



## Newsletter week beginning 19th January



We hope this newsletter finds you all well.

It was an exciting week for us this week with our first "RockSteady" music lessons taking place. See more details further on in this newsletter.

Years 3 and 5 also had their first swimming sessions of the term. For most children in Year 3, it was the first time they had swum since they were in Reception and for lots of them, the first time ever! This week was all about checking their water confidence and we were so proud of them all. Excellent behaviour from everyone too!

## High 5

The introduction of 'High 5' has already seen a really positive impact around school. Children are much more aware of the high expectations we have of them and staff are able to use common vocabulary to ensure everyone is clear in meaning.



This week we will be moving our focus on to "Pride in Presentation."

We expect all children to take pride in everything they do and do it to the best of their ability. School uniform is something that you can help us with. Our uniform policy explains that children from Reception to Year 6 are expected to wear the following items daily:

- grey trousers or school plaid skirt
- white formal shirt
- tie
- grey jumper or cardigan
- black/dark coloured shoes

We feel the above choices not only look smart but are good value to parents. The ONLY item which has to be purchased from school - the tie. The skirt can be replaced by trousers for girls.

Other badged items are optional and available from school - blazer, book bag, PE bag and items.

If you using alternative items, please follow our colour code e.g. a grey not blue or black jumper.

We know that some children have medical or sensory needs and we are understanding of this - we would much rather children be in school without 'perfect' uniform than at home. Again, however, we would be grateful, if your child wears alternative clothing that, wherever possible, this follows the school colour code.

For more detailed uniform information follow Uniform | Hollymount School<sup>1</sup>

School sold items should be ordered and paid for via Arbor.


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<sup>1</sup><https://www.hollymountschool.org/uniform/>

## Handwriting

② bounce over

swing under

③ 

④ around-oval

diagonals

⑤

Diagram 5 shows a horizontal line with 10 'X' marks. The first three 'X' marks have arrows pointing to their diagonals. The first 'X' has two arrows pointing down-left and up-right. The second 'X' has two arrows pointing down-left and up-right. The third 'X' has two arrows pointing down-left and up-right. The remaining seven 'X' marks are plain.

① l = i l f j t i l j f t ② m = n m r  
h b k p n r h b k p ③ u =  
u v w y a a u v w y a d  
g g ④ o = o c e o c e ⑤ s z x s z

'Pride in Presentation' is more than about uniform though. It is about all of us taking pride in the presentation of our school and in the work that is produced by each child.

Recently, staff have had training on support children with handwriting. It is a very big focus in the new Ofsted guidelines. However, most importantly, children with a comfortable, accurate and fluid handwriting style will find producing written text so much easier. If they are not having to concentrate on HOW to form letters, they will free up thinking space for WHAT they are writing.

Handwriting will be a big part of a child's early journey in school - particularly in Reception and Year 1. Even in Nursery children take part in activities which develop both their large and small muscle groups (gross and fine motor skills.)

For more information about how handwriting is taught at school please visit our school website Writing | Hollymount School<sup>2</sup>.

We will be sharing some examples of children's excellent handwriting in future newsletters.

## Spring Term Events



The Spring Term is often the shortest of the year and this year is no exception. However, that doesn't mean there isn't plenty to look forward to. The following events have been booked and are unlikely to change:

**Year 5 - swimming each Tuesday** (will NOT swim Tuesday 3rd February due to Llanrug trip, will go twice the following week)

**Year 3 - swimming each Thursday** (will swim on Tuesday 3rd AND Thursday 5th February due to Year 5 trip, however will not swim the following week)

**Year 5 Llanrug Trip:** 2- 6th February

**Whole School: Well being week** - 9 - 12th February

**13th February - Staff Inset Day** - no school for children

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.hollymountschool.org/writing/>

***Half term holiday - 16th - 20th February***

***Monday 23rd February - school reopens***

**World Book Day - Thursday 5th March** This year we are asking children to wear pyjamas to remind everyone who bedtime is a good time for a story. However, should you really wish to dress your child up as a book character, then of course you can do so.

Reading ambassadors will be organising events during the day.

**Parents meetings: Wednesday 11th** (3.30 - 5.30pm) and **Thursday 12th March** (4.30 - 6.30pm)

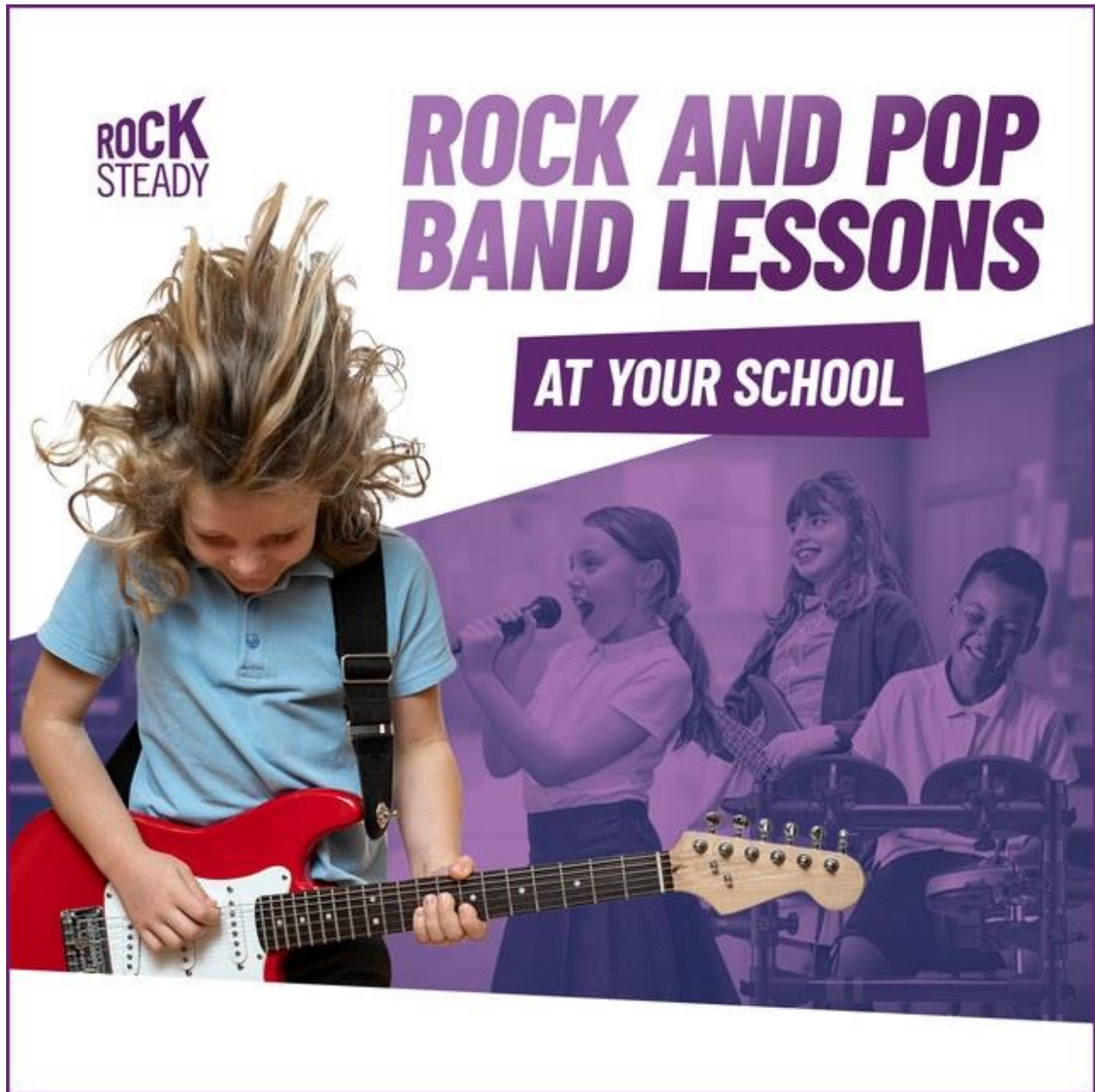
**Red Nose Day: Friday 20th March.** We will be asking school council to organise events for this day.

**RockSteady Concert: Friday 27th March** (time to be confirmed - afternoon)

***Break up for Easter Holiday - Friday 27th March***

***School reopens Monday 13th April***

We will also be organising the next group of class assemblies and individual classes will publish dates of these.



First lessons took place on Friday. 11 very excited children joined Dan our RockSteady lead and were introduced to either the guitar, drums, keyboard or microphone! Everyone had a huge smile afterwards!

These children will be putting on their first concert on Friday March 27th.

If you are interested in your child having lessons, then more details can be found here Home - Rocksteady Music School<sup>3</sup> or by following the QR code.

If you require information in a different language, please ask at the office - RockSteady have produced information sheets in many languages.



## 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](mailto:office@hollymountschool.org)<sup>4</sup>

Similarly if you have any other suggestions about school in general, then please let us know.

Thank-you

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

<sup>4</sup><mailto:office@hollymountschool.org>