



Holmleigh Primary School Newsletter

Our Values

Respect, kindness, Resilience,
Integrity, Honesty and Trust

October 2025

Our Rules

- Do our best
- Be respectful
- Be safe
- Be kind
- Be ready

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year!

Thank you for your continued support, kind words of encouragement, and patience during this period of transition. We've been working hard to strengthen our sense of community, build positive relationships, and foster a sense of belonging.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their new routines and begun forming new friendships. As we move forward, we're excited to build on this strong start and to continue working in partnership with you to ensure that every child is happy, engaged, and thriving.

Class pages will be emailed to you and can also be found on the school website: <https://holmleigh.hackney.sch.uk/>.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, 3rd November.

Warm regards,
Miss Boateng



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

You will find these dates on our school website: <https://holmleigh.hackney.sch.uk/>

MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2025	SCHOOL OPENS FOR CHILDREN
MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2025	WORLD SCIENCE DAY More information to follow.
MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2025- FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2025	ANTI-BULLYING WEEK- POWER FOR GOOD MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER- ODD SOCKS DAY
FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2025	CHILDREN IN NEED PYJAMAS DAY
FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2025	WINTER FAIR
FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2025	ABCD CHARITY EVENT
THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2025	CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY CHRISTMAS PARTY& DISCO
FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2025	CHRISTMAS NATIVITY & CAROLS
THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2025	CHRISTMAS DINNER
FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2025	END OF TERM SCHOOL CLOSSES @ 1.35PM



CLASS ASSEMBLIES

In each school year, every class prepares an assembly to present to the rest of the school and to their parents. This may be on a topic they have been studying, or on something in the news. Parents are invited to watch at 10.00am.

DATE	CLASS
Thursday 22 nd January 2026	Year 6 Ebony
Thursday 29 th January 2026	Year 6 Sycamore
Thursday 5 th February 2026	Year 5 Acacia
Thursday 12 th February 2026	Year 5 Olive
Thursday 12 th March 2026	Year 4 Hazel
Thursday 19 th March 2026	Year 4 Holly
Thursday 23 rd April 2026	Year 3 Elder
Thursday 30 th April 2026	Year 3 Willow
Thursday 11 th June 2026	Year 2 Chestnut
Thursday 18 th June 2026	Year 2 Palm
Thursday 25 th June 2026	Year 1 Nutmeg
Thursday 2 nd July 2026	Year 1 Walnut
Thursday 9 th July 2026	Reception Beech
Friday 10 th July 2026	Reception Oak



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM?



We work in partnership with you to ensure the best outcomes for your children. To help strengthen that partnership, we invited you to join our SEND Coffee Mornings, held every Thursday.

These sessions have provided a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet each other, as well as our SENDCo and the SEND professionals who support the school's provision.

We've had some great discussions -sharing clever solutions to tricky issues, exchanging key information, and, of course, enjoying plenty of tea and treats!

Some of the themes we've explored include:

- Transitions
- Routines
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Secondary Transfer
- Managing Behaviour

We look forward to seeing you all again in Autumn 2. If there are any key themes you would like us to cover next half term, please let Gillian Jetto, our SENDCo, know.

EARLY YEARS

Our wonderful Nursery and Reception children are settling beautifully into their new routines. They've made new friends, are enjoying exploring our new home through a variety of activities, and are delighting in spending time together. It's been a joy to see their confidence and enthusiasm grow each day.



PHONICS AND DAILY SUPPORTED READING WORKSHOPS FOR RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 PARENTS/CARERS

We hope those of you who attended our Phonics and Daily Supported Reading workshops found the sessions helpful and informative. If you were unable to attend and would like to learn more about our phonics programme or Daily Supported Reading, please don't hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher.

RAZZAMATAZ- DRAMA AND DANCE WORKSHOPS

The whole school enjoyed a fantastic time participating in a dance and drama workshop led by Razzamataz Theatre School. The children showed great confidence and demonstrated some truly impressive dance moves! Razzamataz run a weekly after school club at Holmleigh on Friday afternoon.

PARENTS' EVENING

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our Target Setting Parents' Evening. We hope you found it a valuable opportunity to speak with the class teachers about how your child has settled this half term. We trust you were able to discuss how we can continue to work together to support your child's progress and wellbeing. If you were unable to meet with your child's class teacher, please contact them to arrange another appointment.

YOUNG HACKNEY

Young Hackney provides valuable services for all young people aged 6 to 19. We are fortunate to have Young Hackney working with us at Holmleigh, offering workshops and support for both parents and children. This half term, they led sessions for our children focused on relationships, and they will be returning after the break to deliver more workshops.

SAY NO TO RACISM

Our children wore red to proudly say NO to Racism. At Holmleigh Primary School, we celebrate our vibrant and wonderfully diverse community, and events like this remind us just how special our school family is. Well done to everyone for showing such unity and spirit! We raised £150 for this worthy cause.





DRESS UP THURSDAY

Superheroes, queens, princesses, bears, witches, wizards, and countless other wonderful characters filled every corner of the school. It was the perfect excuse to dress up, and there were smiles all around!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION

It was wonderful to see so many children dressed in their traditional outfits, proudly representing their cultural heritage! They enjoyed a delicious African and Caribbean-themed lunch, and throughout the day, visited the exhibition to celebrate and appreciate each other's work.

A big thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and family members who joined us for our Black History Month Exhibition. Your presence and support made the event even more special. The children have been working incredibly hard and were proud to share their work with you. Huge thanks to the parents who prepared the delicious treats that everyone enjoyed.





HACKNEY READING CHAMPIONS

After successfully applying for the role, six fantastic year 5 reading champions have been chosen to represent not only Holmleigh Primary School but also Hackney. Aleena, Amisha, Ava-Marie, Kalil, Lena and Talal have been tasked with helping to raise the profile of reading within our school and help more children to read for pleasure by completing a series of challenges such as making recommendations in assembly, supporting reluctant readers, running book clubs and much, much more! Watch this space.

On Wednesday 15th October we had our first meeting at Hackney Town Hall where our champions were treated to a performance from the poet and rapper, Christian Foley who also presented us with two of his books which our champions will share with classes. They also met reading champions from other Hackney schools and shared book recommendations.



WONDERFUL WRITERS

It was a pleasure to have six children from Year 3 Elder visit my office to share their fantastic writing with me! The class has been learning about the Stone Age and produced some wonderful pieces inspired by the book *The Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura. I was so impressed by their imagination, use of language, and confidence in sharing their work. Well done, Year 3 Elder!

Here are some lines from their stories:

The flickering touch was vomiting out light. (Inaaya)

The wet, steady drips of water fell on the damp smooth stone walls. (Zeinah)

My heart was beating like a drum. (Dash)

The shadows hugged me and the jagged rocks and flint tools were scattered everywhere. (Aaron)

The flint fire light danced around the cave like a flashing light. (Leo)

The cave yawned hungrily and welcomed us in. (Kal)



FRIENDS OF HOLMLEIGH

Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday 10th November 2025

Friends of Holmleigh, our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday 10th November 2025, at 6:00 pm.

The evening will begin with a short AGM, followed by planning for this year's **Winter Fair**. The team is looking for **class representatives** and **volunteers** to help with fundraising activities for the school.

If you would like more information or are interested in getting involved, please email friendsofholmleigh@gmail.com

Easy fundraising

Easy fundraising is a free browser extension that automatically donates to Friends of Holmleigh every time you shop online — at no extra cost to you!

This month, Easy fundraising is offering a £2 bonus donation for every new app signup made before the end of October.

This simple way to support the school isn't yet widely used, so please take a moment to sign up and help raise funds for our community.

OCTOBER HALF TERM

HOLMLEIGH HOLIDAY CLUB

The Holmleigh Holiday Club will be running this October half term from Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2025. To secure a spot, bookings can be made by emailing: holmleighholidayclub@gmail.com.

Visit: <https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/after-school-and-holiday-clubs> free and cheap activities to do during the holiday.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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 which we'll be starting after the half term at 8.55. We will close 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 this half term was **95.3%**. 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 that you contact the school on the first day 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.

Our overall attendance this week was **92.5%** which is significantly below our target of

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.



ATTENDANCE BY CLASS FOR THIS HALF TERM

RECEPTION OAK	91.24%
RECEPTION BEECH	96.87%
YEAR 1 WALNUT	93.71%
YEAR 1 NUTMEG	96.35%
YEAR 2 CHESTNUT	96.50%
YEAR 2 PALM	92.41%
YEAR 3 ELDER	98.96%
YEAR 3 WILLOW	92.18%
YEAR 4 HAZEL	94.49%
YEAR 4 HOLLY	96.66%
YEAR 5 ACACIA	92.96%
YEAR 5 OLIVE	97.73%
YEAR 6 EBONY	97.05%
YEAR 6 SYCAMORE	95.30%





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

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 Shanel 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. As colder weather approaches, please ensure that all uniform items, including hats, coats, and gloves, are clearly labelled to help us return any misplaced belongings quickly.

