

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am coming to the end of my first full week here and am thoroughly enjoying getting to know everyone. We have such a strong staff team, and I feel privileged to be leading the school. It will take me a few more weeks to get to know all of the children. It was lovely to spend time with a small number of 'always children' this afternoon, having hot chocolate and a biscuit as part of our policy of recognising, rewarding and encouraging consistency in following the school expectations, 'the Hollybush Way'.

I am sure you will appreciate that we have a lot to do and many ambitions for the children that we want to achieve and I will be letting you know more about the priorities in the coming weeks. Working together with you is vital in achieving the best for the children. It was really good to meet some of you last week at the 'Tea with SLT' and it is our intention to repeat this regularly so that we get to know each other and have that informal communication. On a more formal note, we have specific people for you to speak with regarding different issues so please have a look at the table below.

Thank you to those of you were able to come in to the curriculum meetings with the teachers. The information has been emailed to you as a PowerPoint so that those unable to attend also have the information.

In the interest of teacher wellbeing we have reviewed the use of emails between parents and teachers. If you do send in an email for the attention of one of the teachers, or other members of staff, please send it to the office. Sarah will respond where she can and will forward it to whoever needs it, as necessary. Staff will then endeavour to acknowledge receipt of the email within two working days.

Have a great weekend.

Jeremy Fisher



Type of query	Member of staff to contact
Safeguarding/child protection	Mr Fisher, 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</p> <p>EYFS-Miss White Year 1 - 3- Mrs Christman Yea 4 - 6 -Mr Chandler</p> <p><b>Step 2</b> Deputy Headteacher Mrs Hannah Cracknell</p> <p><b>Step 3</b> Headteacher- Mr Fisher</p>
Inclusion/ Special Educational Needs	Miss Borgeat
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

2025  
2026

## September

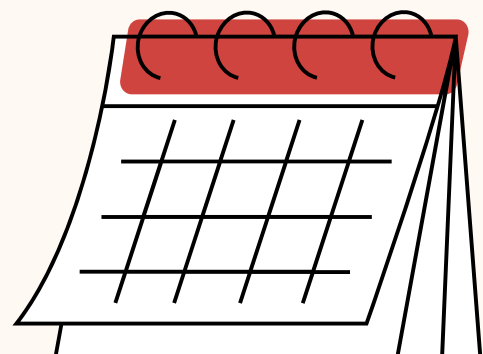
Wednesday 17th	Nursery Curriculum meeting Year 1 Curriculum meeting Year 5 Curriculum meeting
Thursday 18th	The Nest Curriculum meeting Reception Curriculum meeting
Wednesday 24th	Y4 Development day
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the Teacher
Thursday 25th	Meet the Teacher
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 6 PGL

## October

Monday 6th	Flu vaccination Reception - Year 6
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 girls tag rugby event
Monday 13th	Y2 School trip - Mountfitchet Castle
Wednesday 15th	Whole school African drumming and dance workshop
Thursday 16th	Nursery, Reception & The Nest - Stay and Play
Thursday 16th	Y4 visit to The Verulamium Museum
Wednesday 22nd	Year 6 Cross Country
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Tales together
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Half Term

## November

Thursday 13th	Year 6 School trip to Hertford Museum
Wednesday 19th	Cinema trip Year 4 / 5 and 6
Wednesday 19th	Cinema trip Reception
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Inset Day - School closed
Thursday 27th	Cinema trip Year 1 / 2 and 3



# Tales together

We would like to invite all parents to come and read with their children on the following dates:

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

Time: 8.40 am - 9am



# Online Safety

Over the next two weeks, teachers will be having their curriculum meetings with parents. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher and find out some really useful information. One of the slides includes some tips for keeping your child safe online.

The contents of the slide has been copied below:

- Children must not publish images of other pupils
- Please ensure your child is using their device under your supervision  
Minimum ages for Instagram (13+), WhatsApp (16+), Facebook (13+), Snapchat (13+)
- We will contact you if we suspect a pupil is misusing their device
- Talk about your child's eSafety with them so they know they can come to you or any school adult with problems
- It is important that pupils feel safe to discuss worries and that they will not lose access to their device if they do make a mistake
- Please monitor the time and content of your child's online life

A question that often gets asked is 'How much time should my child spend online?' Technology experts actually don't think there is a perfect time but say it's more important to focus your time online well. The time children spend online should just be one small part of their day alongside other activities like going to school, eating meals, doing homework, playing sports, seeing friends, chatting with family and much more. Here are some top tips for helping children manage their time online well. You will need to help them with this!

- 1. Finish homework and chores before going online.**
- 2. Don't have devices charging in your child's bedroom overnight.**
- 3. Tell your child not to promise their friends they will be online at the same time as them.**
- 4. Put devices down whilst they charge - this is a time for a break from them!**
- 5. Plan breaks from online activities and stick to them.**
- 6. Maintain a conversation with your child about their online activities - show an interest.**

# NO OUT SIDERS

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



## Flags

*We had our first No Outsiders assembly of the year, and it was great to see that lots of children had remembered what No Outsiders means.*

*Abigail in Year 3 said 'It means that you don't leave anyone out in a game'.*

*Azariyah in Year 1 said 'It doesn't matter what your hair is like, or the colour of your skin, you can come to this school'.*

*Our assembly focused on this art work from artist 'Fliss', showing the outline of a school made up with different flags. We discussed what it might be showing, then looked at the make up of our school, and how great it was that we have so many families from different countries here.*

## Our school represented by flags!



# Nursery

We are so pleased with how all of the children have settled into Nursery. It feels like that they have always been there!

The children have spent this week exploring all of the areas of the Nursery and trying out many different activities both inside and outside.

We have been learning the routines and expectations of Nursery and even after this short space of time the children are able to follow them! Miss G and I are very excited for this year in Nursery.



# Reception

What a brilliant start we've had to our year in Reception! It has been wonderful to see the children coming in with big smiles on their faces every morning. The children have been very busy getting to know new adults and new friends, learning new routines and expectations, and exploring new environments inside and outside. We can't wait to see what fun this year brings!



# The Nest

The Children in the Nest have had an amazing start to the new school year.

They have settled back into routine and have been exploring inside and outside especially the new area in the Nest garden.



## Year 1

Year 1 have settled beautifully into their new routine, they have learnt all the rules of the new class and are experts in tidying up! I am really proud of how well they have settled into their learning and they have written some beautiful work in English about the Naughty Bus. We have been focusing on remembering our capital letters and full stops. In maths we have been focusing on number formation and counting on. In computing we have learnt all about what the word technology means and can identify technology within the classroom and how it can help us. Keep up the wonderful work year 1. What an exciting year we will have and I am looking forward to getting to know you all more!

Miss Deamer

# Year 2

Welcome back to Year 2!

It has been wonderful to see all children's happy faces as they arrive to school this week. They have settled in well adjusting to the slight changes to routine and environment. We have spent time this week thinking about what rules are and why we have them, linking this to our school rules and safe adults. In music, the children have enjoyed getting to explore the musical instruments and dynamics, thinking of how they can make sounds to represent what actions animals do. In science, we have been building upon the knowledge we gained last year and have been learning about the life processes of living things to help us to identify and sort things that are alive, once alive (dead) or were never alive.

It will be a busy but exciting year ahead, keep up the hard work!

# Year 3

It was lovely to welcome the children back after the summer break. As the new academic year begins, it's been wonderful to see them settling into their new routines, reconnecting with friends, and diving into exciting new learning opportunities.

The children have shown great enthusiasm for our new topics, especially in science, where they've been fascinated by the human skeleton. They've particularly enjoyed learning the scientific names for the bones and have impressed us with their curiosity and eagerness to explore.

# Year 4

It's been great to be back in the classroom and what a super class I have. I've been so impressed with the children's drive and eagerness to learn new things. On Wednesday, we kicked started our design and technology lesson with a food tasting session! Today, we got out the maths equipment and enjoyed making numbers up to 10,000 and solving problems.



# Year 5

Welcome back to the Autumn Term from all of Year 5, and what a great start we have had!

As you will be well aware, your children are growing up so fast, just over the six weeks of not seeing them they appear to have changed so much both physically and in particular their maturity.

They came back ready to learn and easily slipped back into the routines that they are so used to.

They have adapted well to having two teachers, who come in fresh faced every Monday or Thursday, refreshed from their extra time at home !!

Next Wednesday will be our Curriculum meeting which will be at 2.50 pm in the year 5 classroom, where we will inform you of what having a child in this year group will entail. If there are any questions which you would like to ask we will address these during the meeting or you can forward them on to our school admin.

We feel so proud of our children and look forward to what we can all achieve together over the next academic year.



# YEAR 6!



Wow, those six weeks went by pretty quickly, didn't they? Well I have to say, I'm glad to have some structure back and I'm so happy to be teaching this lot for the third time. We had so much fun before and I can see no reason why this time would be any different. I know we have SATS and this is their last year at Hollybush, but that is all the more reason to make it the best year ever. I am so looking forward to everything we have in store. Roll on PGL!

# FOHS

## Friends of Hollybush School

FOHS is made up of a group of parents who are committed to providing support to the school through fundraising

The money raised by FOHS goes a long way to helping the children have experiences they may not otherwise get the chance to experience. Some examples of how they have helped in recent years are:

Funding the Year 6 end of year SAT's trip

Funding the Year 6 leavers books

Generously providing funding to allow every child to attend the local pantomime at a reduced cost

Providing much needed I pads / Chromebooks to enhance learning in the classroom

Providing resources such as a cooking box

FOHS are in danger of having to fold and we need your help.

We need someone new to come and lead our team

Can you spare a few hours a month?

Do you have good organisational skills?

Do you want to be more involved with the school community?

Do you have good fundraising ideas?

If you answered yes then we need you.

Full support from the school will be given as well as the knowledge of all the existing FOHS members

If you are interested please contact Sarah in the office for more information.