



Dear Parents and Carers,

With only two weeks left of the Spring term, our children are absorbed in their topics for the Discover Term, please don't forget to come in for the Discover Afternoon on Thursday 3rd April at 2pm. Prior to going into the classrooms, myself and Miss Borgeat will meet you in the hall to talk to you about a new scheme called 'No Outsiders' which we will be bringing to Hollybush after Easter. No Outsiders is about creating an ethos that difference is a positive, not a negative and that all children belong in our school. There will be no outsiders here because everyone is welcome. In the 2020s in the UK we are all different and this work prepares children for life in modern Britain and furthermore for life a global citizens. We want all children to know who they are, feel confident and know they belong in our school.

Today we proudly celebrated World Down Syndrome day with #lotsOfSocks. The idea is to get people talking so that when people ask you about your socks you tell them ' I am raising awareness of Downs Syndrome.' World Down Syndrome Day is on 21st March every year. It is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The goal is to help people understand and support those with Down syndrome better.The date being the 21st day of the 3rd month was chosen to represent the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome. Thank you for supporting World Down Syndrome day today.

On Monday this week, Year 3 and Year 5 were immersed into Ancient Egypt and Anglo-Saxon times through interactive workshops bringing their history topics to life, Mrs Ahmed and Miss Hart have written all about it and shared pictures further down the newsletter. The children looked incredible and had an excellent day.

Early Years had two fantastic Balanceability sessions last week. They warmed up their bodies through different balancing activities before getting on to the bikes. They learnt how to use 'dinosaur stomps' to make the balance bikes move, before playing the floor is lava to practise balancing on the bikes without their feet touching the floor while they were moving. In the second session they completed an obstacle course, complete with a slalom, tunnel, speed bumps and a roundabout. A big thank you to the Hertford and Ware Schools Sports Partnership who also donated 6 balance bikes for us to keep and use in school. If any of you have any balance bikes that need a new home, please think of us as our children love to ride the bikes in the playground.

There are some interesting variations of our uniform at the moment, please can I remind you that our uniform is black (not navy) and that we do not allow branded items. Trainers or school shoes need to be black and do not allow football boots as school shoes. Further down the newsletter there are examples of both uniform, the formal and the active, please do ensure your child is in the correct uniform otherwise we will provide them with items from our lost property to wear within school. Please also ensure that hair is tied back and that hair bands are school colours only. Thank you as always for your support, we are working hard on our school rules and part of 'being 'ready' means being in the correct uniform.

Have a lovely weekend,
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

March

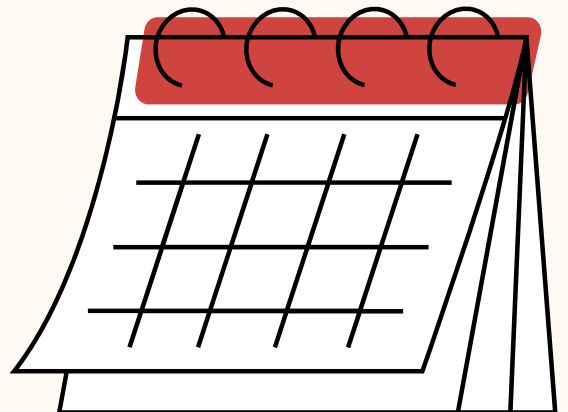
Friday 21st	World Down Syndrome day
Mon 24th - Fri 28th	Big walk and wheel week
Thursday 27th	EYFS stay and play Time: 8:45am
Friday 28th	District football
Monday 31st	Rock Steady Concert

May

Monday 5th	May Day - School closed
Monday 12th	Cricket day
Thursday 22nd	Class photo's
Friday 23rd	Inset day
Monday 26th - Friday 30th	Half term

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



Nursery

Nursery have been very busy the last two weeks. We have been jumping into stories and imagining what it would be like to be a story character. We made porridge for the three bears and ordered objects in order of size.

We explored numbers and matched numerals to quantities. This we have been exploring spring, and making observational drawings and paintings of spring flowers. We enjoyed walking around the school to find spring flowers and blossom.



Year 1



In PE we have been exploring yoga through animal actions and thinking about how this makes our body feel, we particularly enjoyed trying different monkey poses. In RE we have been learning about how Christians say a prayer of thanks before they eat their food, we enjoyed having a carpet picnic feast and saying things that we are thankful for in life, family was a high response. We have excitedly begun to research and design our gingerbread man puppets for DT and are eagerly awaiting the next stage of making.

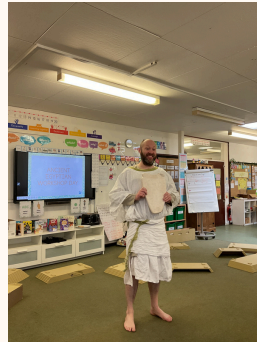


Year 3

On Monday 17th March, Year 3 travelled back in time to Ancient Egypt, to the land of the Pharaohs. We were greeted by a visitor who told us how the first pyramid came about and the children all worked together to build a pyramid. The children were thoroughly engaged and all took part with great enthusiasm. Later on in the morning, the children learnt all about mummification and the process behind it. All the children took part in a role play scene which was a great laugh. They also had the greatest pleasure of finding out what vital organs go inside Canopic jars. We ended the day by painting some Tutankhamun hand puppets.



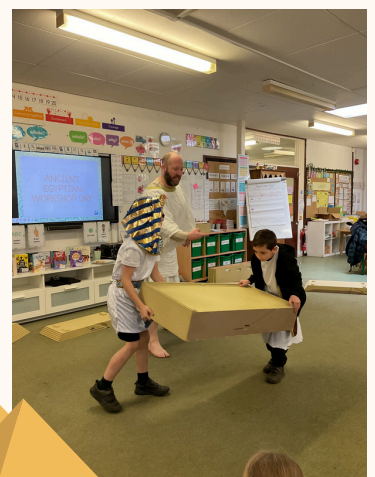
Maisie - 'On Monday it was Ancient Egyptian day. It was really exciting and we had a look at each other's costumes. We didn't do any learning (well barely any learning). We learnt all about mummification and all about Pharaohs too. It was amazing to learn about and fun too. We got to build a pyramid and put gold on top! Some of us got to act and we got to be Pharaohs and Gods and Goddesses. But sadly the day ended and that was the end of Ancient Egyptian day.'



Kingsley - 'A man came in and told us about Egyptians. He told us about mummification and he told us stories.'



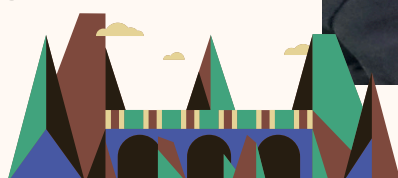
In science, our topic is all about plants this half term. The children planted some cress seeds during Forest School which are growing really well. Hopefully, next week the children will be making some healthy sandwiches using the cress we planted. We also planted sunflower seeds. We can't wait to see how tall they grow!



Year 5



On Monday Year 5 enjoyed an afternoon learning all about Anglo Saxon life. They were able to try on Anglo Saxon helmets and chain mail (It's really heavy) as well as learning an Anglo Saxon game that is very similar to noughts and crosses.



Balanceability





Online Safety



When I ask my class (Y4) what online games they enjoy playing the resounding answer is Roblox, but what is Roblox? It's an online gaming platform and game creation system developed by Roblox Corporation (David Baszucki and Erik Cassel) in 2004; it was released to the public in 2006. Roblox allows users to program and play games created by themselves or other users.

The platform features a virtual economy with virtual currency called Robux. Robux allows users to buy, sell, and create virtual items.

As the content in Roblox is user-generated it doesn't fall under the same rigorous age ratings as content made by commercial companies. However, PEGI has altered their rating from PEGI 7 to Parental Guidance Recommended because of the amount of user-generated content.

More helpful information for parents/carers about Roblox can be found on the [Internet Matters](#) webpage. Below is a helpful video about keeping your child safe on Roblox.



AT OUR SCHOOL WE FOLLOW HOLLYBUSH RULES

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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](#)