



# Holmleigh Primary School Newsletter

## Our Values

Respect, kindness, Resilience,  
Integrity, Honesty and Trust

March 2026

## Our Rules

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

The spring term has flown by, and it has certainly been a busy one! The children have enjoyed a wide range of learning activities and school visits, making it a truly enriching term.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement; it truly makes a difference to the life of our school.

Please note that we will no longer be sending out class pages. To stay up to date with news from your child's class, we encourage you to follow the school on social media by scanning the QR code on the poster.

We wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 13th April 2026.

Warm regards,  
Miss Boateng  
Headteacher

**HOLMLEIGH IS  
NOW ONLINE!**



Scan the QR to follow us!  
**@HolmleighPrimary**





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## SUMMER TERM ONE

DATE	EVENT/ACTIVITY
MONDAY 13 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026	SCHOOL OPENS FOR CHILDREN
MONDAY 11 <sup>TH</sup> MAY - THURSDAY 14 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026	KS2 ( YEAR 6) SATs WEEK
MONDAY 11 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026	OPTIONAL KS1 ( YEAR 2) TESTS
MONDAY 11 <sup>TH</sup> MAY - MONDAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026	SUMMER TERM ASSESSMENT WEEK
FRIDAY 15 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026	SUMMER FAIR  3PM-5PM
FRIDAY 22 <sup>ND</sup> MAY 2026	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM  SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.30PM  MURAL UNVEILING EVENT AT 3PM

You will find dates for the second half of the summer term on our website





## CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Year 4 Hazel did themselves proud with a fantastic assembly inspired by *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. Their enthusiasm, confidence, and acting skills truly shone throughout the performance. Well done, Year 4 Hazel—what a brilliant achievement!

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
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2026	Year 4 Holly
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026	Year 3 Elder
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Year 3 Willow
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 2 Chestnut
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 2 Palm
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 1 Nutmeg
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026	Year 1 Walnut
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Reception Beech
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Reception Oak

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THIS HALF TERM?

### PARENTS' EVENING

The spring term parents' evening was very well attended. If you weren't able to attend, I encourage you to book a meeting with your child's class teacher. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress since the autumn term and explore ways to better support their learning at home.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday, 5th March, superheroes, queens, princesses, bears, witches, wizards, and countless other wonderful characters filled every corner of the school as we celebrated the magic of reading and storytelling. Adults and children alike shared their favourite books and enjoyed two story-sharing assemblies.

The library remained open for days with classes visiting in turn. It was especially lovely to see so many parents joining their children to enjoy story time together.



Our Reading Shed also welcomed visitors, with our Reading Champions proudly opening and hosting the space.

A huge thank you to Ms Amena, Ms Gaylor, our Reading Champions, and everyone who helped make the day such a success!



## SPONSORED READ

Friends of Holmleigh ran a Sponsored Read from 2nd March to 20th March 2026.

To launch the event, a book swap and giveaway took place on Monday 2nd March at 3:30pm in the playground. It was wonderful to see so many children leaving school with books in their hands. We are considering holding regular book swap events and will keep you updated.

A fantastic total of **£1,864.85** was raised through the Sponsored Read. All funds will go towards purchasing new books for the Holmleigh school library.

Well done to all the children who took part!

A special thank you and congratulations to the following children who each raised £100 or more:

**Zayd Alom** - Year 3 Elder - £375

**Shiloh Amies Crawley** - Reception Oak - £257

**Dash Bell** - Year 3 Elder - £130



## SCIENCE WEEK

The theme for this year's British Science Week was Curiosity-what's your question? We celebrated Science Week with a series of inspiring visits from professionals in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). These experiences sparked curiosity and enthusiasm among our children from Nursery through to Year 6. The children had the opportunity to interact with the visitors, ask questions, and gain insight into a range of STEM fields. We hope that the experiences will motivate them to further explore the wide range of STEM careers available to them in the future.

A huge thank you to Asha Alom (Science Specialist teacher and Lead Practitioner); Alex Molloy and George Embleton from Transport for London; and Kervan Karatas from the University of Westminster, for their engaging sessions.

Parents also played an important role in the week's celebrations, working alongside their children to create a variety of Science Home Learning projects. It was wonderful to see how proud the pupils were as they received their awards during our Big Book assembly. We were equally delighted by the enthusiasm of parents who attended the After School Science Club celebration event, actively participating in experiments with their children.

**Mrs Barrett-Simmons**



## COMIC RELIEF

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, we joined thousands of schools up and down the country to dress up and raise money for those who need it most. As it was also the end of our Sponsored Read, some of us wore pyjamas and an item of red clothing. We raised £105.91 for this worthy cause. Thank you for your contributions.





## ROCKSTEADY

Our incredible Rocksteady bands truly blew us away with their outstanding end-of-term performances. We were completely captivated by their skill, focus, and confidence. From drumming and keyboards to guitars and vocals, every performance was impressive. A huge well done to all involved! Many thanks as well to the parents who were able to attend and show their support.

## EID CELEBRATION

Friends of Holmleigh hosted a fantastic Eid celebration on Monday 23rd March from 3:30 to 4:30 PM, marking the second year of this wonderful event. The afternoon was filled with fun activities, including face painting and henna tattoos, alongside a delicious selection of food and drinks for everyone to enjoy.

Earlier in the day, Asha (Zayd in Year 3's mother) led two assemblies on Ramadan and Eid. The sessions were interactive and lively, even giving children the opportunity to dress up and dance.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making this such a wonderful experience for our community.

## SPANISH PARTNESHIP VISIT TO HOLMLEIGH 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH - 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

We were delighted to welcome six students and two teachers from Susarte School in Murcia, Spain. This visit forms part of our growing partnership, which began with our Erasmus Project on Robotics in 2018.

In addition to taking part in exciting robotics speed challenges in the school hall, our visitors enjoyed a rich programme of activities. They explored Greenwich Market and the Royal Observatory, visited the British Museum and the Natural History Museum, shopped in Camden Market, and dined at a restaurant on the South Bank. A particular highlight was a canoeing session on the River Lea.

The week concluded with a lively Pizza and Quiz Night, bringing everyone together for a fun and memorable finale.

It was a fantastic and action-packed week, thoroughly enjoyed by all. We look forward to continuing and strengthening this valuable partnership through future exchange. Huge thanks go to our governors, Mr Ward, Ms Eracn, and everyone who helped make the visit possible—especially the host families, who took such wonderful care of our guests. We are excited about further opportunities to develop our international partnerships for the benefit of Holmleigh's children.





## WOODBERRY WETLANDS TRIP

On Monday 23rd March, Year 4 Hazel were invited to take part in the official opening of the new play area at Woodberry Wetlands. During our visit, the children had time to play and explore the area, and also participated in a curriculum-linked science session with the learning team and Steve Backshall. Some of the children even appeared on BBC London News and ITV News London! It was an incredibly memorable day for everyone involved.

Well done, Year 4 Hazel—you were fantastic!



## KITES PROJECT

Year 4 have designed their own kites to celebrate the arrival of spring. These colourful creations will be displayed in shop windows along the High Street and Church Street, bringing a cheerful seasonal touch to the local area.

From 28th March to 12th April, children and young people can take part in a fun trail. Pick up a trail map and explore the streets, popping into shops along the way to collect stickers or stamps. At the end of the trail, completed maps can be entered into a prize draw. Keep an eye out for the wonderful kites as you go!



## EASTER EGG HUNT

We had a fantastic time taking part in an Easter egg hunt, and the Easter Bunny paid a special visit to each class, delivering Easter eggs to everyone.

It was such a lovely way to end the term.

A huge thank you to Friends of Holmleigh for organising this wonderful treat!





## SPOTLIGHT

### YOUNG POET LAUREATE COMPETITION

Following the Young Poets' Week Assembly in November (Years 5 and 6) which was led by Desree (a professional poet) some of our pupils were inspired to enter the Young Poet Laureate Competition. Students were asked to submit a poem and a short application explaining why they wanted to be a poet laureate for London.

Congratulations to Gabi, Acacia Class, who has been shortlisted for this role. Her amazing poem will now be published and she is one of only 20 pupils from across London who will be attending a Master Class Day in April.

Gabi will take part in creative writing exercises, explore poetic techniques, discuss her work with the poet and share her writing with the group. She will finally perform her poem at the end of the day in front of an audience. The performance will be filmed to be shared with the judging panel, which includes Poet Laureate Simon Armitage.

Well done Gabi!

### PIL VAN MARTIN COMPETITION

Just before the February half-term, the author of *The Spick and the Span*, Pil Van Martin, offered an amazing opportunity for our pupils' characters to appear in his next book!

Hannah, Acacia Class, entered the competition and her work was so good that it was shared with the author of *The Spick and The Span*, Pil Van Martin, who said: "*The winner absolutely has to be Hannah from Holmleigh School in Hackney. What a brain! What illustration skills! I should hire her to ghost write the books for me!*"

Her work will soon appear in Pil's new book. Well done Hannah!

### YOUNG CITY POETS

For over ten years, children in Year 6 have taken part in the Young City Poets project. This inspiring initiative includes a visit to a cultural venue in London, designed to spark the students' creative imagination. Over the past decade, visits have included Keats House, The Monument, Tower Bridge, St Paul's Cathedral, and The London Archives.

As part of the project, pupils also have the opportunity to work with practising poets. In recent years, these have included Simon Mole, Laila Sumpton, and Paul Cree.

The programme culminates in an exciting opportunity for children to perform their poetry in front of a live audience and to have their work published in an anthology.

This year, our Year 6 pupils visited Tower Bridge. Following the trip, they developed their poems in class before welcoming Paul Cree, who supported them in refining and perfecting their work. Ten poems were selected for publication in the Young City Poets anthology, and six children: Solomon, Jamil, Laura, Bea, Naomi and Yonis were chosen to



perform their work at St Paul's Cathedral on Thursday 19th March. Huge congratulations to all the children for their excellent work.



## MURAL PROJECT

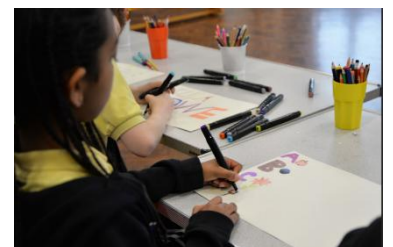
The project workshops were a fantastic success. Children in Years 2-6 took part in a range of creative activities, including creating mood boards, exploring colours and patterns, selecting colour palettes, and making important decisions about what the mural will look like.

Rose Hill has brought all of these wonderful ideas together and the final design is both visually striking and meaningful.

This afternoon, parents and carers began preparing the space for painting. There will be another session for parents and children to continue painting on Monday 27th April.

We will celebrate the completed mural with a special event for the school and local community on Friday 22nd May at 3.00pm.

Well done to all the children for sharing their fantastic ideas, and a huge thank you to Rose and her team for their hard work.





### **CAMHS WORKER IN SCHOOL**

George Bunting, a Systemic and Family Psychotherapist, is our Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) practitioner in school. He works as part of the Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools (WAMHS) team within City and Hackney CAMHS, and also contributes to Specialist CAMHS services. He is available in school on Friday mornings. His role is to support the staff team in meeting the mental health needs of pupils. He also works with parents and carers to help identify needs, provide guidance, and offer appropriate support and signposting. Please contact Mrs Jetto if you'd like an appointment with George.

### **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: <https://www.younghackney.org/> for information about youth hubs and clubs.

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO...**





## EASTER ACTIVITIES



The Hackney 10x10 Programme is a new initiative to support every child in Hackney to achieve 10 amazing activities by the time they are 10 years old.

Engage in exercise

Have a musical experience

Learn to swim

Take part in drama and performing arts

Visit the seaside and the countryside • Experience museums, theatres, galleries and heritage sites

Take part in camping trips and overnight residentials

Learn to ride a bike

Take part in debating

Use a library

For more information please visit:

<https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/extranet/10x10-resources-schools-and-settings>

## LEARN TO SWIM

Better is offering free swimming lessons for children in Year 5 & 6 at Clissold Leisure Centre. We want to support children to learn this important life skill.

Children MUST be available to attend at least 80% of lessons from 30th March-2nd April & April 7th-10th (lessons will take place between 1-3 pm). Families must provide swimwear, towels and goggles. Here is the link to the

form [https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=LRcezGhd4EK7xlruOG\\_8-44q-Lt2f-](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=LRcezGhd4EK7xlruOG_8-44q-Lt2f-)

[xJqp3vxRwpef9UMVJaNjc1N1VRRlk2VUVIV1RINFUXR0YxQy4u&route=shorturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=LRcezGhd4EK7xlruOG_8-44q-Lt2f-xJqp3vxRwpef9UMVJaNjc1N1VRRlk2VUVIV1RINFUXR0YxQy4u&route=shorturl)

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME (HAF)

During the Easter break, Hackney Council will be teaming up with a number of schools—including Holmleigh—as well as sports providers and community services to offer a wide range of activities and healthy meals.

There will be sports, arts, drama, mentoring, and much more across various locations.

For more details, please refer to the letter sent home from the Holmleigh Holiday Club last week or email Sally at [holmleighholidayclub@gmail.com](mailto:holmleighholidayclub@gmail.com).



You can also visit [Hackney Council's Holiday Activities and Food Programme](#) for a full list of participating schools and more information.

## 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 at 9.05am.

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. Our aim is for all pupils to achieve at least **96% attendance** across the school year, giving them the best possible chance of success. Whole-school attendance for this half term was 93.04%, showing a slight improvement compared to the first half of the term.

As part of our commitment to keeping you informed, we will be sharing each child's attendance data with you on a half-termly basis.

Good attendance is vital in raising educational standards and ensuring that every pupil is able to fulfil their potential. Regular attendance supports children's learning, confidence and wellbeing.

Please remember that holidays during term time will not be authorised, and unauthorised absences may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued in line with local authority guidance.

If your child is absent from school, you must contact the school on the first day of absence to inform us of the reason. If the absence continues for more than one day, please contact the school each day to keep us updated.



All the children who achieved 100% attendance were awarded certificates in assembly—well done to everyone! 🎉👏

RECEPTION OAK	89.37%
RECEPTION BEECH	92.59%
YEAR 1 WALNUT	92.92%
YEAR 1 NUTMEG	92.65%
YEAR 2 CHESTNUT	93.49%
YEAR 2 PALM	93.55%
YEAR 3 ELDER	94.71%
YEAR 3 WILLOW	88.71%
YEAR 4 HAZEL	93.58%
YEAR 4 HOLLY	95.31%
YEAR 5 ACACIA	90.39%
YEAR 5 OLIVE	96.57%
YEAR 6 EBONY	92.92%
YEAR 6 SYCAMORE	93.32%

### **DISMISSAL AT THE END OF DAY**

The school gates will open at 3:20 pm for health and safety reasons, to prevent parents from waiting on the pavement. Please note that children will be dismissed to their parents/carers at 3:30 pm.



## LATE COLLECTIONS

Where late collection is persistent and/or significantly after 3.30pm, we will place a child into After School Care Club and provide the parent/carer with the bill. If a child is not collected by 6.00pm, and a parent cannot be contacted, the school will contact Children's Services as this is a safeguarding concern.

## 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 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. Please ensure that all uniform items, including hats, coats, and gloves are clearly labelled to help us return any misplaced belongings quickly.

