



Christmas 2025 @ Hollybush

Christmas at Hollybush has been a lot of fun. It has been a delight to see the children enjoying themselves I have been vey pleased to see how staff have included children of all abilities and have been proud of the children’s efforts and behaviour.



Well done to the Rock Steady Stars for the progress they are making and for their recent performances..

Thank you for the Christmas cards and gifts. I look forward to seeing everyone after the break.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Fisher



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

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> .

Upcoming Events

2025
2026

January

Monday 5 th	Back to school
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February

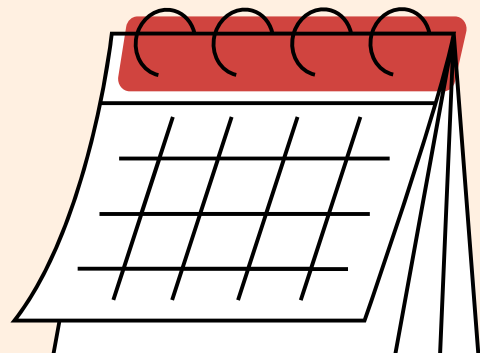
Friday 6 th	Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony camp
Friday 13 th	Tales together
Friday 13 th	End of half term finish normal time
Monday 23 rd	Inset day - School closed
Tuesday 24 th	Back to school

March

Monday 2 nd	Y6 Bike ability - all week
Monday 23 rd	Rock steady concert
Thursday 26 th	Y5 trip to Knebworth House
Friday 27 th	Tales together
Friday 27 th	End of term 1:15pm finish

April

Monday 13 th	Everyone back to school
Tuesday 28 th	Y1 visit to Hertford Museum



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 assembly this week we have covered:



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This photo is from last Christmas. It shows Erin the mum and her boys. She says, "7 of my boys, all family, all loved".

When these men were boys, they all came to England looking for a home. They were all alone. They needed someone to love them and take care of them and so Erin became their mum in England.



Bring 'No Outsiders' to your house this Christmas!

Try some of these activities at home:

1. Create a "Different Together" Family Bauble

Make or decorate a bauble showing something unique about each family member—interests, personality, culture, favourite holiday traditions.

Message: We all bring something special.

2. Share a Story From Another Culture

Choose a winter celebration book (e.g., Hanukkah, Diwali, Lunar New Year) and read it together.

Talk about: "What is the same about how families celebrate?"

Message: Different celebrations, shared joy.



3. Kindness Countdown Calendar

Make a simple 12-day or 24-day countdown with daily acts of kindness: smiling at someone new, helping a neighbour, playing with someone you don't usually play with.

Message: Small actions make a big difference.



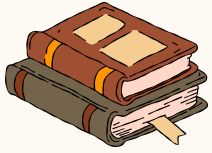
4. Make a "Welcome Wreath"

Create a wreath using paper hands traced from each family member. On each hand write a word that welcomes others: hello, come in, join us, friend, you belong.

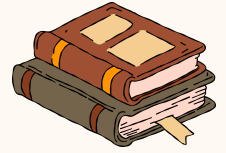
Hang it on the door to show everyone is welcome.

Message: Our home is a welcoming place.





Staff book review



By Mrs Cracknell

With Christmas right around the corner, I wanted to share the story that's always brought festive fun into my home: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* by Dr. Seuss.

First published in 1957, has been a favorite of mine since I was little.

No matter how often I read it, the fun rhymes and cheerful illustrations never fail to lose their charm. What I love most is how beautifully the story reads out loud. Dr. Seuss's bouncy rhymes tumble off the page, making it impossible not to get swept up in the excitement (I always have to remind myself not to speak too loudly, as I often get carried away in my "performance"). Even now, I catch myself smiling at the familiar lines. It's one of those books that never loses its magic, much like *The Cat in the Hat*.

Sharing it with my own children and the classes I have taught has made it even more special. Children love seeing the Grinch change, he starts off so grumpy but you just can't stop yourself liking him! It quickly becomes one of those books they ask for again and again, especially in December.

Beneath all the fun, though, is a lovely message. The story reminds us that Christmas isn't about the presents or decorations, but about kindness, love, and being together. As the Grinch himself realises: "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"

And that's why I keep coming back to it, year after year. It's not just a book for me, it's a piece of Christmas magic, one that brings my family together, makes us laugh, and reminds us of what really matters.

I hope you all have the most wonderful Christmas, and that you find some time to share your favorite Christmas stories.





Star readers



Year 3

Robyn

Shay

Elizabeth

Ashley

Asha



Year 4

Rocco

Darcey

Finlay

Lewis

Jake

Ronan

Hasan

Ava

Maisie

Maria



Year 5

Riya

Mia

Mylo

David

Jake T

Chloe

Ruzhdi



Year 6

Adam

Riyad

Gina

Nieve

Ruby

Connie

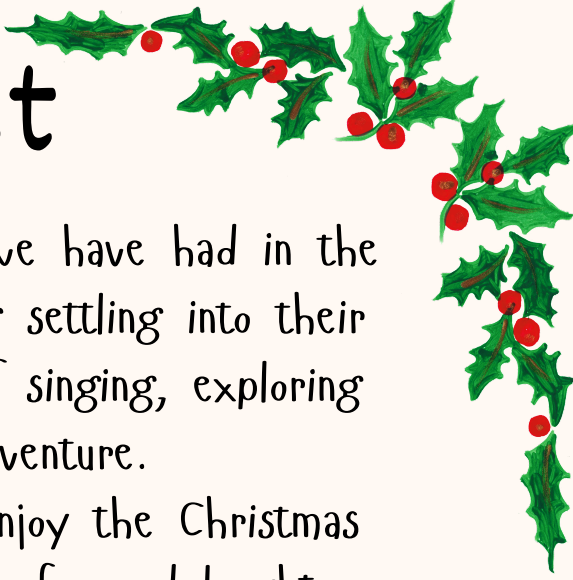
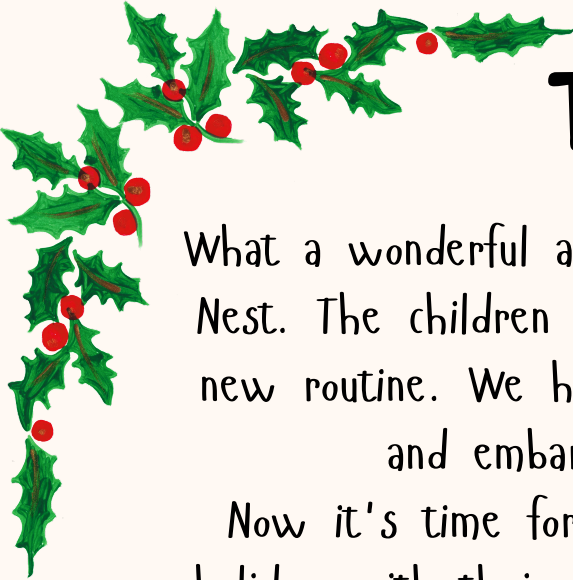
Cait

Ylli



Well done
everyone





The Nest

What a wonderful and exciting term we have had in the Nest. The children have been amazing settling into their new routine. We have enjoyed lots of singing, exploring and embarking on a new adventure.

Now it's time for the children to enjoy the Christmas holiday with their families, filled with fun and laughter, sharing those special moments together.

We would like to wish you all a merry christmas and a very happy new year!

Nursery

What an amazing first term the Nursery Class has had. For lots of our children this was their first experience of being in a setting and we have been so impressed with how everyone has settled.

We have enjoyed all the new things we have been learning about and are looking forward to lots more learning next term.

The children are more than ready for a Christmas break, we wish all of our families a happy and restful holiday.

Have a fantastic Christmas and a Happy New Year and we cannot wait to see you in 2026!



Reception

What a wonderful Autumn term we have had! It has been so lovely to see the children come in to school with big smiles on their faces every day, ready to learn and explore with their friends. We have learnt lots of new things together, shared lots of fun and laughter, and tried our best in everything we do. We can't wait to see what next term will bring!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2026!



Year 1

Well done, Year 1, for all your amazing hard work and super effort this term!

You have made wonderful progress in your reading, writing, and Maths, and you have impressed us with how well you listen, try your best, and help one another.

We are especially proud of the way you have grown in confidence, independence, and kindness throughout the term. You should be very proud of everything you have achieved.

Have a lovely, restful Christmas filled with fun, laughter, and special time with your families, and we can't wait to see you all again in the new year, ready for more exciting learning! 🌲 ✨

Year 2

As we come to the end of a busy and joyful term, we would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The children have worked so hard and brought so much sparkle to our classroom—thank you for your continued support.



Year 3

What a wonderful but busy term it has been in Year 3! I am so proud of how hard the children have worked and how much they have grown in confidence. As we get ready for the Christmas holidays, I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned rest, lots of laughter, and special time with family and friends.

Thank you for your enthusiasm, your curiosity, and your brilliant smiles each day Year 3. I can't wait to see all the exciting learning that the new year will bring.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



Year 4

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas
and a happy new year!

Mr Chandler and Mrs Eley

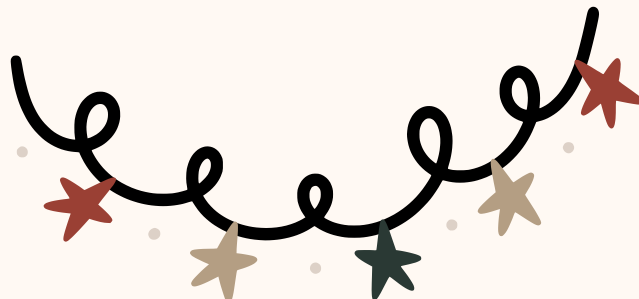


Year 5

After working so hard for the whole term it's now time to hand back your wonderful children for some well deserved family time. Christmas is a time to relax, reflect, have pyjama days and make memories.

We wish you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and look forward to seeing you in the new year,

Mrs Botterman and Mrs Ahmed





Year 6



Well we made it! This has been a truly intense term; one of the most involving that I have had in my entire teaching career. However, the hard work is paying off and the children's work and attitude to their learning is better than ever. We have all earned our two weeks off more than ever before and I can't wait to see how much further we push ourselves in the new year. For now I would just like to thank the children for their hard work and I hope that everyone gets all they want for Christmas. Come back a little heavier, a little happier and with a continued desire to learn and better yourselves. Merry Christmas!