



# Holmleigh Primary School

## Newsletter

### Our Values

Respect, kindness, Resilience,  
Integrity, Honesty and Trust

May 2025

### Our Pledge

- Listen and Learn
- Do our best
- Look after each other
- Look after our school

Dear Parents and Carers,

Where has the first half of the summer term gone? It has flown by in a whirlwind of activity!

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils for the positive, determined way they approached their SATs in Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation, Reading, and Maths. The Holmleigh values truly shone through during the assessment week - well done to each and every one of them!

Huge thanks to Mr. Richard, Ms. Amena, Ms. Kashka, Ms. Debbie and everyone involved in the preparation and administration of the tests. We look forward to sharing the outcomes with you in July.

A big thank you also to Friends of Holmleigh for generously funding the SATs breakfast - it made sure our children were fuelled and ready to give their best. Huge thanks to the Breakfast Club team as well for their support and care.

Next half term, Year 1 pupils will be taking the **Phonics Screening Check**, while Year 4 will complete the **Multiplication Tables Check**. All other year groups will undertake their **internal end-of-year assessments** during this period.

In the coming weeks, we will continue hosting workshops and activities for children, parents, carers, and staff, to support our community through this time of change.

For key dates, class newsletters, and all the exciting things happening at Holmleigh, please visit our website: <https://holmleigh.hackney.sch.uk>.

Wishing you all a safe, restful, and enjoyable half-term break.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 2nd June**.

Warm regards,  
**Miss Boateng**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
<b>MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE -SCHOOL OPENS FOR CHILDREN</b>	
MONDAY 2 <sup>ND</sup> JUNE-FRIDAY 13 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	YEAR 4 MTC
MONDAY 9 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	PHONICS SCREENING TESTS
MONDAY 9 <sup>TH</sup> -MONDAY 16 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	SUMMER TERM ASSESSMENTS
TUESDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	MUSEUM OF THE HOME WORKSHOPS YEARS 5&6
TUESDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	COFFEE AFTERNOON FOR PARENTS/CARERS @ 5PM
TUESDAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	PUPIL VOICE SESSIONS
THURSDAY 19 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	SPORTS DAY-NURSERY & RECEPTION
FRIDAY 20 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	SPORTS DAY-YEAR 1-YEAR 6
<b>MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE- INSET DAY-SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	
THURSDAY 26 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	HACKNEY MUSIC FESTIVAL
FRIDAY 27 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	PUPIL ORIENTATION DAY AT SIR THOMAS ABNEY SCHOOL
MONDAY 30 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE-THURSDAY 3 <sup>RD</sup> JULY	CLASS SHARE SESSIONS  NURSERY& RECEPTION-MONDAY ( 9.15-10.00)  YEAR1 & YEAR 2-TUESDAY ( 2.45-3.15)  YEAR3 & YEAR 4-WEDNESDAY ( 2.45-3.15)  YEAR 5 & YEAR 6- THURSDAY ( 2.45-3.15)
MONDAY 30 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025	HOLMLEIGH'S VARIETY SHOW
FRIDAY 4 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025	BADU SPORT ACTIVITIES
MONDAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025	REPORTS HOME TO PARENTS/CARERS
MONDAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> JULY-FRIDAY 11 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	KENCH HILL RESIDENTIAL TRIP- YEAR 6
MONDAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> JULY 2025	YEAR 6 SHOW  DRESS REHEARSAL @10AM  SHOW FOR PARENTS & LOVED ONES @1.45PM  PARTY 4.30-6.30PM
<b>TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY - SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1.35PM FOR SUMMER</b>	

## EXTENSION TO THE SCHOOL DAY

A few weeks ago, I wrote to inform you about our plan to extend the school day until 4:30pm for children in Reception to Year 6 on the following Thursdays:

- 5th June
- 12th June
- 19th June
- 26th June
- 3rd July

During these extended sessions, children will participate in play-based activities designed to be both engaging and enriching.

Please ensure your child brings their P.E. kit on these days, as it will be required for the planned activities.

## VISUAL MEMORY OF OUR TRANSITION

Nergis, Mayis' mum (Year 3), has put forward a fantastic proposal as part of our transition to Sir Thomas Abney. A talented photographer, Nergis hopes to create a visual record of this important chapter by capturing candid, natural moments of Holmleigh children—reflecting their everyday experiences and special memories at our school.

As part of the project, she will run a short, engaging photography workshop for pupils in Years 3 to 6. The sessions will introduce basic photography techniques and give students the chance to get creative behind the lens.

At the end of the project, each class could receive a beautifully curated photo memory collection. For Year 6 especially, this would be a meaningful keepsake as they prepare to move on to secondary school.

Photo sets will be made available to families for purchase, with a percentage of proceeds donated back to the school to support future projects and resources.

More details will be sent home soon.

## CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Below are the dates for the upcoming class assemblies. Parents, carers, and family members are warmly invited to join us at 10 a.m. Each assembly typically lasts around 30 minutes.

DATE	CLASS
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM?

### TRANSITION WORKSHOPS FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS

We've held a series of workshops for our pupils and their parents/carers. These sessions are designed to offer guidance and support during this period of change, and feedback from both children and parents has been very positive.

The workshops will continue next half term, and we'll keep you informed about any additional sessions that become available.

Please note that, due to the orientation day at Sir Thomas Abney, we've had to reschedule the date of our Variety Show. Further details will follow soon.

## HEALTHY FUEL PARENTS' SESSIONS

Children at Holmleigh have been diving into *Healthy Fuel*—our fun, hands-on nutrition programme led by our brilliant Chef Darwing. Through engaging lessons on balanced diets, macronutrients, micronutrients, fibre, hydration, and the Eatwell Plate, pupils have been learning how to fuel their bodies smartly and sustainably.

To celebrate their progress and deepen the learning, parents and carers have been invited to join interactive sessions. These sessions give children a chance to roll up their sleeves and showcase their skills—and they've absolutely loved it!

The next session takes place on Monday 9th June 2025, from 4:30–5:30 PM, in the school kitchen, and is open to Year 5 and Year 6 parents/carers.

Here's what you can expect:

- **Live Cooking Tips**  
Enjoy (or join in with!) a quick, healthy recipe demonstration that's full of flavour and easy to recreate at home.
- **Key Takeaways**  
Pick up practical tips to support your child's learning—from simple snack swaps to clever ways of adding more veggies to meals.
- **Q&A Session**  
Got questions? Our nutrition educators will be on hand to offer expert advice and answer your queries.

## ART DAY

We were delighted to celebrate Art at Holmleigh School on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th April. Children from Nursery to Year 6 took part in inspiring sessions with Magic Lantern, engaging in interactive workshops that included elements of drama, soundscape, observation, problem-solving, and creative writing.

As part of the celebration, every child created a self-portrait drawing — and they are absolutely marvellous! Be sure to visit our school hall to see a wonderful display of their work.

Thank you to Friends of Holmleigh for funding the workshops, and to the parents who were able to join in the self-portrait sessions.

Huge thanks to our Art specialist Miss Lorena for organising such a wonderful experience!



## HISTORY DAY

History came to life at Holmleigh during our exciting History Day! Children across the school embraced the past by dressing up as historical figures — from ancient pharaohs and Roman soldiers to suffragettes, inventors, and World War II evacuees.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in a variety of interactive, hands-on activities and workshops designed to spark curiosity and deepen their understanding of the past.

Each class focused on a different period or theme in history, giving pupils the opportunity to explore topics such as the Stone Age, Tudor life, Victorian inventions, and the civil rights movement.

We were thrilled to witness such enthusiasm and creativity from our pupils, who asked thoughtful questions, shared their knowledge, and showed great respect for the people and events that have shaped our world.

Huge thanks to Ms Esma, our Humanities Lead, for organising such an enriching experience, to our families for their support with the fantastic costumes, and to Friends of Holmleigh for generously funding the workshops.

## AUTHOR VISIT

We were fortunate to welcome Claire Linney to our school for a memorable visit on 29<sup>th</sup> April. She delivered a captivating *Time Tub Travellers* assembly to our Year 4 and 5 classes, followed by a Black History workshop for Year 5. Both sessions were informative, interactive, and thoroughly enjoyable.

A standout moment was the lively teacher versus pupil quiz—much to the children's delight, the pupils emerged victorious!

Claire's sessions ignited imagination and creativity among our pupils, inspiring many to see themselves as writers. We're already looking forward to a wave of exciting time-travel stories!



She also challenged common misconceptions about the history of Black people in Britain, introducing both children and staff to lesser-known historical figures, such as Pablo Fanque. Her passion and insight left a lasting impression on us all.

Claire is truly phenomenal, and we would be absolutely thrilled to welcome her back next year. A huge thank you to the parent who generously funded this inspiring visit!

## HOLMLEIGH CHOIR VISIT ST ANNE'S RESIDENTIAL HOME

We were absolutely delighted with the choir's brilliant performance at St Anne's Care Home on 21st May. They sang with such confidence and flair—it felt like a West End performance! The residents were thrilled, repeatedly commenting on how incredible the choir sounded and how professional they were.

The repertoire featured a wonderful mix of songs from musicals, including *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Whole New World*, and *Swing on a Star*, alongside classics like *Scarborough Fair* and *Happy Talk*—and many more.

The choir's next appearance will be at the Hackney Junior Singing Festival on 26th June, and we can't wait to see them shine again.

Huge congratulations to our talented choir—you made us all so proud!



## DAZZLING DANCERS

In April, a group from Holmleigh took part in the 23rd April National Children's Day Festival in Ankara, Turkey. This marked our sixth visit to the festival since 2016, and once again, we were proud to represent the United Kingdom on this international stage.

The group—comprising 12 children and 3 adults—worked incredibly hard in the lead-up to the event, preparing a special dance performance that truly showcased their talent and dedication.

The festival is a major cultural celebration, bringing together participants from 30 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. Our pupils did Holmleigh proud, delivering a flawless performance in front of huge festival crowds, as well as millions watching on television and online.

What a fantastic opportunity for our children—not only to explore another country and culture, but to represent both their school and their nation with such pride and enthusiasm.

A heartfelt thank you to Ms Ercan, who has managed and organised Holmleigh's involvement over six visits, to Mr Ward for training and preparing the dancers, and to Ms Elena for her wonderful support.

We are also deeply grateful to the parents who supported this unforgettable experience by allowing their children to take part.

Well done to everyone involved.



## SUMMER FAIR

Summer outfits were dusted off for our final Summer Fair at Dunsmure Road.

A huge thank you to Friends of Holmleigh for their incredible hard work and dedication. From organising the event to securing amazing raffle prizes, your efforts ensured everything ran smoothly.

We're also grateful to everyone who contributed—whether by volunteering, cooking, baking, donating, running a stall, or simply coming along to support.

We feel very lucky to be part of such a warm, generous and wonderful school community.

We'll share the total amount raised after the half-term break—thank you again for making this farewell fair so memorable!



## WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

### MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Just a reminder that Adrian John (AJ), our new Education Mental Health Practitioner from the NHS, is at Holmleigh every Thursday morning.

AJ is available to support both parents and students with a range of mental health concerns, including emotional dysregulation, anxiety, and general wellbeing.

If you would like to speak with AJ or find out more about the support available, please contact the school office to arrange a time.



### CAMHS WORKER IN SCHOOL

George Bunting, our CAMHS worker in school will continue to provide support on Friday mornings.



### YOUNG HACKNEY

Young Hackney provides a service for all young people aged 6-19. We are fortunate to have Young Hackney at Holmleigh providing workshops and support for parents, carers and children. Please visit: for information about youth hubs and clubs.

### HALF TERM HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Free places to visit: <https://www.hackney.foodbank.org.uk/free-days-out>  
<https://smartyparentingguide.com/3-best-free-places-to-go-with-kids-in-hackney-london/>

The Holmleigh Holiday Club will be running during the upcoming half term. For further details, please refer to the letter sent home last week or contact Sally via email at [holmleighholidayclub@gmail.com](mailto:holmleighholidayclub@gmail.com).

## PUNCTUALITY

### Every Day Counts and being on time means not missing out

A reminder that the school gates open at 8.50am and all children should be in the playground ready for the morning exercise at 8.55. We will close the gates on Holmleigh Road at 9.00am.

Please make every effort to arrive at school on time. If your child arrives later than 9:00 am, please report to the Main Reception Office, where you will be asked to sign in and provide a reason for their late arrival.

Arriving at school on time every day helps your child be ready for learning and ensures they don't miss valuable learning opportunities. Thank you for your cooperation!

## ATTENDANCE

The government has set a **target of 95% attendance** for all pupils.

The whole **school attendance for the first half of the summer term was 95.8%**. School attendance is central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential. Please remember that **we do not authorise holidays in term time** and unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.

If your child is going to be absent from school, it is important to contact the school on the first date of the absence to inform us of the reasons. If this continues for more than one day, you should make contact with the school on a daily basis to keep us updated.

### Some key attendance facts:

Attending 90% of the time or less will have a serious effect on learning.

One day's absence every two weeks will give 90% attendance.

Up to the age of 16, 90% attendance will mean losing over a year of school - more than half.

For more details, please refer to our attendance policy, which is available on our school website.



Teddy

### Attendance Matters



Harry

## ATTENDANCE BY CLASS FOR THIS HALF TERM

CLASS	SUMMER TERM ONE
RECEPTION	90.3%
YEAR 1	94.3%
YEAR 2	93.3%
YEAR 3	97.1%
YEAR 4	97.8%
YEAR 5	94.8%
YEAR 6	97.7%

## CONTACT DETAILS

It is essential that we have the most up-to-date contact details for all parents and carers. If there have been any changes to the information we have on record, please email our admin team with the updates: [admin@holmleigh.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holmleigh.hackney.sch.uk)

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

It's wonderful to see so many children proudly wearing their school uniform—thank you for your continued support! Please note that uniform with our logo is not compulsory; you are welcome to purchase items from supermarkets, as long as they align with the school's colour scheme.

### Pre-Loved Uniform

We have a selection of pre-loved uniforms available at school. If you're interested, please speak with Miss Elena or Miss Jane at the office. We also gladly accept donations of pre-loved uniforms at the school office.

### Lost Property

We were able to return all clearly labelled items from the lost property box. Please ensure that all uniform items, including hats, coats, and gloves are clearly labelled to help us return any misplaced belongings quickly.