

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow, what a busy term we have had! So much has been achieved this term. Today, myself and Miss Borgeat were visited by children across many classes to show us their books. It was wonderful to hear the children talking so articulately about their work. There is lots to celebrate and Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 have provided updates for you further down the newsletter.

We hope you enjoyed the Discover afternoon, where you were able to see what your child has been learning and 'discovering' in History and DT. It was wonderful that so many of you could join us. A huge thank you for those of you who came to the hall first so that we could share with you our journey so far and introduce you to No Outsiders. We also shared this with our early years parents last Thursday before the stay and play, which was also very well attended. The new PSHE policy and No Outsiders parent guide will be sent out by email. We hope you found it interesting, remember please do contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your support and for joining us for these events.

Last Friday, we were lucky to have a visit from the Assembly Angels who presented a puppet show all about Easter to the children. Children were chosen to act out parts of their performance which they thoroughly enjoyed. All children learn in different ways and this was a perfect opportunity to demonstrate this. The children answered lots of questions at the end of the assembly and we were so proud to be told by one of the angels that Hollybush was the best school they had been to as the children were so well mannered. On Monday, we had our Rock Steady concert. Although I didn't get to see this performance myself, singing or playing an instrument in front of an audience demands lots of courage and it is a great accomplishment. In our Makaton and Music assemblies on a Wednesday, our children have been learning the core signs and vocabulary as well as learning the song 'Proud'. I will arrange a time for you to join us for our Makaton assembly as every time they sing this song, there isn't a dry eye amongst the staff. Ask your child to show you, their signing is brilliant!

In sporting news, the Hollybush football team has reached the final of the plate tournament for the very first time, a huge well done to our team and I wish you all the best in the final. Whatever the outcome this is a great achievement and I know you will make us all proud. The final is at 4pm at Richard Hale School on Thursday 24th April. Thank you to Mr Nash and Mr Mallick for coaching and supporting our football team. There is more sporting news from Mr Mallick further down the newsletter.

I can't believe we are at the end of another term. After Easter, we have the Create term where we will have a music and art focus. Have a wonderful break this Easter and I hope the sunshine stays a little longer so that we can play in our huge sandpit which will finally be filled over the holidays.

See you on Tuesday 22nd April.
Mrs Cracknell



SAFE

We move around school in a safe manner. We follow instructions to keep ourselves safe. We keep hands, feet and unkind words to ourselves. We use equipment safely. We stay safe online. We talk to an adult if we feel unsafe.

READY

We wear correct uniform. We arrive at school on time. We have our equipment ready. We show that we are listening and ready to learn.

RESPECT

We listen when others speak and we respect the property of our friends and the school. We have an understanding of others cultures and beliefs. We respect that everyone have a right to learn.

Kindness

Generosity

Excitement

Learning together

Enquiring minds

Courage



Type of query	Member of staff to contact
Safeguarding/child protection	Mrs Cracknell, Miss Borgeat, Mrs Poole and Mrs Richardson
Any issues relating to your child or another child in the class	Email class teacher to arrange a meeting, sometimes a phase leader may join this meeting
If you do not feel the issue has been resolved or you may need more advice.	<p>Step 1 Phase Leader EYFS-Miss White KS1- Mrs Christman KS2-Mr Chandler</p> <p>Step 2 Acting Deputy Headteacher Grace Borgeat</p> <p>Step 3 Acting Headteacher- Mrs Cracknell</p>
Inclusion/ Special Educational Needs	Mrs Smail
Looked After and Previously Looked After Children	Mrs Cracknell
Payments/Finance	Miss Byrne Mrs Tilbury
Admissions	Miss Byrne
Complaints	Please refer to school complaints policy on the <u>website</u> .

Uniform

- All items should be unbranded and without any logo's other than the Hollybush logo.
- Children should bring a suitable coat and a water bottle every day, whatever the weather. We are outside in all weathers!
- Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied up in a hair band in school colours.

Formal uniform

White polo shirt

Grey Trousers
Grey skirt
Grey pinafore
Grey shorts

Bottle green round necked jumper
Bottle green cardigan

Black shoes

White / black or grey socks

Active uniform

Black plain Tshirt
Black logo Tshirt
White plain Tshirt

Tshirts should be round necked not polo shirts

Black jersey tracksuit bottoms
Black jersey shorts
Black cycle shorts
Black skort
Black leggings

Black zip through hoodie
Black hooded jumper

Black plain trainers

Swimming

Swimming hats MUST be worn for swimming lessons.

UNIFORMS MUST NOT BE MIXED AND MATCHED!!

IF YOUR CHILD IS WEARING ACTIVE WEAR IT MUST BE WITH A ROUND NECKED T-SHIRT AND A BLACK HOODIE / ZIP UP

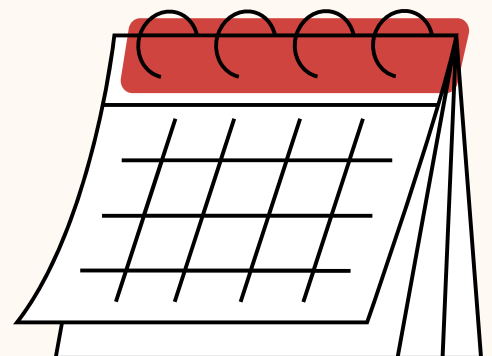
IF YOUR CHILD IS WEARING FORMAL WEAR IT MUST BE WITH A POLO TOP OR SHIRT AND A GREEN JUMPER

Upcoming Events

2024
2025

April	
Thursday 3rd	Discover Afternoon 2pm- come in and see what your child has been doing in the Discover Term.
Friday 4th	End of term - Finish at 1:15pm
Friday 4th	Community afternoon 1:30 - 3pm
Tuesday 22nd	Back to school
Tuesday 22nd	St Albans Cathedral visit - Y4
Thursday 24th	Y6 SATs meeting - 8:45am
Thursday 24th	Football team final - Richard Hale - 4pm
TBC	Bucket time training - Nest parents

May	
Thursday 1 st	Y4 Sports festival
Monday 5th	May Day - School closed
Monday 12th	Cricket day
Monday 12 th - Thursday 15 th	Y6 SATs
Friday 16 th	Y6 end of SATs treat
Wednesday 21 st	Y6 trip to Woodhall estate
Thursday 22nd	Class photo's
Friday 23rd	Inset day
Monday 26th - Friday 30th	Half term



June

Wednesday 18th

Supporting transitions
coffee morning - All
welcome

July

Thursday 3rd

Nursery and Reception school
trip - Shepreth Wildlife Park

Monday 7th

Rock Steady Concert

Thursday 10th

Transition day

Friday 11th

Year 1 trip - Hertfordshire zoo

Friday 11th

Year 4 and 6 trip - H2O
Rampage

Wednesday 16th

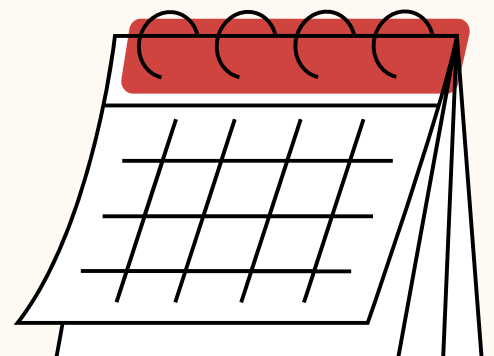
Year 2 trip - Hertfordshire zoo

Wednesday 16th

Year 3 and 5 trip - Gulliver's
theme park

Monday 21st

End of term - 1:15pm finish



Reception

A BIG thank you to everyone who came to our Stay and Play last week!

We have had a very exciting few weeks in Reception! We have been exploring the life cycle of a frog. We received some frogspawn of our own and have enjoyed watching the life cycle begin. We now have lots of happy tadpoles swimming around our school pond and we hope to see some frogs soon!



In Maths we have been exploring doubles of numbers to 5. We have explored these using our fingers and counters to help us. We are getting very quick at recalling the different double facts. We have also been learning some very important stem sentences to help us remember how doubles are made.

"_ is made of _ and _.
_ and _ make -!"



This week we made some very yummy chocolate cornflake cakes. In our Literacy, we wrote instructions for our friends in other classes to help them learn how to make them too.



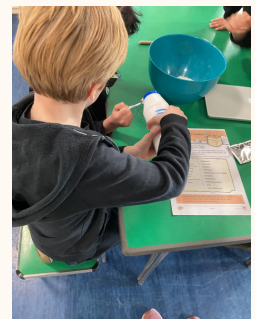
Year 2

Year 2 made a wonderful mess in their classroom as they created altar covers as part of their RE studies on symbols of Christianity last week.

The children as well as some parents observed this when they took them in to show off their creations. They made some outstanding pieces of work. I was so proud of all the children and their dedication throughout the day.

Mrs Botterman

Year 2 have had a very creative term. The children really enjoyed making their bread from 1666. They wrote instructions, used their measuring skills and worked hard as a term to create 6 delicious loaves of bread. They all tried the bread but it had mixed reviews! The children really enjoyed working with our parent helpers.



Year 4

What a half-term! It's been non-stop and we've covered a lot of learning. At the start of the half-term we finished off a topic on the Romans and moved on to look at another civilisation - The Kingdom of Benin. In our last history lesson of this term we compared the Roman Empire to the Benin Kingdom. Although many differences there were a lot of similarities. Both were polytheistic cultures - they believed in many gods. The children learnt how important the head was to the Benin culture. Very talented craftsmen created bronze plaques and heads - The Benin Bronzes. They also carved masks out of ivory for the Obas (kings). It is thought that these masks allowed the Obas to communicate with the spirit world.



In our DT lessons the children learnt about shell and frame structures and created their own shell structure out of papier mache using milk bottles! Several lessons later these shell structures were turned into the children's own 'Benin' style masks! In Science, the children have had a lot of fun learning about how sound is created and measured.



Our computing lessons got the children learning how to code a micro:bit (mini-computer). They've really enjoyed this. After two introductory lessons, the children coded their micro:bits to become data-loggers. In one lesson they carried out a traffic survey using their micro:bits and also coded them to collect temperature and light. The children were excited to analyse the data the next day.



Year 6



Well what a couple of weeks this has been for year 6! Last week, the class took part in their 'mock SATS' to give them a taste of what the real thing will be like. With each day came a new test of their knowledge, skills and resilience and I must say that they performed admirably with some particularly impressive results in their reading. The trick now will be keeping them focused and motivated to achieve even better in the real thing. SATS week commences in the week beginning 12th May



In other news, the children have really been enjoying about light and reflection in their science lessons. We have been trying to solve a crime where the perpetrator has left a series of clues that can only be deciphered through a thorough knowledge of how light works. Each week we have designed an experiment which allows to eliminate one of the suspects from our enquiries. The children had great fun and learned a lot too!



In our PE lessons we have been learning all about yoga and how it can help both our body and our minds. We have been practicing mindful breathing and using our breath to help us move through a series of different yoga flows focusing on strength and balance. In our final session, we took part in some collaborative work where we used what we have learned to create a yoga flow that uses paired balances and positions to improve our balance and core strength. Despite not always engaging at the beginning of the unit, the children really developed their skills with great application by the end. They showed that they are mature enough to take part in a PE discipline that focuses more on control than just running around and getting sweaty. It has been a great term, roll on Summer!



Online Safety

Today, A Minecraft Movie, is on general release. There's been a lot of publicity about this movie including McDonalds using it to promote its Happy Meals. Gaming is very much part of today's culture and an integral part of life for many children.

It's important that parents and carers have the tools to support their children in this online gaming world. [Internet Matters](#) has just released some new guidance for parents and carers. It's specifically aimed at supporting neurodivergent children who play games online. Neurodivergent young people can struggle to manage their screen time and transition between activities. Much of the advice is helpful to all parents and carers – definitely worth a look!

Here is a screenshot of a screentime checklist – some helpful tips:

Schedule & Safety Setup	During Play	After Playing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> I have set an agreed playtime and checked it with my child.<input type="checkbox"/> We have looked at the schedule or calendar together.<input type="checkbox"/> Parental controls and screen time limits are turned on.<input type="checkbox"/> We have discussed what needs to be done before or after gaming.<input type="checkbox"/> My child knows when to take breaks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> A countdown timer is visible to both of us.<input type="checkbox"/> We pause every 30–45 minutes for a stretch, snack, or short walk.<input type="checkbox"/> I check in to see how my child is feeling and if they need a break.<input type="checkbox"/> My child is following the agreed screen time limits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> We follow a wind-down routine like reading, stretching, or a short walk.<input type="checkbox"/> We reflect on what went well and any changes for next time.<input type="checkbox"/> I note any concerns or moments that felt overwhelming and consider how I can support my child, such as adjusting settings, discussing their experience, or exploring alternative games that better suit their needs.

The article has some helpful videos from parents with neurodiverse children.

[Clip 1](#)

[Clip 2](#)

[Clip 3](#)



Sunflowers



To coincide with National Down Syndrome day every child in the school has planted a sunflower.

A prize was promised for the tallest in each class and the winners are:

The Nest - Michael - 31cm

Nursery-Jessica 27cm

Reception - Azariyah - 26cm

Year 1 - Freddie - 26cm

Year 2 - Elliot - 21cm

Year 3 - AJ - 22cm

Year 4 -Eloise - 30cm

Year 5 - Finlay - 35cm

Year 6 - Hollie - 26cm



A Easter egg is making it's way home for the winners.



If your child has not brought their sunflower home they will be kept in school until they are strong enough to be planted outside.

Just like sunflowers, every child grows and blooms uniquely.



PE at Hollybush

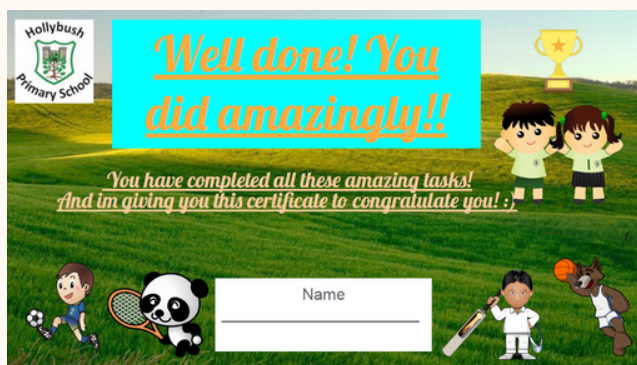


Sport and physical activity continues to go from strength to strength here at Hollybush. Our lessons cover a wide range of sports from athletics to yoga with many year groups enjoying the mindfulness that goes with the latter discipline. It has been a joy to watch the children engaging fully with their lessons and developing their knowledge and skills.

The children have been busy externally too, taking part in a wide range of sporting endeavours. Toby and Emily in Year 6 have been taking part in a pupil voice council where they have been working with other schools to design and put on a sporting event for Year 3 and 4 children in the summer term at Heath Mount School. They even designed their own certificates, which can be seen below.

The football team have also been very busy and have managed to reach the final of the Plate tournament running out convincing 4 - 0 winners against Hertingfordbury in the semi-final. The team have become a formidable unit under the guidance of coach Paul Nash and are busy preparing themselves mentally and physically for the final which will take place at Richard Hale, 4pm on the 24th April. All are welcome to cheer them on. The team also came 6th at the District Football and big congratulations must go to Shamus who was voted 'Player of the Tournament'.

There have also been other events that have been enjoyed by children from various year groups like Year 4s Rapid Fire Cricket event at The Sele School and Year 6s Sportshall Athletics at Wodson. We can't wait to see what sporting endeavours are in store for us in the summer term.



NO OUT SIDERS

There are No Outsiders at Hollybush. We are all different, we are all welcome.

In our No Outsiders assemblies we have covered:



Lion

The children learnt about a lion who adopted a leopard cub in Africa. Conservation officers are astonished because they expected the lioness to kill the cub at first.

One said, "We know there are cases where lionesses will adopt other lion cubs... but this is unprecedented."

Key questions:

- How are the two animals different?
- How are the two animals the same?
- Why do you think the lioness adopted the leopard?
- People thought the lioness would kill the cub, but she didn't what does this show us about ideas and expectations? (It shows things can always change)
- What do you think will happen as the leopard grows up?
- What can we learn from the lioness in this story?
- What is a family? Do all families have to look the same?
- Why is this story about no outsiders?
- Which British value is this about?

Swimming dates

Year 3	
April 24th	
May 1st	
May 8th	
May 15th	
May 22nd	
June 5th	
June 12th	
June 19th	
June 26th	
July 3rd	
July 10th	No swimming - Transition day
July 17th	Fun Swim

Year 4	
April 24th	
May 1st	No swimming due to a sporting event
May 8th	
May 15th	
May 22nd	
June 5th	
June 12th	
June 19th	
June 26th	
July 3rd	
July 10th	No swimming - Transition day
July 17th	Fun Swim

All children are expected to participate in swimming lessons

Children will need a one piece swimming costume / swimming trunks
A towel
A swimming hat - boys and girls

Goggles may be worn if your child can take them on and off unaided.



AT OUR SCHOOL WE FOLLOW HOLLYBUSH RULES

SAFE



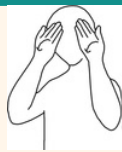
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THE HOLLYBUSH WAY



THE HOLLYBUSH WAY



Lovely Lining Up

We face forwards
We keep our hands to ourselves
We line up silently

Magical Manners

We say please and thank you
We say 'good morning'
We hold doors open for people
We knock before entering rooms
We say 'excuse me' before speaking to a grown up

Super Sitting

We sit calmly and sensibly
We keep our hands to ourselves
We face the adult
We use our magnet eyes (if we can)
We use our eager ears for listening to our adult

Wonderful Walking

We walk quietly
We walk sensibly
We face the direction we are walking in
We keep our hands to ourselves

Delightful Dinners

We use our Magical Manners
We use our Lovely lining up
We use our Wonderful walking
We use our Super sitting
We talk quietly with our friends

Peaceful Playtimes

We use our Wonderful walking to and from the classroom
We use our Magical Manners
We remember our school values

Reminders

School starts at 8:45am

Fordwich Rise Gate entrance

The drive gate opens at 8:40 for Nursery, Reception and Year 1. Siblings of children in these year's may also enter through this gate.

Welwyn Road Gate entrance

Children in Year 2 and above

If your child arrives after 8:45am they will need to enter via the Office and will be marked as Late.

HOLIDAYS & MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

The School will not grant any leave of absence for holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Holidays will otherwise be classed as unauthorised absence from school.

Non urgent appointments such as dentist & doctors appointments MUST be made outside of school hours where possible.

Outstanding debts

Please can parents ensure owed balances on meals, wrap around care and nursery session are cleared promptly.

Lunches

Please ensure you select your child's lunch via the Arbor app prior to 8am.

Pre selecting lunches is now compulsory

[Link to lunch menu on website](#)

Please do not park across the driveways of the houses neighbouring the school.

	PE	Swimming	Forest School
MONDAY	YEAR 1 YEAR 5		YEAR 1
TUESDAY	YEAR 1 YEAR 2 YEAR 3 YEAR 5 YEAR 6		
WEDNESDAY			YEAR 2
THURSDAY	YEAR 2 YEAR 4		NURSERY RECEPTION
FRIDAY	NURSERY RECEPTION YEAR 3 YEAR 4 YEAR 6		YEAR 3 YEAR 4

Check out our class pages for information on what your child is learning this Term!
[Link to Class Pages](#)

Sing, Make, Play!

Hertfordshire Music Service are working in partnership with Hollybush Primary School to launch an exciting new afterschool club where children will get the opportunity to sing in a choir, compose their own music and explore different musical instruments.



Mondays after school, starting Summer 2025



3.20pm - 4.00pm



Hollybush Primary School, Fordwich Rise
Hertford, SG14 2DF.



£59 per term.



Scan me for more



01992 556698



www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/HMSEastHerts



Hertfordshire
Music Service

Supported using public funding by



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Hertfordshire