



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a short but very busy half term we have had! Starting off with Show Racism the Red Card workshops for Year 3-6 where our children discussed the impact of racism, learnt how to challenge racism within the community and were prepared to play an active role as citizens in an increasingly multi cultural society. This coincides with our whole school assemblies and our PSHE work around No Outsiders. At Hollybush we are proud to be a No Outsiders school where we proudly say 'All different, All welcome.'

Our term finished with the end of SATs celebrations for our Year 6's, who I must say were incredibly resilient and mature when taking their tests and myself, Mr Mallick and all the staff at Hollybush would like to recognise them for this. Seeing them approach each day and each paper with determination and confidence was all we could ask for. A huge well done to all of them.

We are seeing a growing number of children turning up late to school, School starts at 8:45am and any child arriving after that time is considered late. Lateness will count in your overall attendance and will mean your child is missing out on their learning. Please ensure that next term your child is on time for school everyday, this will mean that they do not miss the start of their lessons and that you will avoid a fine.

As you may have seen on social media there is a growing movement amongst parents to support a campaign called 'Smartphone free childhood.' You can find out more by clicking these links <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/> <https://delaysmartphones.org.uk/>.

Other local schools have been approached by parents for the support of the school. If there are any parents in our community who would like to meet to discuss this growing movement I would be open to meeting with you. Please do get in touch via the school office if you are interested in forming a working group, this is a parent led campaign which the school would support.

Sadly, today we also say goodbye to Miss Hart who is going to spend some time travelling New Zealand. We would like to thank her for all her hard work in year 5. Good luck Miss Hart we will miss you!

I hope you all have a wonderful break this May half term and we look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

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



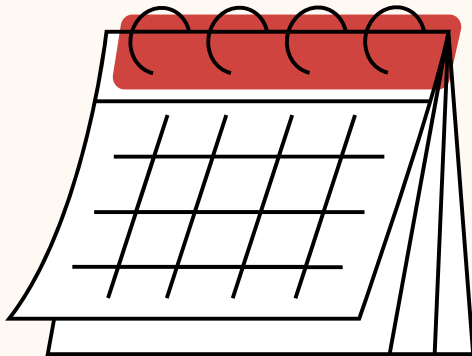
| Type of query   | Member of staff to contact  |
|---|---|
| Safeguarding/child protection   | Mrs Cracknell, Miss Borgeat, Mrs Poole and Mrs Richardson   |
| Any issues relating to your child or another child in the class             | Email class teacher to arrange a meeting, sometimes a phase leader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

# Upcoming Events

2024  
2025

| May                       |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Friday 23rd               | Inset day |
| Monday 26th - Friday 30th | Half term |

| June                    |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 10th            | New Nursery parent information evening              |
| Thursday 12th           | New Reception parent information evening            |
| Wednesday 18th          | Supporting transitions coffee morning - All welcome |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> | FOHS Colour run                                     |

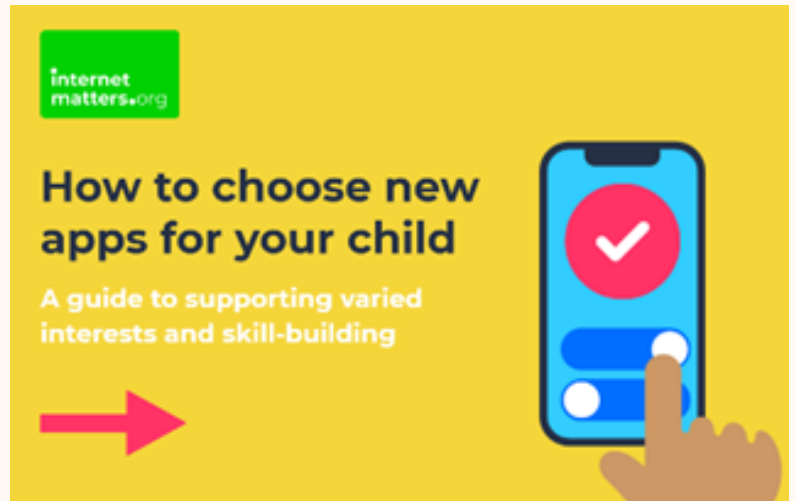
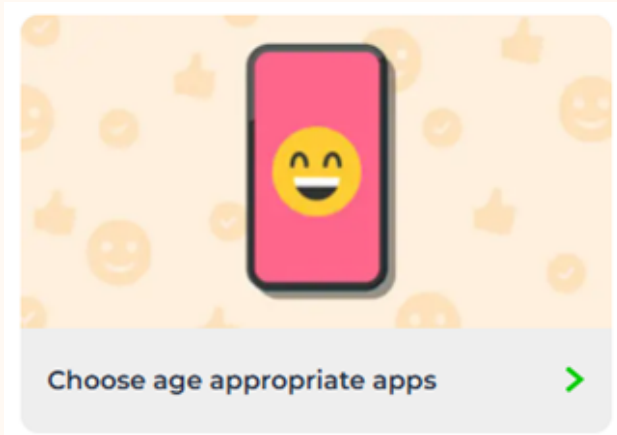


| July                     |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Nursery and Reception school trip - Shepreth Wildlife Park                    |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Rock Steady Concert   |
| Wednesday 9th            | Stay and Play - Nursery, Reception and the Nest 8:50am                        |
| Thursday 10th            | Transition day  |
| Friday 11th              | Year 1 trip - Hertfordshire zoo   |
| Friday 11th              | Year 4 and 6 trip - H2O Rampage   |
| Monday 14th              | Create afternoon Years 1-6 1:45pm   |
| Wednesday 16th           | Year 2 trip - Hertfordshire zoo   |
| Wednesday 16th           | Year 3 and 5 trip - Gulliver's theme park                                     |
| Thursday 17th            | Y6 Leavers Party Time 6:30 - 8pm  |
| Friday 18th              | Y6 Leavers assembly Time 9:15am   |
| Monday 21st              | Sports event from 10am followed by a whole school picnic<br>Finish at 1:15 pm |



# Online Safety

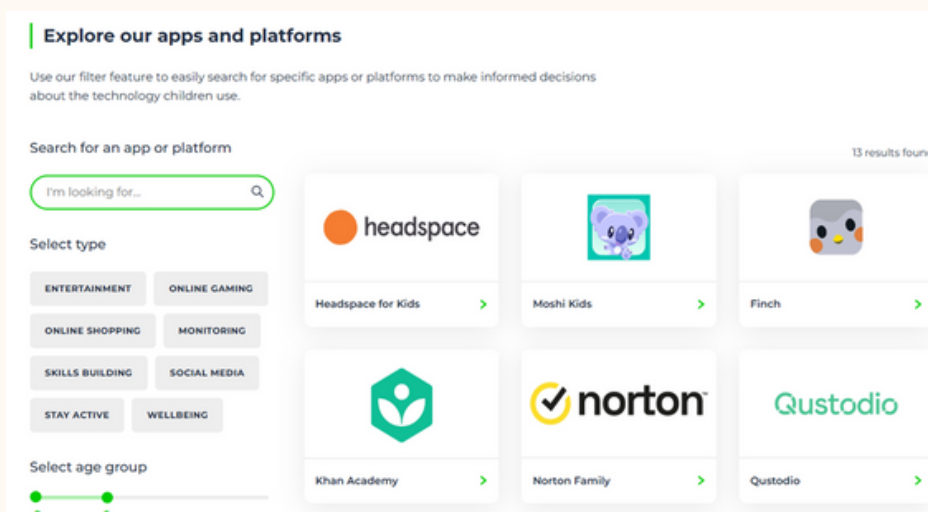
Apps are continually being developed and new ones are being released. Do you know what apps your child is using?



Many apps have age limits for good reasons. Did you know that the minimum age to use WhatsApp is 13 years old in the UK. Previously, the age limit was 16, but it was lowered to 13 in April 2024.

The Internet Matters webpage has a useful section called, '[Choose age appropriate apps](#)'. This section includes a helpful [digital book](#) which takes you through step by step how to choose apps for your child – definitely worth a look!

There is also a section where you can use a slider to select a specific age group and see what apps are appropriate for this age and below. You can then click on the app to find out more about it.



# 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:*

## Family

*In 2004 in Kenya, a tortoise called Mezea was brought in to a wildlife sanctuary. He was old, very big and had a big crack on his back so he looked different. No one wanted him as a pet.*

*In December 2004 a 2 month old baby hippo was found and people realised he was orphaned and alone. The hippo was rescued and brought to the sanctuary. The hippo was named Owen.*

*At first, Mezea was trying to get away from Owen, but Owen kept following him. Because Mezea was so slow, Owen had no problem keeping up.*

*In the morning the sanctuary staff went to check on the animals and they found Mezea asleep with Owen lying next to him, his head resting on one of Mezea's legs.*

*After several weeks Mezea was behaving as though he had adopted Owen. They went everywhere together and Mezea even started feeding Owen.*

*How do you think both the animals felt about each other?*

*Mezea is a reptile and Owen is a hippo, is this a family?*

*What do you think is the most important thing about a family?*

*Why is this about No Outsiders?*

*Which British value is this about?*



## Gender Stereotypes

*Why are some jobs thought of as jobs for women and some jobs thought of as jobs for men? Is this true? Is this right?*

# RECEPTION

Reception have had a wonderful few weeks getting creative!

We are Artists! We have been thinking about the question, 'How can I make my mark?'. We enjoyed exploring different ways to make marks such as long and short lines, thick and thin lines and straight and curvy lines, as well as different mark making tools such as crayons, chalk, felt tips and pencils. This week we completed our final masterpieces - a self portrait! We looked carefully at our faces to notice the different features before getting creative and drawing ourselves. We chose if we wanted to use realistic, or unrealistic colours in our self-portrait. Our final self-portraits were fantastic!



We are Musicians! We have been busy exploring what an instrument is, the parts of an orchestra, keeping in time with different beats before exploring some musical instruments of our own. Our favourites were the (ever so slightly squeaky!) recorders, piano and the drums. It was very loud but we had lots of fun!



# YEAR 2

Year 2 have been explore different drawing techniques. We have been looking at adding shading, texture and detail to our drawings. The children really enjoyed bringing their teddies in from home. They all took great care and time. I was really impressed with the final pieces.



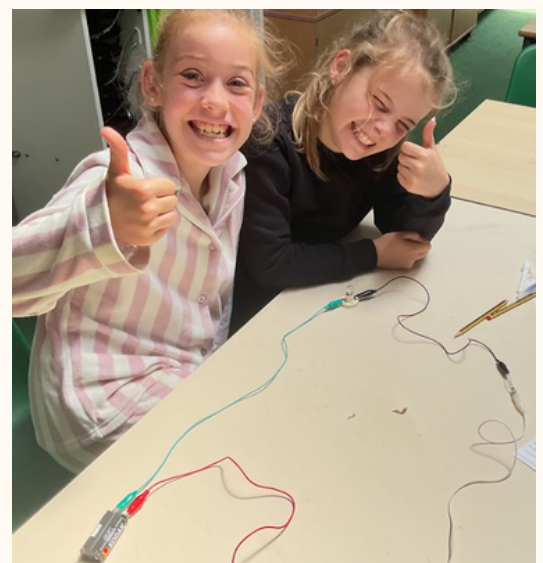
In science the children have been exploring microhabitats. The children have been very excited to take part in insect hunts in the school grounds. To finish our topic the children have planed and taken part in an experiment to answer the question 'Do woodlice prefer damp or dry conditions?'



Lastly the children took part in a cricket session. They listened beautifully and learnt new skills. The children were able to work as a team. At the end of the session their earnt points by using their new batting and fielding skills.

# YEAR 4 LEARNING

Once again, it's been a busy term for Year 4 with lots of learning taking place in and out of the classroom. The children have really enjoyed their art lessons, and some great artwork has been created. I have been very impressed with their motif (short musical phrase) development in music. Today, we had a second music lesson in our body percussion unit. The class was full of stamps, booms, clicks and claps! A highlight for many of the children has been getting the electricity kits out as they explore different electrical components, switches, insulators and conductors. Below are some pictures from a selection of lessons.



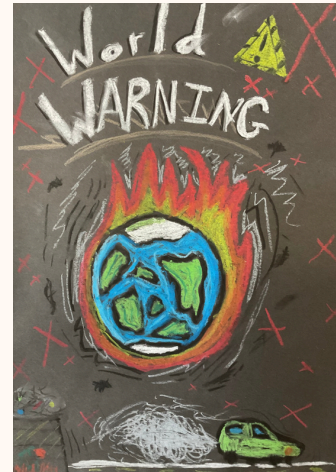
KEEP CALM  
IT'S ONLY  
SATS

# Year 6 SATS Sorted!

KEEP CALM  
IT'S ONLY  
SATS



What an amazing few weeks we have had in Year 6! Of course, we've had the dreaded SATS to deal with, but this class dealt with what could be a stressful time, admirably. From the SATS breakfast, through the tests themselves to the end of SATS treat at GRAVITY, the gang acquitted themselves with grace and poise and have done themselves, me, the school and everyone involved proud. It has not all been about SATS though, the children have also been finding their artist voices and producing artwork with a message. They have been starting to produce more excellent writing based on the book 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold, have created 3D houses in computing, enjoyed an amazing trip to Woodhall Estate and much much more! I am having such fun being their teacher, but as you can see from my photo, I'm having a hard time keeping up with them!





*Sport at*



# HOLLYBUSH

AS PE CO-ORDINATOR, IT ALWAYS PLEASES ME TO SEE HOW MUCH SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY HAPPENS AT HERE AT HOLLYBUSH. FROM THE SENSORY CIRCUITS AND HOLLYBUSH HIKE IN THE MORNINGS TO THE ACTIVE PLAY AND LEARNING AT BREAKTIMES AND IN LESSONS, THE CHILDREN ARE NEVER FAR FROM SOME FORM OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TO ENRICH THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS. YEAR 5 AND 6 HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY FORTUNATE THIS HALF TERM TO TAKE PART IN SOME ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY ENRICH EDUCATION AND TAKE PART IN SOME SPORTS THAT THEY HAVE NOT TRIED BEFORE, INCLUDING LACROSSE AND ARCHERY. OUR PE CURRICULUM CONTINUES TO COVER A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTS AND FITNESS BASED LEARNING AND I, FOR ONE HAVE PARTICULARLY ENJOYED TEACHING GOLF FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.

SPORT DOES NOT JUST HAPPEN IN SCHOOL AND THROUGH THE HEARTS AND WARE SCHOOL SPORTS PARTBERSHIP, MANY CHILDREN HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO COMPEETE AND ENJOY SPORTING OCCASIONS AWAY FROM HOLLYBUSH. THIS HALF TERM HAS SEEN YEAR 1 POP ACCROSS TO SELE TO TAKE PART IN AN AGILITY DAY WHERE THE CHILDREN SEEMED TO HAVE A GREAT TIME AND WERE COMPLETELY ENGAGED IN THE 4 ACTIVITIES ON OFFER: TENNIS, BALLS SKILLS INCLUDING DODGEBALL, ORIENTEERING AND TARGET THROWING

ALSO THIS WEEK HAS SEEN SELECTED YEAR 5 AND 6 CHILDREN TAKING PART IN A TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL HOSTED BY SARACENS AT HERTFORD RUGBY CLUB AND TODAY, THE YEAR 5 AND 6 GIRLS WILL BE VISITING PRESDALES SCHOOL TO ENJOY A FOOTBALL FESTIVAL WE WISH THEM LUCK AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT WE GET UP TO NEXT HALF TERM!