



Holmleigh Primary School

Newsletter

Our Values

Respect, kindness,
Resilience, Integrity,
Honesty and Trust

December 2025

Our Rules

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Where did the autumn term go? The children have enjoyed a variety of trips, workshops, and activities this term, all designed to enhance their learning experiences and inspire curiosity.

A huge thank you for your ongoing support and engagement throughout the term, it truly makes a difference!

The 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 restful and joyous holiday season. Here's to a healthy, happy, and fulfilling 2026!

We look forward to welcoming you back on **Wednesday 7th January 2026**.

With best wishes,
Miss Boateng





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY-SPRING TERM

MONDAY 5TH JANUARY 2026	INSET DAYS
TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2026	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHILDREN
WEDNESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2026	SCHOOL OPENS FOR CHILDREN
WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY 2026	PHOTO DAY FOR WEBSITE CHILDREN SHOULD COME TO SCHOOL IN FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM.
FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2026	NUMBER DAY PARENTS' EVENT (PM)
MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY- SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2026	CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK THEME: THIS IS MY PLACE
MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY-THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2026	CLASS SHARE SESSIONS NURSERY&RECEPTION-MONDAY (9.15-10.00) YEAR1&YEAR 2-TUESDAY (2.30-3.00) YEAR3&YEAR4-WEDNESDAY (2.30-3.00) YEAR5&YEAR6- THURSDAY (2.30-3.00)
TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2026	SAFER INTERNET DAY
FRIDAY13TH FEBRUARY 2026	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.30PM
MONDAY 23RD & FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY	MURAL PROJECT
MONDAY 2ND MARCH & FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026	WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 2-YEAR 6
THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2026	WORLD BOOK DAY



MONDAY 9 TH MARCH- FRIDAY 13 TH MARCH 2026	BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK: CURIOSITY- WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?
THURSDAY 12 TH MARCH-THURSDAY 18 TH MARCH	BOOK FAIR
MONDAY 16 TH MARCH- FRIDAY 20 TH MARCH 2026	SPRING TERM ASSESSMENT WEEK
MONDAY 16 TH MARCH-FRIDAY 20 TH MARCH 2026	NEURODIVERSITY WEEK
FRIDAY 20 TH MARCH 2026	COMIC RELIEF- RED NOSE DAY EID CELEBRATION- PARENTS' EVENT
WEDNESDAY 25 TH MARCH 2026	PARENTS' EVENING (NURSERY-YEAR 6) REVIEWING OF TARGETS
FRIDAY 27 TH MARCH 2026	EASTER EGG HUNT BREAK UP FOR EASTER HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1.35PM
FRIDAY 27 TH MARCH, SATURDAY 28 TH MARCH & MONDAY 30 TH MARCH	PARENT/CHILDREN- MURAL PROJECT

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

CLUBS

Breakfast Club (8:00am to 8:50am) will begin on Wednesday 7th January 2026.

Afterschool Care Club (3:30pm to 6:00pm) will begin on Wednesday 7th January 2026.

Afterschool Activity Clubs (3:30pm to 4:30pm with the exception of gymnastics which runs until 5.30 for KS2) will begin the week commencing Monday 12th January.

Please note that there will be **no after-school activity clubs** on the evenings of parents' evening. However, **After School Care Club will still take place** as usual. Similarly, at the **end of each term** when school finishes at 1:35pm, there will be **no after-school activity clubs**. After School Care Club will run until 3:30pm on these days.





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?

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2025: POWER FOR GOOD

This year's theme, Power for Good, guided our activities and discussions throughout the week. We marked Odd Socks Day to celebrate individuality and what makes each of us unique. Through assemblies and class PSHE lessons, children deepened their understanding of bullying, how it differs from unkind behaviour, and the vital role that bystanders play in challenging and addressing bullying. At our school, we take all allegations of bullying extremely seriously. We uphold a zero-tolerance approach and ensure that any concerns are dealt with promptly and effectively by staff.



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 Christmas break to deliver more workshops.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

We donned our most colourful Christmas jumpers adorned with lights and festive designs for Christmas Jumper Day. We raised £30 for Save the Children UK. Thank you for your contributions!

PYJAMAS DAY

Thank you to everyone who turned up in their pyjamas and brought money to support Children in Need. Wearing our favourite and most comfy clothes to school really made a difference as we raised £133 for Children in Need.



AN OUT OF THIS WORLD EXPERIENCE

Children in Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to meet British astronaut Tim Peake. Some pupils even appeared on *BBC Breakfast* on Monday 15th December, while others featured on the Science Museum's YouTube channel.



ABCD CHARITY

ALONE Behind Closed Doors, ABCD is a charity that provides support for struggling families and individuals battling with mental health and other emotional well-being challenges.

At Christmas, they provide personalised hampers to individuals and families. Thank you for your generous contributions. We raised £152. Five families from our school community will receive a tailor made hamper to enjoy during the Christmas break.

WINTER FAIR

We would like to say a huge thank you to the whole school community for making our first Winter Fair as new family such an enjoyable and successful event. We were completely overwhelmed with everyone's commitment and support. Thank you to those who volunteered, cooked, baked, donated and ran stalls, as well as those who came to support us. We raised an impressive £3108.50. The money raised will be used to fund projects and resources for Holmleigh children.



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.

CAROLS AND NATIVITY BY CONCERT

We were all extremely proud of the children's performances at our Christmas concert. A huge thank you to all the staff who spent many hours rehearsing songs, teaching dance routines, and creating props and scenery. Thank you also to our parents for your support in helping children learn song words and lines, for providing costumes, and of course for being such a wonderful audience. Huge thanks to the Friends of Holmleigh for selling mince pies and hot beverages and raising an amazing £150.07.



CHRISTMAS PARTY, DISCO AND DINNER

The children thoroughly enjoyed our annual Christmas party, disco, and dinner. We were delighted by a special appearance from Santa himself! Thank you to all parents for your generous contributions.



STEELPAN & DJEMBE DRUMS

The children had a wonderful time creating beautiful melodies on the steelpan and djembe drums. Children from Nursery to Year 2 enthusiastically played the djembe drums, while children in Years 3 to 6 enjoyed exploring rhythms and melodies on the steelpan. The atmosphere truly felt like a carnival. A huge thank you to Friends of Holmleigh for generously funding the workshops.



SCIENCE DAY

The scientists were out in full force on Science Day, dressed in stethoscopes, bandages, and test tubes! We had great fun learning about scientific innovations through a range of exciting activities and challenges in class.





Children in Years 5 and 6 led hands-on activities in the hall for the whole school to enjoy, showcasing their knowledge and enthusiasm. Many pupils also completed science projects at home, some of which are now displayed in our science area near the upper hall. A huge thank you to our Science Lead, Mrs Simmons, for her hard work, dedication, and infectious enthusiasm.



WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO...

MURAL PROJECT

We are excited to share details of a special project taking place during the spring term at Holmleigh Primary School. As part of our commitment to building strong relationships within our newly merged school community, we have secured funding from Hackney Education to transform areas of the school into a meaningful masterpiece that celebrates our vibrantly diverse community.

This project will bring pupils, families, and staff together to create a large-scale mural that reflects our shared identities, backgrounds, and aspirations.

The project will be led by Rose Hill, Summer's mum and the founder of Co-Creation Connection.

Our Goals

- **Community Collaboration:** Pupils in Years 2-6, along with families and staff, will work together to plan, design, and create the mural, showcasing our diverse backgrounds and dreams.
- **Celebration of Diversity:** The mural will reflect the richness of our community within a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space.
- **Belonging and Pride:** By working together, we aim to foster a strong sense of teamwork, pride, and belonging.
- **Lasting Impact:** The finished mural will continue to promote positivity, connection, and wellbeing long after the project is complete.

What We'll Do

- **Creative Workshops:** Workshops for pupils in Years 2-6 will take place on 23rd February, 27th February, 2nd March, and 6th March.
- Pupils will take part in activities such as creating mood boards, exploring colours and patterns, selecting colour palettes, and discussing what is important for the mural.
- **Co-Design:** Rose Hill, a professional artist, will guide the design process to ensure the mural is visually striking and meaningful.



- **Let's Paint!:** Following the design stage, a selection of pupils, families, staff, and local artists will come together to paint the mural on 27th, 28th, and 30th March.
- **Big Reveal:** We will celebrate the completed mural with a special event for the school and local community, giving everyone involved the chance to feel proud of their contribution.
- **Continuing the Journey:** After the mural is completed, we will create a video documenting the project, ensuring the mural remains a lasting symbol of our community.

AMPLIFIED SCHOOLS

We are delighted to share that from January we will be celebrating our wonderful school community even more widely. Following the success of our recent merger and the many fantastic achievements taking place in classrooms every day, this is the perfect time to shine a brighter light on our pupils' creativity, achievements, and wider school life. We will be working with Amplified Schools to support this work.

To ensure we can showcase pupils' successes as fully as possible, we are updating our media permissions. Thank you to the families who have already responded. If you have not yet done so, we kindly ask that you complete and return the form. This will allow us to celebrate children publicly where appropriate, while fully respecting the wishes of families who prefer their child not to be included for personal or safeguarding reasons.

CLASS SHARE SESSIONS

We received such positive feedback from these sessions last year, and we are excited to announce that they will continue in the spring term. Parents and carers are invited to spend time in their child's classroom to learn more about their learning journey. This will be a wonderful opportunity for children to share their personal achievements and successes with the adults who support them. You will find the dates and times in the Dates for Diaries section of the newsletter.

BUY AN APPLE, GIVE AN APPLE INITIATIVE

We are delighted to be taking part in the 'Buy an apple, Give an apple' initiative, a community-led project focused on making fresh, nutritious food more accessible to children while reducing food waste.

The initiative is run by Streetbox, a local food organisation that works directly with growers and London's produce markets to rescue good-quality surplus fruit that might otherwise go to waste. Through partnerships with local businesses and schools, these apples are redistributed so that more children can enjoy a healthy snack during the school day.



This project also forms part of a wider movement for a fairer and more sustainable food system, linked to a programme called **Bloom Market**, which explores new ways for communities to buy and share food while supporting growers and reducing waste.

We are very grateful to Dash's dad for introducing this opportunity to Holmleigh, and we are excited to be part of a project that supports both children's wellbeing and a better food system.

To find out more, visit:

www.bloom-market.co.uk/apples

admin@bloom-market.co.uk



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 morning exercise, which will begin at 8:55am alongside the rest of the school after the Christmas break. The gates will close promptly at 9:05am.

Please make every effort to arrive at school on time. If your child arrives later than 9:05am, 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 93.41**. 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 Matters



Every Day Counts....



ATTENDANCE BY CLASS FOR THIS TERM

RECEPTION OAK	91.23%
RECEPTION BEECH	93.26%
YEAR 1 WALNUT	90.90%
YEAR 1 NUTMEG	93.68%
YEAR 2 CHESTNUT	94.85%
YEAR 2 PALM	92.18%
YEAR 3 ELDER	95.73%
YEAR 3 WILLOW	90.63%
YEAR 4 HAZEL	94.58%
YEAR 4 HOLLY	95.69%
YEAR 5 ACACIA	92.85%
YEAR 5 OLIVE	96.73%
YEAR 6 EBONY	94.31%
YEAR 6 SYCAMORE	93.35%



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.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays are very important and exciting occasions to celebrate. For birthday celebrations at school, homemade cakes and selections of fruit to share with the class are welcome.