



Newsletter week beginning 8th June



Highlights of the week



This week has been wonderfully normal! Lots of children in class, learning and having fun with their friends. This half term, we are asking children to focus on their learning journey - what do they do when they face a challenge? We hope support children to develop the confidence and resilience needed to overcome problems and then celebrate their successes! Each week, children from each class will be chosen who have shown this resilience.

Thank-you to the children in Mrs Lloyd's class who treated us to a fantastic assembly all about meerkats, based on their key text "Meerkat Mail!" Children performed confidently and we all learnt something. Thank-you to Mrs Lloyd and Mrs Zota for their hard work too!



An exciting new adventure - OPAL play



For a while, we have been thinking about how we can develop children's play in school. Our youngest children have lots of opportunities for high-quality, enjoyable play but what about our older children?

We believe all children have the right to play and we are working with a company called OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) to help transform our lunchtime opportunities.

This work is an 18-month + commitment and we will launch properly in September, however, we are ready to trial some of the plans we have made. On Thursday 11th June, it is the

International Day of Play. On Thursday, our lunchtime provision will feature different activities children can enjoy. However for our 'big launch' in September **we need your help.** Could you donate some good quality unwanted items - see attached poster? If so, please donate via the office.

We would like to maximise not only the different activities children can be involved in but also the spaces around school. We are fortunate enough to have large school grounds and unusually these days, lots of grass! In September, we will be using all these spaces but this means that children need to be prepared to play, and this can be messy! We will also be going outside in most weathers. Between now and the new school year, please ensure your child has a waterproof coat, with a hood. We still have reduced priced school coats if you would like to take advantage of this offer - they are good quality and really last. Otherwise any waterproof coat, preferably dark blue or black, will be ok.

We are really excited about the changes we know are going to be coming and thank-you in advance for your support. We can't wait to share some pictures of our children at play!



Can you help Eva to help others?



We are really proud of Eva in Year 4, who has made the decision to cut her VERY long hair and donate it to the Little Princess Trust. The Little Princess Trust provides 'real hair' wigs to children to help restore their confidence when they have lost their own for whatever reason. Did you know it costs £700 to make a wig? The charity provides a totally free service to any young person up to the age of 24. They also fund childhood cancer research.

You can help too.

If you feel able to make a donation, however small, then please visit Eva's fundraising page is fundraising for Little Princess Trust¹

Thank-you

Year 6 residential



If your child is going to the Year 6 residential trip on 18th June, he/ she should have come home with a 'kit list' this week. They need very little but one useful thing would be a sleeping bag (they could manage with a single duvet cover)

Aldi have sleeping bags on sale this weekend for a very reasonable £12.99

Helping children to stay safe

The online world is very real and a huge part of our children's lives. It may be that very soon social media platforms which children are currently using are "banned" by UK Government,

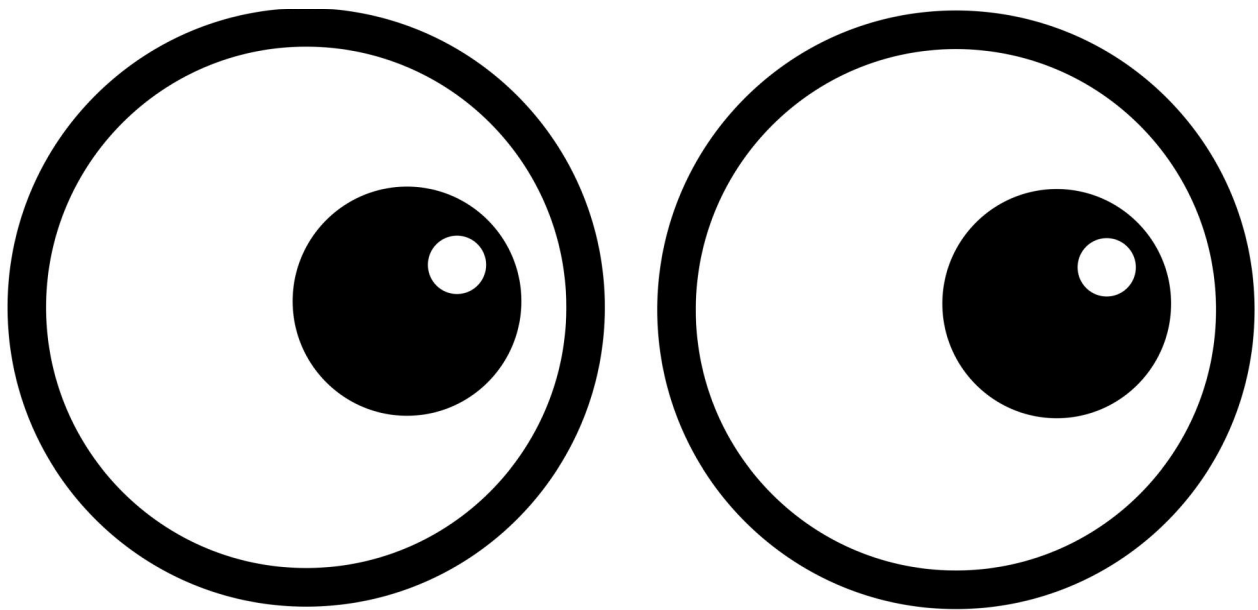
¹<https://littleprincesstrust.blackbaud-sites.com/fundraising/evas-fundraising-page4347#postId=7a3f31a7-bf2d-425a-957e-bd68b462418a>

however it is important that we teach children at school and at home to use technology safely and at an age appropriate level.

We are sharing a PDF document along with this newsletter which provides helpful links to ways you can support your child. You might find the information useful too - it is certainly becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with technological developments, they are changing so fast.

The document has been put together by the "Virtual School" an organisation which support children who are in care, however we felt it would be useful to you all.

Watch this space....



Free school meal eligibility is changing and we will need your support. More children may become eligible but at the same time, others may lose their funding if parents do not re-register. We will provide more details soon but if you receive an email about free school meals, PLEASE do not ignore it. We will send it to EVERYONE because even if you haven't been eligible in the past, you may be now. Remember also, that FSM status doesn't just provide children with a meal, in some cases it also means that school receives more money which can then be used to help all children. Every penny counts!

School Uniform



It is that time of year when we are beginning to get ready for the new term in September!

School uniform remains unchanged for next academic year. It is an expectation that children wear school uniform daily:

white shirt

tie (bought from school)

grey jumper or cardigan

grey trousers or skirt (skirt available from school)

black shoes/ black trainers/ black boots

Dark-coloured coat

In summer children may choose to wear purple checked summer dresses or shorts and short-sleeved shirts .

In addition there are the following options, or alternatives

School-badged blazer

School-badged PE kit (or provide a purple t-shirt and black shorts)

School-badged book bag (or provide an alternative bag suitable for a book)

We also have school-badged coats which are available at a much-reduced price to clear stock. These are excellent coats and are really hard-wearing.

Some of the badged items are no longer routinely kept in stock by school and are made to order. **Please make sure you place your orders June 13th to ensure that we have items ready for September.**

All orders are made and paid for via Arbor.

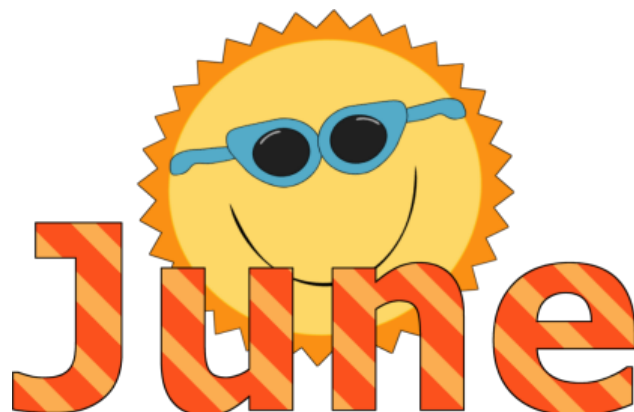
We have some items available as 2nd hand at reduced cost. Please enquire at the office if you would like to explore this option.

Year 6 parents

At the end of term, if you have good quality uniform items (especially skirts and blazers) that you would like to donate to school, we will gladly have them for 2nd-hand stock.

Even though it is the SUMMER term, we know UK weather can be changeable. Please send children to school ready for the weather for the day! This may be a coat one day and suncream and sunhat the next!

This Week



School Clubs are back again for the next 4 weeks.

Monday 8th June: Clubs: BSL, Forest School

Tuesday 9th June: Clubs: Clubs: Yoga, rounders, performing arts, Big Sing, Parachute games

Wednesday 10th June:

Thursday 11th June: Clubs: cricket, gardening, dance

Friday 12th June: Miss Bacon's Class Assembly 9.45am; Rock Steady

Summer Term Events

1HS/CB (Miss Bacon's) class assembly 9.45am: Friday 12th June

Youth Speaks Competition: Tuesday 16th June 10am

Year 6 Residential: Thursday 18th - Friday 19th June

Reception Trip to Weston: Wednesday 24th June

Year 5 taster day Bishop Perowne: Friday 26th June

Big Sing: Monday 6th July (for children in Big Sing Club)

Year 5/ 6 showcase: Thursday 9th 2pm and 6pm; Friday 10th July 10am

RockSteady concert: Friday 10th July 2pm

Sport's Day: Monday 13th July (Rec/KS1 9.30am; KS2 12.30pm)

Summer Fayre: Tuesday 14th July 1.15pm

Year 6 Leaver's Assembly Thursday 16th July 10.30am followed by lunch.

Year 6 Prom: Thursday 16th July 5 - 7pm

Friday 17th July: school breaks up for summer

Term Dates

2026

Calendar*pedia*
Your source for calendars

January							February							March							April							May							June						
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Jan 1: New Year's Day, Jan 19: Martin Luther King Day, Feb 16: Presidents' Day, May 25: Memorial Day, Jun 19: Juneteenth, Jul 3: Independence Day (observed),
Jul 4: Independence Day, Sep 7: Labor Day, Oct 12: Columbus Day, Nov 11: Veterans Day, Nov 26: Thanksgiving Day, Dec 25: Christmas Day

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2027

Calendar*pedia*
Your source for calendars

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Monday 7th September: Children return to school (Reception and Nursery will give their own transition days/ times)

Thursday 22nd October: Children break up

Half-term holiday Friday 23rd October - Friday 30th October

Monday 2nd November: Children return

Friday 18th December: Children break up

Christmas Holiday Monday 21st December - Monday 4th January

Tuesday 4th January: Children return

Friday 12th February: Children break up

Half-term holiday Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

Tuesday 23rd February: Children return

Thursday 25th March: Children break up

Easter Holiday Friday 26th March - Friday 9th April

Monday 12th April: Children return

Thursday 27th May: Children break up

Half-term holiday: Friday 28th May - Friday 4th June

Monday 7th June: Children return

Wednesday 21st July: Children break up

School staff are required to work a number of INSET days for training purposes. These are reflected in the above dates and are:

1st - 4th September; 23rd October; 4th January; 22nd February; 28th May

We kindly request that all family holidays or travel for any purpose are kept within school holiday dates.

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.org²

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

Thank-you

²<mailto:office@hollymountschool.org>