

Newsletter 30 – Monday 22nd June 2026

A little bit later than usual with the newsletter as I was away with the Year 6s at the end of last week. I love being a Headteacher but I do sometimes feel like I miss out on 'the good bits' – the extra aspects of school life that I loved when I was a class teacher. Well, not this week! It's been a fabulous week in school with so much to celebrate and I've really enjoyed being able to be a part of it – I'll get back to asbestos, finance and data tomorrow!

KS1/2 Sports Day

We kicked off the week with a fabulous sports day for our KS1 and KS2 children. The morning of potted sports was a gorgeous display of everything I love about Holly Hill – children trying their best, teachers dancing and laughing (courtesy of my dance/karaoke gazebo!), the older children helping and supporting the younger children. An absolutely amazing atmosphere!

Then the afternoon got competitive and once again, a display of Holly Hill at its absolute best! The children tried their hardest and showed endless resilience. So many acts of kindness, good sportsmanship and gorgeous giggles every time the sack racers fell over! A huge thank you to parents for bringing such a lovely vibe to our sports day – I know there are schools where parents grumble over who came first and ask for re-runs of races! Not at Holly Hill! We loved hearing you cheer every child on – especially during the long race when they really needed your help to get them over the finish line.

As always, a huge thank you to Mrs. Fisher for organising such a fabulous day to within an inch of its life! Thank you to Mr. Garland for extremely straight lines on our running track and to the rest of the staff for their hard work all day.

District Sports

Oh my goodness – what an absolutely amazing afternoon this was! I was very lucky to get to go along this year to see our KS2 children in the district sports event at Harvey Haddon stadium and wow, what a year to be able to attend! Every single child representing Holly Hill performed so well and was an absolute credit to us.

We had so many children make it onto the podium: Cory came 2nd in throwing, Dana came 3rd in hop, step & jump, Larna came 3rd in long jump. Then in the running Bexley came 3rd, Alfie came 3rd, Skyla 4th, Noah 1st, Jasmine 1st, Karson 4th, boys relay 4th and girls relay 1st!

Honestly, it was a wonderful display of sporting skill from every child and overall, Holly Hill came 3rd out of 11 schools!! A huge thank you to Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Bis, Mr. Close and Mr. Ellis for organising and to our parents who came along to support us and cheer us on!

Foundation Stage Sports Day

Another amazing sports day on Thursday but this time for our youngest children in school. I was so sad to have missed it due to the residential but heard from everyone else that it was such a lovely afternoon.

Our littlest people gave their absolute best and demonstrated resilience and teamwork, learning those brilliant life lessons that sport teaches us.

Once again, a huge thank you to our parents and families. Your support means so much to us, and the energy you brought to the afternoon was absolutely brilliant.

A huge thank you to Mrs Jeffery and her incredible team for organising and delivering such a memorable afternoon. The thought, care, and effort that goes into making these events special doesn't go unnoticed.

Mount Cook Residential

What an absolute privilege it was to join our Year 6 children at Mount Cook this week!

The activities were brilliant. We had children conquering their fears on the rock-climbing wall, racing each other on land karts, and (my personal favourite!) screaming as they whizzed down the zip wire off the rooftop. The abseiling at Black Rocks was a real achievement for some as it's so scary to lean back at that height but so many of them did it and were then desperate to have another go! Residential brings out so many lovely qualities in the children. My personal highlight was being stuck at the bottom of the rock climbing at Black Rocks - I was having lots of doubts about whether I could do it, it was so hard! One of the Year 6 girls said "You tell us we can do anything Miss. And imagine how proud you'll be when you go home and tell Harrison and Thea!". Holly Hill children really are exceptional. (And if you're wondering, I did do it and haven't been able to move my neck properly since!)

It isn't just about the adrenaline activities – they slept under the stars in their outdoor pods, gathered together to watch the England game, laughed lots, enjoyed a late night game of 'Ding, dong, ditch' and tackled quite a few MASSIVE spiders!!!

Thank you to Miss Fretwell for organising and the incredible staff who give up their time for residential – amazing memories to last a lifetime.

Hot weather ahead!

We know that the week ahead is going to be a very hot one! We will be doing everything we can in school to keep the children cool and safe. We ask that parents:

- Send children in summer uniform (shorts/skirts/gingham dresses and white T-shirts) or PE kits (black shorts and white T-shirts).
- Provide a water bottle and a sun hat.
- Ensure children are wearing suncream and bring it with them to self-apply during the day if needed.

We will ensure that:

- Children are kept in the shade with physical activity kept to a minimum.
- They drink regularly throughout the day to keep hydrated.
- Classrooms are kept as cool as possible with windows open and blinds down (this is a tricky one without air conditioning!)
- Children are wearing hats and reminded to apply suncream if needed.
- We take the opportunity to educate about sun safety.

The week ahead...

- Wednesday 24th June – Foundation Stage garden party (Infant hall will be open for shade)
- Friday 26th June – INSET DAY, SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS

Told you it had been a fabulous week! These are the moments that remind us why we do what we do – what an amazing school to be part of.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs. Leanne Steed
Headteacher

*Please be reminded that cars are strictly prohibited from parking on School Road. We must work together to ensure the safety of the children who attend our school.

