



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term. Our teachers began the term with an inset day where we focused on lesson design, early morning work and planning for the remainder of the term. It was a very useful day and the staff worked very hard. The children returned happily, bringing with them their great attitudes to learning and thankfully, at long last, the sunshine!

It was great to see so many of you at Parents evening last week, I am sure you found the meetings useful. A huge thank you for filling out the parent survey on the day. It was useful to hear your opinions of what is working well and what we can do to improve.

One of the main themes to come out of this survey was the school building looking a little tired. We would love to tackle that hands on, and were hoping our wonderful Hollybush community could help! We are planning to have another community day like we did last term. We would like to do this every term, starting with this next one, just before the Easter Holidays. We would like to start by giving every classroom a fresh lick of paint! This term, we would like to focus on Year 5 and Year 2. If there are any parents available to help on the last day of term (4th April) between 1.30 - 3, snacks will be provided! Please email admin@hollybush.herts.sch.uk if you can spare any time. We really want to make sure our children are learning in a beautiful environment! If painting is not your thing, there is plenty of areas outside that need some TLC!

Today, we had a special visitor to our school, Helen from the Hertford Baptist Church came in to deliver an assembly on Lent. She spoke to the children all about the 40 day countdown to Easter. Children were invited to think about all the things they could do over the next 40 days whether they are a Christian or not. They could give something up, they could spend some time thinking about others, think about an unhelpful behaviour they could change or think about doing something kind each day. A huge thank you to Helen for coming in to deliver our assembly, it is always lovely to have visitors.

Yesterday, was World Book Day, it was wonderful to see that the children (and of course the parents) had been so creative. Children came dressed as words such as camouflage, astronaut and gallop! For a moment I thought it was Xmas jumper day but I was quickly corrected by the children who told me they were 'festive.' Each child I spoke to could explain what their word meant and I'm sure our children have developed a new wide range of vocabulary from the costumes. A huge thank you for your support and efforts.

I wish you all a wonderful 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> .

Upcoming Events

2024 2025

March

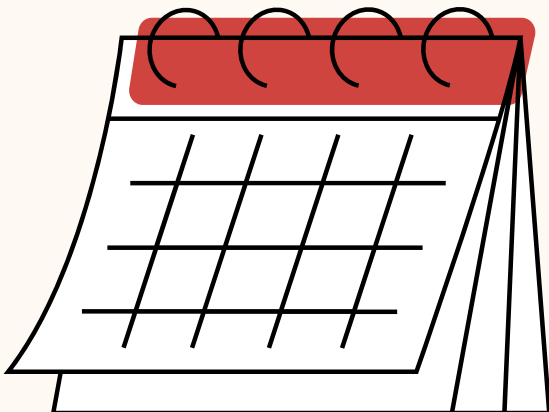
Thursday 6th	World book day
Monday 10th	Balanceability - Reception
Wednesday 12th	Balanceability - Reception
Monday 17th	Egyptian Workshop - Y3
Monday 17th	Anglo Saxon Workshop - Y5
Friday 21st	World Down Syndrome
Mon 24th - Fri 28th	Big walk and wheel week
Thursday 27th	EYFS stay and play
Friday 28th	District football
Monday 31st	Rock Steady Concert

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

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



Reception

We have had a wonderful start back to the new half term in Reception! We have started this half term being Historians. We have been thinking about the question, 'I wonder, can I play?'. We thought about our favourite toys and drew some fantastic pictures of these. We explored some toys from the past that we borrowed from Hertford Museum and thought about how these were the same or different to the toys we play with now.



This week learnt about why Lent is a special time for Christians. We learnt about the meaning behind Pancake Day, and thought of ways we could help during Lent for the next 40 days before Easter.



We have also spent lots of time outside and enjoying the beginning of the Spring sunshine - hunting for minibeasts and spotting the first blossom on the trees!

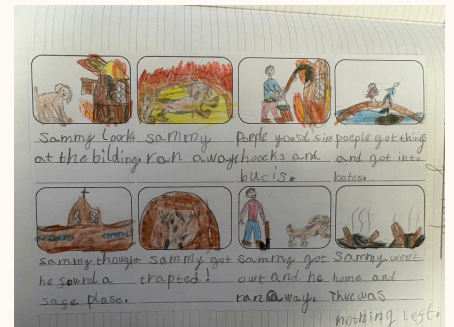
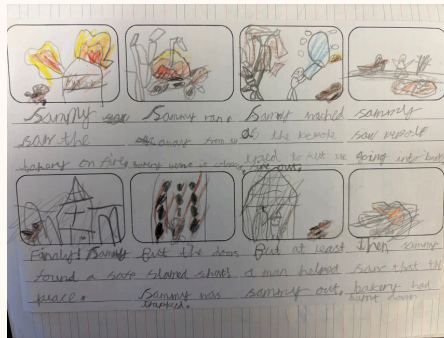
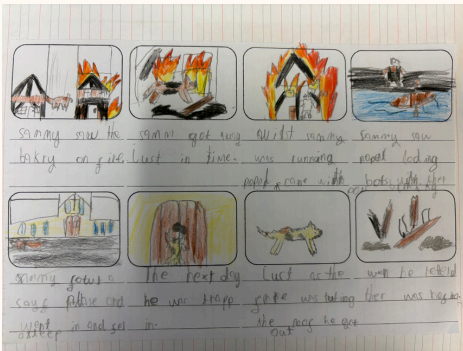


Year 2

This week we have continued to learn about our history topic The Great Fire of London. We have learnt about reliable sources and how London has changed since the fire.

In English we have been writing stories about Sammy the street dog who escaped from the Great Fire of London. The children created beautiful detailed story maps to help them remember the story. We are looking forward to using our story maps to write our stories next week.

In Maths the children have learnt to use balance scales and use the stem senses The ____ is heavier than the _____. We have also begun to measure mass using g and kg.



In RE we spent the afternoon talking about celebrations and finding Easter eggs on the playground. On the reverse of each one was a story from the bible leading up to the events of Easter.

We talked about how the hot cross bun represents Jesus on the cross and how the egg is new life representing the resurrection. The children were rightfully rewarded with these goodies to eat at the end of the lesson.



Year 4

Year 4 have had a great start to the second half of the Spring term. Following two Rapid Fire Cricket lessons which proved very popular 8 children were selected to attend a Rapid Fire Cricket rapid fire festival at Sele School. The sun shone and the children racked up plenty of runs! Here are some pictures and the children's comments about the event.



In our computing lesson this week, the children have been familiarising themselves with a mini computer called a Microbit. They wrote some code and then downloaded it to their Microbits which displayed their names using its 25 LEDs. They will use the Microbit as a data-logger to collect information in future lessons.



Our RE this half-term is looking at the Sikh concept of Guru and how they help Sikhs learn about God and bring them from the dark into the light. This week the children have learnt about the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak. As part of this lesson the children thought about what are the important things in life they should be learning about.



Year 6

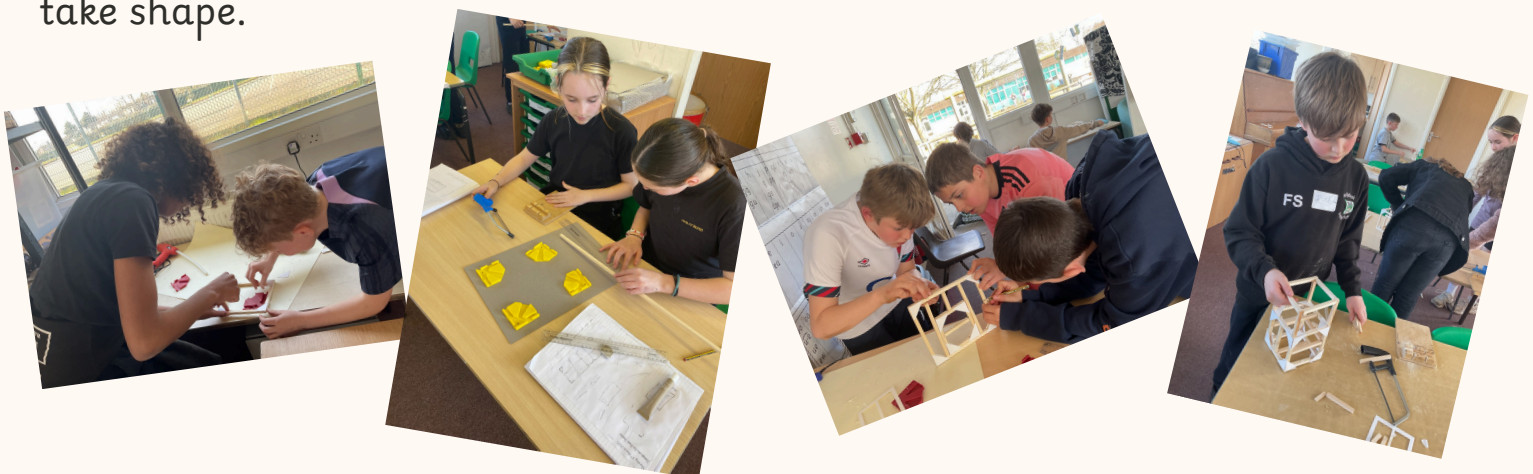


It has been a great start to the Spring term for Year 6. They continue to be a joy to teach and great fun to be with. We are making great progress in our English lessons, where we are navigating the confusing world of grammar with the assistance of Harry Potter. We have also just finished learning about multiplying and dividing fractions in maths where all the children enjoyed great success

On Thursday 27th February we went To Wodson Park to take part in the Sportshall athletics competition. The children took part in a range of track and field events that really challenged their ability. We really enjoyed the day out and came back exhausted and proud. Extra congratulations to the boys team who came fourth overall.



The children have been so excited about our DT lessons this week where have been building air-raid shelters! Firstly, we had to investigate the design and purpose of shelters during World War 2. We then learned about framed structures and how they use different techniques such as triangulation to create a strong skeleton structure before adding any features. Next we incorporated these into our designs before learning the skills necessary to create them. We haven't finished them yet but they are really starting to take shape.





Hollybush Celebrates World Book Day!



We had a wonderful day yesterday celebrating World Book Day! Here are some of the words we dressed as!



Online Safety



According to Ofcom's most recent Media Use and Attitudes Report, roughly 55% of 3-17-year-olds in the UK are using WhatsApp as their primary messaging service. Not only does that make WhatsApp the most popular messaging platform among children and young people in the UK; it also means that of the app's approximately three billion users, over seven million of them are British youngsters - keeping in touch with friends and family, but also being exposed to its various risks.

What are the risks children face using WhatsApp?

Evolving scams - WhatsApp popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers

Contact from strangers - to start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. It's possible that a child might be added to a group chat by one of their friends. This group chat might contain people they don't know.


Fake news - to combat the spread of fake news WhatsApp now have a feature that once a message has been shared more than five times says, 'forwarded many times'.


Chat lock and secret codes - this 2023 feature of WhatsApp creates the potential for children to hide conversations and content they wouldn't want their parents to see.


View once content


Visible location - this feature allows users share their current whereabouts. This can be really useful but also open to abuse. It could let strangers a child's home address.


This screen shot is taken from The National College WakeUpWednesday's most recent advice on WhatsApp.

EMPHASISE CAUTION  Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS  It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except.... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need - and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY  Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS  Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable - or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING  Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy - and all too common - for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

To use WhatsApp in the UK, users must be 13-years-old or older (as of April 2024. The minimum age for WhatsApp used to be 16).

New 2 hour Workshop - Communication

Online
March/April
2025



For Dads & Male Carers
When:
Monday 31 March
7.00pm—9.00pm

This 2 hour fully funded workshop is open to all Hertfordshire parents and carers. Learn more about:

- Why communication matters for everyone
- Communication to build and support healthy relationships
- The stress response system and the effects on communication
- The Language of Safety Model
- Skills and strategies - from learning to practice
- The importance of communication and the Protective Behaviours Process

For Mums, Dads &
Carers
When:
Tuesday 1 April
9.30am—11.30
or
7.00pm—9.00pm

To book your place please use this link or the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/e/AH9T9xiyWK>



Please like us on Facebook for further updates @familiesfeelingsafe

