

Travel awards

We are Winners!



Hollybush not only received recognition for being the Hertfordshire School of the Year for our Outstanding Annual Travel Plan, but also for being the East of England Winner.

This is absolutely amazing!

Schools I have previously worked in, have taken part in the Modeshift Travel Plan competition but have not received Outstanding, let alone being regional winners. This is due to the fantastic work on promoting sustainable travel. Well done to the staff, especially Sarah and also to every parent who has encouraged your child or children to walk, cycle, scoot, or use public transport. Four of our travel champions will be invited to go with staff to London in March for the National Awards

School Council: The School Council Elections took place last week. What a fantastically well organised event it was and congratulations to all of those who were elected. Josh Dean MP came to help announce the winners and he told the children how impressed he was with the engagement in democracy and willingness to take part that was demonstrated. Next March, the School Council will be visiting Parliament and hopefully will have a school council meeting with Josh Dean MP in the House of Parliament.



Trips: Some great trips have taken place this half term, Mountfitchett Castle, Verulamium, the Science Museum in London and the Y6 PGL . These trips take lots of planning by staff, plus the support of parents but are worth so much for the experiences and enjoyment they give to the children. I thoroughly enjoyed going out with Year 5 this week and being awed by the wonderful exhibits at the Science Museum, whilst enjoying the great company and constant comments and questions from the children. The space exhibit was brilliant and we were also lucky to be able to visit a few other galleries.



Drumming and dance workshop: The children had a very interactive, enjoyable and noisy time taking part in African drumming or dance workshops last week.

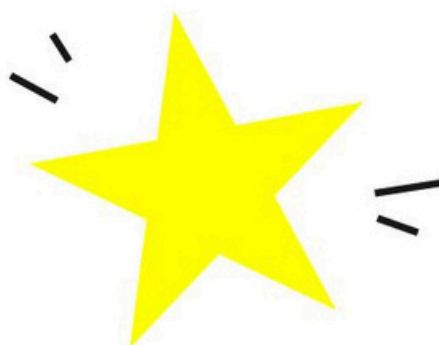
Tales together: Seeing so many parents reading with their children in school today was brilliant. As you will all come to realise, reading is something of an obsession with me (as an educator as well as an individual). According to research, key factors in developing fluency as a reader are the support and encouragement of others as well as having positive role models. Every time a parent reads to or with a child makes a difference. Thank you also to the reading volunteers who give up time each week to come in and support children with their reading.

Have a lovely half term week, Jeremy Fisher

You're amazing!

YOUNGMINDS

**Hello
Yellow**
FRIDAY 10 OCT



This is to certify that

Hollybush Primary School

has helped show young people they're
not alone with their mental health by raising:

£

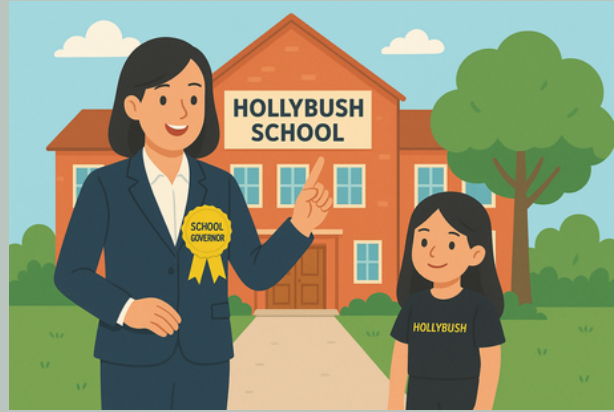
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Date:

Nas Morley, Director of Income Generation

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>Step 1 Phase Leader</p> <p>EYFS-Miss White Year 1 - 3- Mrs Christman Yea 4 - 6 -Mr Chandler</p> <p>Step 2 Deputy Headteacher Mrs Hannah Cracknell</p> <p>Step 3 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> .

Governing Board Update: Helping Hollybush Thrive



Our Hollybush Governing Board is full of energy, enthusiasm and optimism for the coming months following our first meeting of the new school year.

We on the Board are volunteers who work with the headteacher and senior leadership team to drive the strategic development of the school and raise standards of achievement.

This includes:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Ultimately, we're there to provide oversight and ensure accountability - supporting staff to help the school be the best it can for its pupils. It was great for all governors to formally meet Mr Fisher for the first time and hear more about his ethos and approach. We look forward to supporting him, Mrs Cracknell and others over the coming year.

Become a Hollybush Governor

Could you use your skills to help our school be the best it can for its children?

We're looking to recruit new governors to our friendly and professional Governing Board. Being a governor at Hollybush is a commitment but also a privilege. It requires time and energy, but also allows you to make a real contribution to the success of the school. You'll take on new responsibilities and gain meaningful insights and experiences, as you support the senior leadership team to drive the school forward and achieve its goals.

This is a voluntary role and you don't need any experience of working in schools - nor do you need to be a Hollybush parent or already connected with the school. You also won't have to be involved in the daily running of the school - this role is all about providing oversight and acting as a 'critical friend' to those on the ground.

Wherever your skills lie, we will be able to put them to best use! If you're interested in hearing more, please contact David Craddock (Chair of the Governing Board) at craddock@hollybush.herts.sch.uk



Upcoming Events

2025
2026

October

Monday 27th - Friday 31st

Half Term

November

Thursday 6th

Open forum with SLT

Tuesday 11th

Year 1 Phonics Stay and Learn

Thursday 13th

Year 6 School trip to Hertford Museum

Friday 14th

EYFS and The Nest Nursery Rhyme Performance

Tuesday 18th

Cinema trip Year 4 / 5 and 6

Wednesday 19th

Cinema trip Reception

Wednesday 19th

Movie morning Nursery and the Nest

Friday 21st

Inset Day - School closed

Thursday 27th

Cinema trip Year 1 / 2 and 3

December

Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd

Book fair

Monday 1st

Decorations day

Thursday 11th

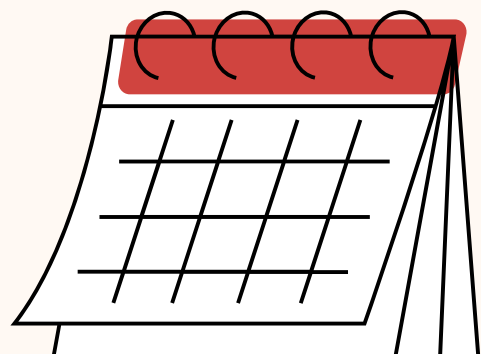
Y6 Carol singing at Carleton Court 7:15pm

Monday 15th

Rock Steady Concert

Friday 19th

Tales together



Christmas Dates



Wednesday 3rd December - Years 1 / 2 and 3 Christmas play. 2pm



Thursday 4th December - Years 1 / 2 and 3 Christmas play. 9am



Friday 5th December - Whole School Pantomime



Monday 8th December - Year 4 / 5 and 6 Carols 2pm



Tuesday 9th December - EYFS and The Nest Sing and Sign 9am



Wednesday 10th - Year 4 / 5 and 6 Carols 9am



Thursday 11th December - Christingle Time to be confirmed



Friday 12th December - Whole School Christmas Dinner

More information will follow
after half term



Online Safety

Over half-term your child may find themselves spending a little bit more time on their screen. Do you know what they're doing looking at? What games they're playing - are they appropriate for their age? Who they're talking to? Have you ensured privacy settings are switched on? There are many things to think about when allowing children to have access to the internet. Some helpful [resources](#) for parents and carers from Childnet

In one of our recent Y4 computing lessons the children looked at whether information online is real or not. Much of it is and the world wide web is a great source of information. I'm sure we'll all be Googling over half-term. However, there's a lot of misinformation (fake news that is created and spread by a **MIS**take – by someone who doesn't realise that it's false and disinformation.) Disinformation is fake news that is created and spread deliberately – by someone who knows full well that it's false. We looked at a website produced by the BBC which helps children to make informed judgements about online information. It's called [Other Side of the Story](#). If you scroll down there's some fun quizzes to have a go at.

Other Side of the Story

Helping you navigate fake news and misinformation and be more critical and curious about what you see and share online.

Part of [Trending](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

What can The Celebrity Traitors teach us about unconscious bias?

More

- When do the clocks change, and what's the Coldplay connection?
- Understanding afro hair: Myths, truths and why it matters
- The monthly AI or Real quiz: October 2025
- Has the AI dead celebs trend gone too far?
- Myths about pizza and the facts behind them

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:



Last week, we focused on our school council elections.

We spoke about democracy, fair voting systems, and respecting the outcomes of the elections.

We were lucky enough to be joined by Josh Dean to celebrate our elected councillors!

It is great that as part of our council, we have newly elected 'No Outsiders Champions' to keep spreading the message and promoting our inclusive culture in school.

This week we focused on families. Do all families need to look the same? What makes a family? Is it how they look or how they behave?

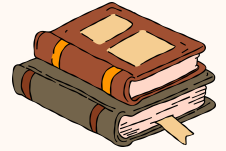
This image is of Lucy & Maria Aylmer, born in 1997. They are twins, but look very different.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIUK2KSbvvI>

This allowed us to have some great discussions about families and inclusion.



Staff book review



Many moons ago when I was training to be a teacher, one of my colleagues who became a friend read this poetry book to her class and it totally inspired me. We studied it in depth and analysed its humour and I soon realised – I want to wear the colour purple when I'm old!

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.
You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things in boxes.
But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.
But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

The poem, originally titled "Warning" by Jenny Joseph, is about an imagined future life of rebellious joy in old age, where the speaker plans to wear mismatched purple and red, spend their pension on luxuries, and perform childish acts like sitting on the pavement and running a stick along railings.

Written when she was in her 20s, the poem contrasts this future freedom with the expected, respectable behaviour of her youth and has become one of Britain's most beloved poems.

As I consider how the speaker plans for old age, and the poem outlines a future where she will act in ways that are considered inappropriate for her current life, I feel another WARNING coming.....

I am getting very close to this point! So, in the future when you see me wearing the colour purple please remember, once I was a teacher who demonstrated expected, respectable behaviour!!!

Donna Botterman



Nursery

Nursery have been very busy!

We have been asking the question 'What is the weather today?' and exploring all different types of weather.

We read the book 'Whatever next!' and make our own rockets to visit the Moon!

We really enjoyed our African drumming workshop, we sang and drummed along to the music.

Exploring pumpkins has been great fun, we didn't know that they came in so many shapes and sizes!



The Nest

Over the past few weeks the children in The Nest have been exploring Harvest and Autumn.

We have explored various harvest vegetables, noticing their appearance, texture and scent. Afterwards the children enjoyed cutting up the harvest vegetables and using them during our outside explore and learn time to create a cold vegetable soup.

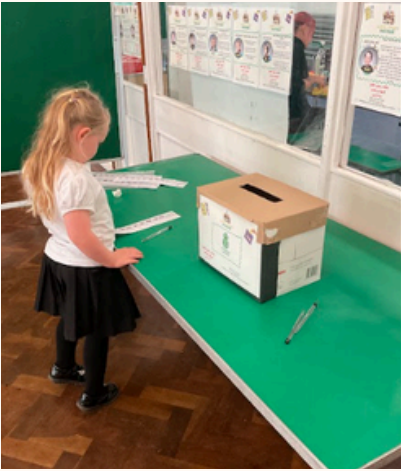
The children embarked on an autumn treasure hunt with their family at the weekend, bringing in their treasure to share with everyone. We explored the different items and looked at the textures of spiky, smooth and shiny. The children had a wonderful time using the acorns to roll in paint mark making and adding leaves to the large dinosaurs in the garden so that they could hear the leaves crunch beneath the dinosaur's feet.

We have finished this half term with a halloween themed week, the children have been looking at the different sized pumpkins, big and small. Hammering pegs into the pumpkins, creating some halloween art and finishing the week exploring the inside of a pumpkin.

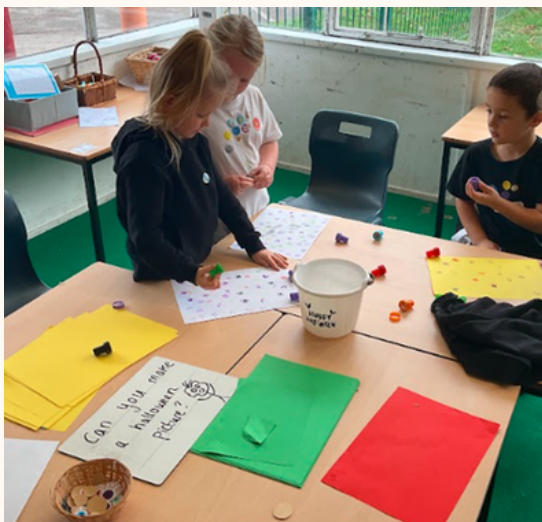


Year 1

Well, what a wonderful half-term Year 1 has had and what a pleasure it has been! Last week, they had the chance to vote in their school council elections, which they seemed to really enjoy. It was lovely to see them all eager to vote.



Year 1 took part in an African Drumming workshop, they all joined in and had such a blast playing the drums whilst learning the different beats.



A few snaps from our Halloween treat afternoon, we all had a ball. I hope you all have a safe and happy half term from Miss Deamer.

Year 3

Year 3 had an unforgettable experience during their African drumming workshop! The children were captivated by the vibrant rhythms and energetic beats as they learned to play traditional djembe drums. Led by a talented percussionist, the session introduced them to the cultural significance of drumming in African communities, while encouraging teamwork, listening skills, and creativity. The room was alive with sound and smiles as pupils explored call-and-response patterns and repeated rhythms as a group. It was a joyful celebration of music and culture that left everyone buzzing with excitement.



We have been exploring our artistic talents through a delightful watercolour landscape project. Inspired by scenes from nature, the children experimented with blending colours, layering washes, and using different brush techniques to capture skies, hills, and trees. Each painting reflected their unique perspective and creativity, with soft hues and imaginative compositions bringing their landscapes to life. To conclude the unit, the children created a final piece inspired by Hertford Castle, using their watercolour skills to depict the historic landmark with charm and detail. They were inspired by an artist to use black pen to add detail to their work. The results were stunning, and the pupils were proud to showcase their work .



Year 5

Music

Year 5 have been learning all about Blues music this half term. The children explored the features of the Blues, listened to some examples and even began creating their own pieces of music using the Blues scale. They have really enjoyed experimenting with rhythm and improvisation.



African Drumming Workshop

The children took part in a fantastic African drumming workshop where they learned traditional rhythms, song and dance. Year 5 threw themselves into the experience with great enthusiasm and had a brilliant time performing together.



Science Museum Visit

Year 5 had an exciting visit to the Science Museum, which linked perfectly to our English work on Hidden Figure and our learning about space. The children travelled on the train and the underground, representing the school beautifully with their excellent behaviour. At the museum, they explored the space gallery, discovered more about NASA, astronauts and the history of space travel. They enjoyed other aspect of the museum; engineers, mathematics and flight. It was a fantastic day, full of curiosity, inspiration and new learning.

