



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by thanking you for coming to the Create afternoon on Monday, although I was unable to be there myself, I hope you found it useful to hear the updates from Miss Borgeat and enjoyed having the opportunity to see all the wonderful work your children have been doing. From September we will no longer be splitting our terms into Explore, Discover and Create and instead we will be going back to a more traditional model for our curriculum as explained by Miss Borgeat. However, we will be continuing to welcome you into school to see what we have been up to. This half term has been very busy with trips, I would like to thank the parents who emailed in to say what a wonderful time their children had. Although it is clear from the children’s faces whilst on the trips it is really lovely to receive positive feedback that I can share with staff.

Last week we were very lucky to have been selected from all of the schools in the UK to be the pilot school for the new incentive by Modeshift Stars. We are proud to have been awarded by Modeshift for an outstanding travel plan for the last two years but to have been chosen for this pilot was a real honour. Alongside Modeshift Stars representatives we had Heidi Alexander (MP) , Josh Dean (MP) and Chris Boardman CBE. Eight of our children from Year 3, 4 and 5 represented the school and took part in a travel inspection. Our children were described as an ‘absolute credit to our school’ and as someone who was there with them, I totally agree. Please see the photos further down the newsletter.

From Monday 21st July, we will be changing the way parents and carers email into school. To help streamline communication and protect staff wellbeing, all emails should now be sent to the school’s admin address: [admin@hollybush.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hollybush.herts.sch.uk). Please note that staff emails will no longer be active for parent/carer use and if you email a staff member directly, they will not be able to reply. This change supports consistent and secure communication in line with our safeguarding procedures and is now standard practice across local schools. Thank you for helping us make this transition as smooth as possible. If you have any questions or need support, the admin team will be happy to assist.

As we come to the end of another busy school year, we say a fond farewell to our brilliant Year 6 pupils. You’ve shown us what it means to be Safe, Ready and Respectful, and we know you’ll carry those Hollybush rules with you as you move on to secondary school. We’re proud of everything you’ve achieved and the kind, thoughtful young people you’ve become. Keep being amazing and don’t forget that you’ll always be part of the Hollybush family.

Sadly, we are also saying goodbye to some incredible members of our team. Mrs Butcher, who has been with Hollybush for an amazing 16 years, is moving on to her next chapter . She has been a skilled and compassionate presence throughout her time here and has shown unwavering dedication to our SEND children. Her support has helped so many children, and we thank her from the bottom of our hearts. We would like to wish her the most wonderful retirement. Miss Asenso is also moving on to be closer to home. She has been an exceptional 1:1 support, always willing to jump into any challenge and offer calm, caring guidance. Her impact on so many pupils has been brilliant, and we will miss her greatly. Mrs Smail, our SENCO, who joined us in September, originally to cover a sabbatical, but her time at Hollybush extended well beyond that and we’re so grateful it did! She has become an integral part of the team, offering outstanding support to both children and staff. Her warmth, professionalism and inclusive approach have had a lasting impact, and although we’re sad to see her go, we hope our paths cross again very soon. Mr Watkins has only been with us for a short time as a supply teacher but we would like to thank him for his hard work in Year 5 and for his dedication to the children this term. To all our leavers, staff and pupils, you’ve helped shape our school, and Hollybush will always be better because of the time you spent here.

On a personal note, I’d like to take a moment to say a sincere thank you to all our pupils, staff, parents and carers for your incredible support as I stepped into the role of Acting Headteacher for the first time. It’s truly been an honour to lead Hollybush alongside Miss Borgeat, and I feel so proud of what we’ve achieved together. This year has brought important changes, new ideas and moments of growth and I’m grateful to our dedicated team who embraced them with willingness and dedication. Hollybush is a special place, and it’s the people, our children, our families, our brilliant staff who make it so. I am excited about the future of Hollybush and look forward to continuing to embed the changes we have made alongside Mr Fisher.

Don’t forget to come to the Sports day and picnic on Monday at 10am. We will be creating a line for the Year 6 pupils to have their guard of honour as they leave Hollybush for the last time at 1:15pm, we hope you will stay to be a part of that. I hope you all have the most wonderful summer and I’ll see you on 4<sup>th</sup> in September.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Cracknell



**SAFE**

We move around school in a safe manner. We follow instructions to keep ourselves safe. We keep hands, feet and unlined wrists 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 has a right to learn.

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 admin 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><b>Step 1</b> Phase Leader EYFS-Miss White KS1- Mrs Christman KS2-Mr Chandler</p> <p><b>Step 2</b> Acting Deputy Headteacher Grace Borgeat</p> <p><b>Step 3</b> 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><a href="#">website</a></u> .

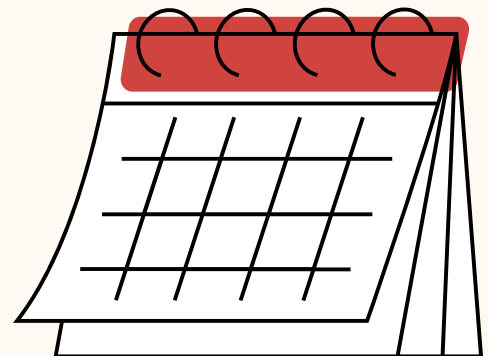
# Upcoming Events

2025  
2026

July	
Monday 21st	Sports event from 10am followed by a whole school picnic Finish at 1:15 pm

October	
Monday 6th	Flu vaccination Reception - Year 6

September	
Wednesday 3rd	Inset day
Thursday 4th	Back to school
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Tea with SLT- come and meet Mr Fisher 2:45pm
Monday 8th	Y2 Curriculum meeting Y3 Curriculum meeting
Wednesday 10th	Y1 Curriculum meeting
Thursday 11th	Y4 Curriculum meeting Y6 Curriculum meeting
Wednesday 17th	Nursery Curriculum meeting Year 5 Curriculum meeting
Thursday 18th	The Nest Curriculum meeting Reception Curriculum meeting
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 6 PGL





# Online Safety



As a parent the summer holidays can be a long time. Here are three apps that could help children have a balanced screen time this summer and a lot of fun. Some of the apps will need to be set up by parents and then used alongside a child(ren).

## **Geocaching**

Available on: Android, iOS

Cost: Free with premium plan available

Suitable for: 16+ to have an account, but younger children can use alongside parents

[Geocaching](#) is an app that gets your family outdoors to set out on a treasure hunt. The app shows the GPS coordinates of containers (called caches) that people have hidden in random places in the real world. If you haven't tried it, it's great fun!

## **GoNoodle**

Available on: Android, iOS, web browser & more

Cost: Free

Suitable for: Ages 4-10

GoNoodle is a digital platform that encourages children to get moving in upbeat, fun ways. It uses videos to guide kids through dances, exercises and games. While it's great for getting active, [GoNoodle](#) has videos for crafts and mindfulness as well.

## **Scratch**

Available on: Windows, macOS, ChromeOS, in-browser

Cost: Free

Suitable for: 8+

[Scratch](#) is a coding platform and language designed specifically for children aged 8-16. However, other ages use it due to its simplicity. It works by using drag and drop boxes to create code. Your child can design video games, animations and stories and then share them with other users on the Scratch website.

The platform is a great way for kids to begin learning coding. It also gives them a chance to express their creativity as they build stories and games.

For younger children, an app called [ScratchJr](#) is available. This version is intended for 5-7-year-olds and is available for download on iPads and Android tablets for free.

# Water Safety

Whether it's sunny days at the beach or fun in the paddling pool, children are naturally drawn to water. But with excitement comes risk. The National College has produced the following guide (next page) that brings together 10 clear, practical tips to help parents and carers protect children around water. Please do read through it.



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

### 1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.



### 2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.



### 3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.



### 4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.



### 5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.



### 6 SUPERVISION IS KEY

For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.



### 7 DON'T GO TOO FAR

When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.



### 8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED

For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.



### 9 FLOAT AND CALL 999

If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.



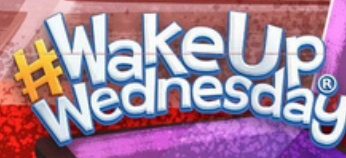
### 10 TEACH WATER SAFETY

Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart Schools', which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.



### Meet Our Expert

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.



The National College

# NO OUT SIDERS

*There are No Outsiders at Hollybush.  
Everyone is welcome in our school.  
No one is the same, but everyone is equal.*

*With the madness of the end of term, we haven't had a No Outsiders assembly over the last couple of weeks.*

*Please keep the conversation going over the Summer Holidays.*

*One thing parents can do, is build a diverse book shelf at home:*



*"She looks like me!" exclaimed 6 year old Anisha excitedly, on first seeing Rocket in Look Up. "This is my favourite book now!"  
That is the power of representation in books.*

## *Positive Representation*

*Every child should have the right and the opportunity to see themselves and their lives represented in the pages of a book. Those living in a single parent family, with black or brown skin, who identify as LGBTQ+, that have a disability, or are experiencing food poverty – all should feel represented by both characters, storylines and information in the books they read.*

*Well-written and illustrated books break down stereotypes and provide powerful representation for children. They can also help the reader see the world from a different perspective and begin to understand lives that are different from their own, becoming empathetic citizens.*

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/booklists/represents-picture-books/>

# Nursery



What a fantastic final few weeks we have had in Nursery. We had great fun making our own fruit salads, with many children trying new fruits for the first time.

We explored our favourite animals, and then went to the Wildlife park where we were very lucky to see a variety of animals. The children had great fun walking through the nocturnal house with bats flying above our heads. The red panda was a particular favourite.

The children were so excited to fill our kindness jar, something that we had started back in the spring term. We thought about what we would need for a party, made our own decorations and had a brilliant party day. We invited lots of staff members to join us and they also had a lovely time! Thank you to all the parents who supported our party with donations.

I have had the most amazing time being Nursery teacher for the past two terms. The children have made my job so much easier with their love of learning and enthusiasm for everything that is offered to them.

I will miss them all and wish them all the best for their next adventure.



# Reception

We rounded off the year with a fantastic day on our school trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park! We saw lots of different animals and even got to see some animals being fed by their zookeepers. We were very lucky to see the tiger, leopard, lynx and wolf up close to us, as well as lots of other smaller animals such as the red panda, lemurs, monkeys and meerkats. We enjoyed walking through the nocturnal house and seeing the bats - even if they were a bit smelly! We finished off the day with a play in the park and a quick nap on the coach home!

It has been an absolute pleasure to be the children's teacher over the past year (or 2!) and watch the children bloom into the incredible superstars that they are today. Thank you to all of the parents and carers for your on going support!

Wishing you all a very happy and safe summer!



# Year 1



Despite the sweltering heat, the children have continued to show dedication and enthusiasm in their learning.

Over the past few weeks, they've been diving into the world of computing—exploring sprites and commands through the Scratch program. In music, they've discovered pitch and pulse by pretending to be sea creatures, creating expressive movements to music, and crafting rhythmic patterns inspired by superhero names.

Our end-of-term trip to the zoo was a highlight! The children were absolutely brilliant—filled with excitement and wonder as they encountered the incredible animals and sounds of the zoo. A heartfelt thank you to all the parent helpers who made this memorable experience possible.

As the school year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to celebrate the growth, laughter, and learning we've shared. It has truly been a pleasure to be part of this journey with such a fantastic group of children. Finally, thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support and engagement throughout the year.



# Year 2

We had an amazing trip on Wednesday! The children were full of excitement as they explored Hertfordshire Zoo, enjoying the chance to see a wide range of animals—from curious meerkats to striking zebras. However, the clear favourite part of the day was the park and sandpit, where they could run, dig, and play freely with their friends. It was the perfect opportunity to burn off some energy and enjoy the outdoors, making it the highlight of the trip for many.

A huge thank you to all the parent helpers who joined us and made the day even more special. Your support is always appreciated!

It has been an absolute pleasure teaching Year 2 since February. We've learned so much together, shared plenty of laughs, and made wonderful memories along the way. Thank you for your continued support—it truly makes a difference. I'm looking forward to working with you and your children again in the next academic year.

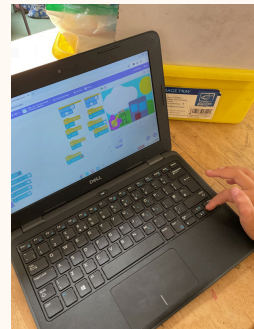
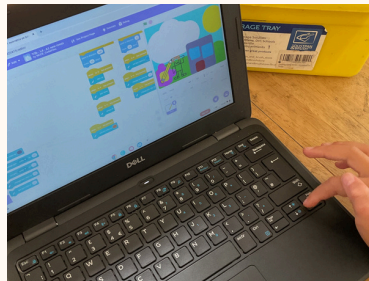
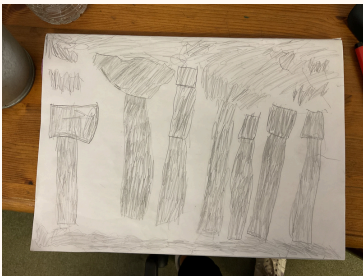
I hope you all have a lovely summer!

# Year 3

What an fantastic end to the year! The children really enjoyed their trip to Gulliver's land. They were all amazing and brave to go on the high rides especially the dragon siege which turned them upside down a few times. The children enjoyed the water rides and the roller coasters. A big thank you to all the parent helpers for accompanying us on that day, we appreciate you volunteering your time to come along with us. The children are excited to go again.

It has been an absolute pleasure to teach Year 3. They have made great progress with their learning and we are very proud of each and every one of them. Thank you to all the parents who came in for our create afternoon. The children have enjoyed the summer term, creating lots of beautiful artworks, creating a game on scratch and creating beautiful pieces of music.

I hope you all have a great summer!



# Year 4

Today (Thursday), as I watched the children having a wonderful time at Hartham for their fun swim I turned to Mrs Eley and said, "This is such an amazing group of children." She nodded in agreement. I've been incredibly fortunate to have been their teacher for this year. In true, 'No Outsiders' style the children are all different but equal. It's been great to see them all progress in so many different ways throughout the year. Last week, we had a brilliant time on our school trip to H2O Rampage. The children are still talking about it and I think a few are trying to persuade parents to take them in the school holidays - definitely worth a visit! Thank you for your support over the year. Have a great summer holiday.

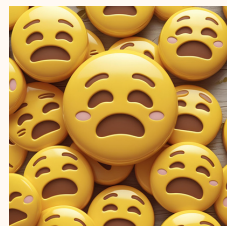
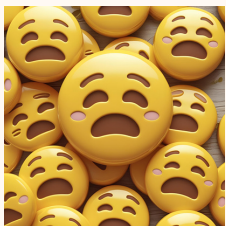


# Year 5

In Year 5, we have had a lot of fun over the past few weeks. We had an afternoon of 'art on location,' where we were able to apply our knowledge of perspective, 3D drawing and vanishing points. In PE, we have continued to develop our skills in cricket, including batting, throwing and catching. In English, we have been expressing ourselves very well, through our poetry unit and have produced some excellent work, using rhyme schemes, poetic imagery and blank verse. We got creative during our 'Create' afternoon, where we were able to apply our previous learning, to engage with further creative challenges. We also went on an exciting end of year trip to 'Gulliver's Land,' where, along with Year 3, we had lots of fun, trying out all of the rides.



## GOODBYE TO YEAR 6!



*I have had so much fun teaching year 6 this year that at times it has hardly seemed like a job! The children have risen to every challenge thrown at them from SATS, to performances to PGL and I couldn't be prouder of them. We have become almost a family as we have progressed throughout the year and I know that emotions will be running high on Monday when they exit the school gates for the last time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children for their amazing work and everything that they have brought to this school over the years. They will be sadly missed, by me more than anyone else (except perhaps Sarah!)*



# Modeshift Stars Travel Inspectors

