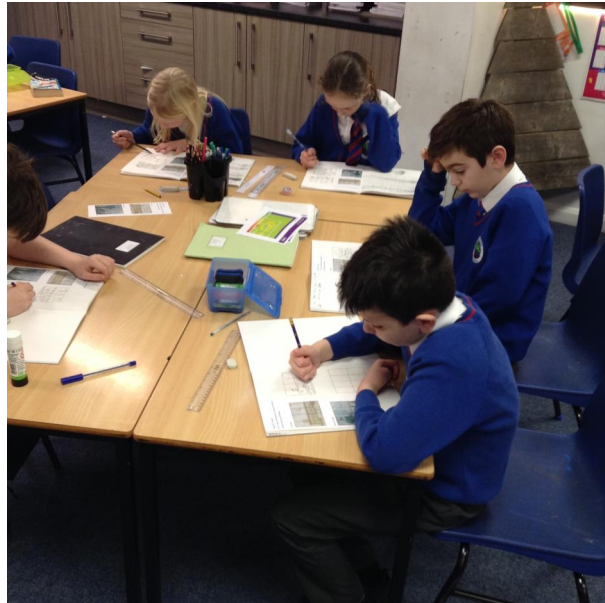


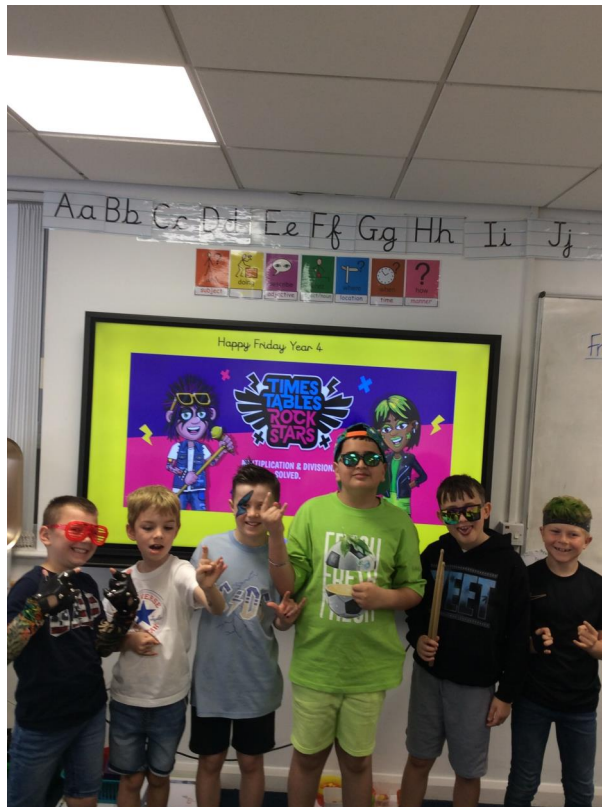














Year 5 News

It's been another busy one for Year 5! While still working super hard on our maths, reading and writing, we have also enjoyed a pro-skater workshop, American Football lessons with students visiting from the US, and a workshop delivered by the school nurse. One of the biggest successes of the term was our transition with our new class teachers and new Year 4 friends. The days were focused around developing relationships, team building, and sharing our goals for the future. As the school year comes to a close, we want to thank Mr Anderson for working with us so diligently. Mr Anderson has been with us on long-term supply since October and we will be sad to see him go, but wish him every success for his future teaching positions!











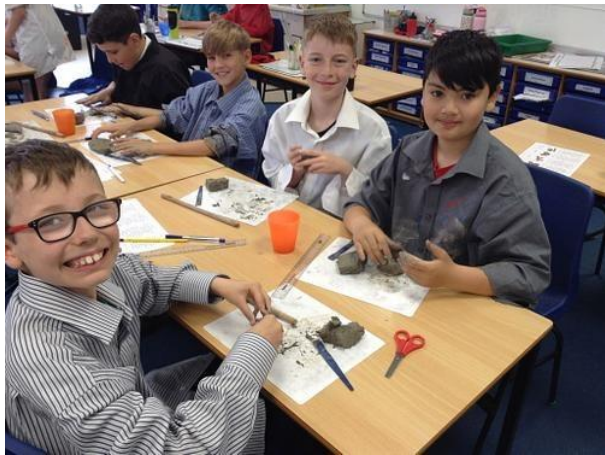






Year 6 News

This term, Year 6 have worked incredibly hard and achieved so much. They successfully completed their SATs with determination and resilience, and in Art they created beautiful clay tiles inspired by the work of artist Rachel Dormor. They also enjoyed taking part in the Colour Run, showing great enthusiasm and team spirit, before putting their creativity and entrepreneurial skills to the test at the Enterprise Fair. It has been a busy and rewarding term, and we are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished.



Contact Us



Updates are regularly shared via Arbor, 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](#)







