

This has been another busy week at Hollybush. I have enjoyed getting further involved but also stepping back and seeing how well things are working. I am pleased that the curriculum work that started before the Summer is working well and children are engaged in activities that capture their attention as well as enabling progress.

I am very interested in the reading curriculum and feel that one of the most important things we can give children is fluency and comprehension with reading. Reading is so important in my life, as a hobby and an access to information.

I have seen the younger children becoming more familiar with the routines for their phonics lessons enabling them to develop the different skills that underpin reading. I have also seen how fluency and comprehension is a focus of the whole class reading in key stage 2.

I am very grateful to the volunteers who give up time to come in to hear children read.

I have seen a number of maths lessons and have seen how the White Rose Scheme is being used here. We have just purchased new workbooks for the children that are part of the scheme. Teachers are now introducing them and I hope they will not only reduce preparation time for the teachers but also provide the children with attractive books, that include many of the visuals that are used to help them to develop their mathematical skills and understanding.

I have found in the past that some parents find the way we now teach maths to be very different to their own experiences and if parents would find it useful we could plan some parent workshops to share how we teach maths now. If this is of interest please let staff know.

This week I have also had my first meeting with the school governing body and I am looking forward to working with them in developing our vision for the school. On that note, I was asked this week if I would build on the success of our 'tea with SLT' by organising an opportunity for parents and carers to find out more about my thoughts on the vision for the school and preparation for Ofsted. As this seemed like a good idea, I would like to invite you in for a brief informal discussion on Thursday 6th November.

As well as all of the work in school, I had the privilege of being involved in some collaborative work with other headteachers and leaders in the Herts and Ware consortium. The aim is to share expertise and knowledge. Hollybush was the focus school last term and will be again.

Unfortunately, some children have displayed behaviour that is not in line with our aims and this needs to stop so that all feel safe. I will be working to clarify certain elements of our behavior policy. From now on, if a child deliberately or repeatedly hurts others in their class, they will immediately spend time away from that class as a protective consequence. The length of time will depend on the individual circumstances and impact on others.

I know that Y6 are very excited about PGL. No wonder considering the exciting activities that they will get involved in. Do look out for the photos on Instagram. As Sarah is one of the accompanying staff, please bear with us next week, if there are times that the office is less staffed than usual.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mr 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

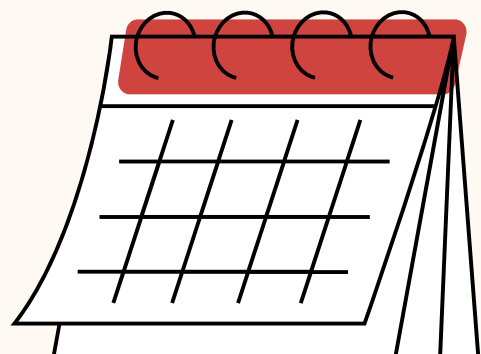
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 6 PGL
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## October

Monday 6th	Flu vaccination Reception - Year 6
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 girls tag rugby event
Friday 10th	Hello Yellow day
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 6th	Open forum with SLT
Thursday 13th	Year 6 School trip to Hertford Museum
Tuesday 18th	Cinema trip Year 4 / 5 and 6
Wednesday 19th	Cinema trip Reception
Wednesday 19th	Movie morning Nursery and the Nest
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.*

*In our assemblies in the last two weeks we have covered:*

## Rugby world cup

*We learnt about the current women's England world cup rugby team and what they are achieving at the moment and discussed how important it is that girls and women are supported in sports.*

*We watched this video and talked about how it was important to follow your dreams, even if they seem difficult.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKjr4LBI7eM>



## Books

*A community bookshop in Southampton had to move because the rent went up and they could not afford to stay in their building. They managed to raise funds to buy an old building 150 metres away but had to find a way of moving their 2000 books.*

*The local community came to the rescue, lots of people turned up on the day and stood in a line stretching from the old shop to the new shop. to move the books.*

*Community is so important. What can we do to support our local community?*

# Nursery

Nursery have had a fantastic time thinking about where we live and what we see on our way to school.

We also made houses using recycled materials. We have been exploring Forest School, climbing, jumping and making tea in the kitchen!



# Year 1

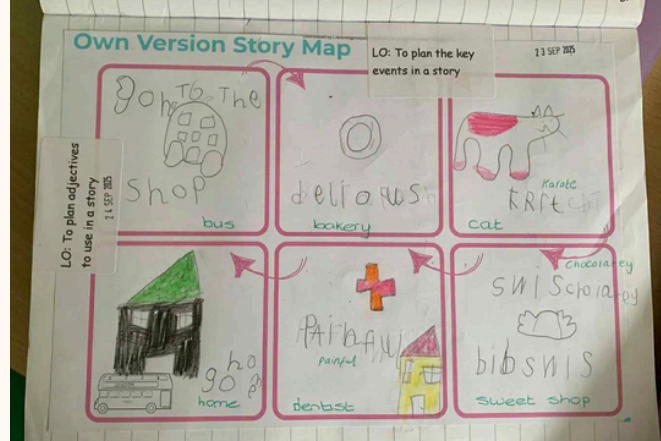
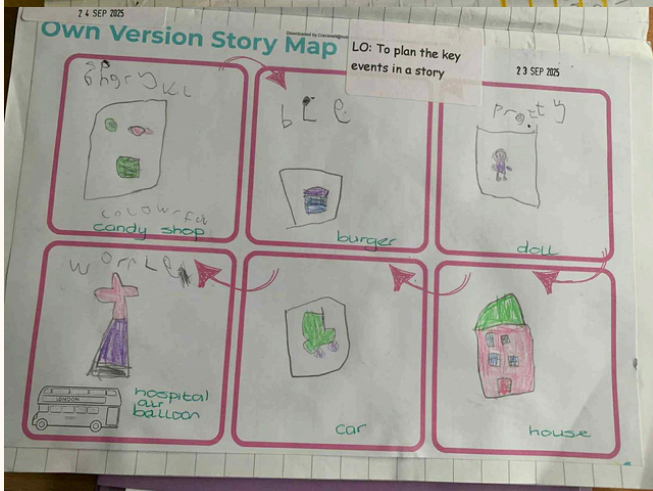
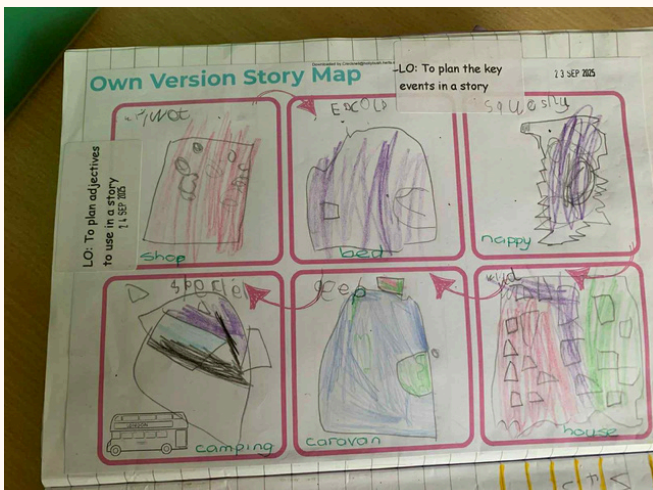
Year 1 has had an excellent week!

In Maths, they have been developing many number skills, including understanding concepts such as 'less than', 'greater than', and 'equal to'.

In Science, they have been exploring the different seasons and what the trees look like during each season. In Music, they have been dancing and clapping their way through beats and learning about different pitches.

In PE, they have been practising the fundamentals and developing their ball skills.

In Literacy, they have been planning and beginning to write their own stories based on the Naughty Bus. They have incredible imaginations!



# Year 3

Year 3 had a fantastic time at the Sports Development afternoon at Sele School! The event was packed with energy and excitement as pupils took part in a variety of fun and challenging activities designed to build teamwork, coordination, and confidence. They enthusiastically tried their hand at orienteering, basketball, and football skills, showing great determination and enthusiasm throughout.



Year 3 have been diving into the fascinating world of the Stone Age, exploring how early humans lived, hunted, and built their communities. As part of their learning, they've been discovering the difference between primary and secondary sources—using real artefacts, cave paintings, and archaeological findings to understand what life was like thousands of years ago. They had lots of interesting ideas about what the artefacts were used for!

# Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy and exciting couple of weeks!

In English, the children have been writing some wonderful stories this week based on the book Firebird. They have been showcasing their creativity and imagination.

In Geography, they have been exploring mountain ranges and learning fascinating facts about how they are formed.

In PE, the class has been developing their netball skills, enjoying both teamwork and healthy competition.

Science has been especially fun, with hands-on experiments investigating filtration and how materials can be separated. They have learnt about soluble and insoluble this week.

In RE, they have learnt about the Gospel and how that means good news. The children then created their own Gosptel according to Year 5.

It has been a fantastic fortnight of learning, and we are very proud of their enthusiasm and hard work!

