



Newsletter week beginning 12th January



We hope you enjoy our new-style school newsletter.

The first week in January is always a chance for us to have a "fresh start" - both a new year and a new school. Firstly, we are trying a new style newsletter. We have used this before the a 'children's newsletter' but not for a parent one. This style should give the opportunity to include more photos and videos and generally bring our newsletter a bit more 'up to date.'

We have taken the opportunity to launch our "high 5" - 5 things which will help all of us to be successful. Keep reading.....

High 5

Our school values:

Proud to be me

Enjoy Learning

Achieve Success

Respect for the World

have been in place a long time and are well embedded.

During our staff training on Monday, we spent time talking about our school culture, particularly around children's behaviour and how we all conduct ourselves. We have introduced our "High 5" - 5 fundamental ways to behave which help children to achieve our values, particularly ensuring that they are learning to the best of their ability. Over the next few weeks, we will be focusing on a key aspect at a time. This week it has been "Wonderful Walking." This has been chosen so that children are not only moving safely around school, staying in safe places but are also showing respect for those around them, taking care of each other. The 'High 5' will also give staff a common language to remind children what is expected of them and to praise them when they are meeting them. Feel free to use some of them at home too!

The children have responded really well so far. They have enjoyed not only recognising when they are meeting the expectations themselves, but also their friends and teachers! We have stressed that the 'High 5' will help **EVERYONE** to be successful - not just children!



Family Learning



There are opportunities for families to develop their own understanding of English and maths being taught in school. Courses are online and information can be found [here](#). Some courses are designed especially for people who have English as an additional language.

Learning in school this term....

All children have now started a new unit of work focused on "Around the World." As the title suggests, it is a unit based on geography - either local to our area or further away. A copy of our 'Parent Planner' will be emailed to you shortly, and copies can also be found on the school website year group pages.

Please do take a look at our [school website](#) regularly.

Winter Days



Thank-you to everyone who supported their child getting in to school on Friday - we know it was extra challenging in the awful weather. Do remember that children need suitable coats in school everyday at the moment, where possible we take children outside for fresh air - even if it is raining a bit! Remember all clothes should be named - it is almost impossible without a name to reunite children with their belongings.

Swimming



Children in Year 5 and Year 3 will start swimming this week. Year 5 go on TUESDAY; Year 3 THURSDAY. If you have not returned your permission slip, please do so by Monday 12th January - we cannot take children swimming without this.

Your child must be in school on time in order to get on the coach - it will not wait otherwise other children miss their lesson.

For swimming, children need a swimming costume and towel. Should you wish to send goggles or a swimming hat, then that is optional.

Children should not be wearing any kind of jewelry; exceptions are made for any religious items that cannot be removed.

How often is your child in school?



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

Our school attendance in the Autumn Term was **93.3%** - sadly this is below the same period last year and needs to improve.

We did experience a period of significant illness in children (and staff) during November and December but hopefully this is now past us.

Any families whose children's attendance is causing concern, will be contacted over the next few weeks so that we can discuss how this can improve. If you think we can help you at all, then please get in touch. We understand that a few children have very good reasons why their attendance is below the expected 96%, however these are a small minority. Also, remember that repeated lateness also impact attendance - if a child arrives after the school register closes, then that is counted as an unauthorised absence.

The school day begins at 8.45am.

Below are some links to information you may find useful.

[Is my child well enough for school? \(NHS\)](#)

[Should I keep my child off school \(Government/NHS\)](#)

[School website page on attendance](#)

[Information from Worcestershire Local Authority](#)

School Photographer



We have received the following email from our most recent school photography company:

Over the holidays we have received numerous emails and messages on our answerphone from families who still want to place orders. All images were taken offline on 31st December 2025. Due to the volume of messages received all images have gone back online and will expire on Tuesday 31st March 2026.

If access codes have been misplaced families should call our office Monday - Friday on 0121 439 3211 from 8.00am - 4.00pm and we can take their details.

Please do get in touch with the company direct (not school) After 31st March, you will not be able to request your child's photograph.

Parent Carer Needs Assessment Survey

Parent Carer Needs Survey



If you are caring for a disabled child up to the age of 16 years old, we want to understand your experience of requesting a Parent Carer Needs Assessment. Your responses will help highlight what is working well and where improvements may be needed.

[Survey Link](#)

Next week's edition

Next week we will publish important dates for this term - look out for the email.

Your opinion matters

If there is anything else you would like to see being provided in our regular newsletter, let us know. Please email the school office - office@hollymountschool.org

Thank-you