

Newsletter 11 – Friday 5th December 2025

School photographs

Just wanted to keep you in the loop as I've been chatting to parents and found that a few were disappointed with the individual photos this year. We had used DSB photography for years and were always very happy with them. Dinah had always provided a great service and extremely good prices as well as lots of freebies such as staff lanyards and Y6 leavers books. We didn't know that Dinah and her family have been planning to emigrate to Australia for 18 months so when their visas were confirmed, she sold the business over the summer and is now living the dream in Perth (not jealous at all!). Therefore, in September the new company contacted us to say that they now had all of Dinah's contracts and we didn't have time to do anything about it. We're obviously now aware that their prices were a lot higher for parents and parents weren't as happy with the images. We are going to look into a few new companies and will hopefully have something in place soon.

Happy in Hathersage

A group of our Year 4 children headed off to Hathersage last week for a few days in the great outdoors. They enjoyed a late-night bat walk, tea in the pub, exploring Eyam and, in Mrs. Brooks words, "scrambling up a vertical slope" on Eyam moor. A huge thank you to Mrs. Fisher for organising and to Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Brooks and Mr. Close for going along to make it possible.

Y3/4 staycation

Those children who didn't go to Hathersage, enjoyed a staycation back at school. Next Level provided a great day of activities including scooters, glow in the dark dodgeball and archery and Miss Morrison and Mrs. Ward organised a woodland walk, an RE day and a beautiful lighting of the children's divas. What a fabulous week for our Year 3/4s!

Swimming – Years 3 & 4

After the Christmas break, the swimming pool will be arriving at Holly Hill again. This year Years 3 and 4 only will be swimming and the pool will be here for 3 weeks rather than 6. For the past two years, we had lots of sports premium money left over which meant we could offer additional lessons to Years 5 and 6. Now this money has been spent, we will revert back to our original plan of lessons for Years 3 and 4. Mrs. Fisher sent a text out earlier in the week to get an idea of swimming ability for our groupings and timetable. Once that is finalised, you will receive a letter so you know what days your child will be swimming on and what kit is required. We always see amazing progress in the pop-up pool and are very excited to be welcoming it back once again.

The Christmas plan

Our plan for 'Holly Hill Christmas 2025' was sent home to parents on Monday. If you missed it, please take a look here (second letter down): [Newsletters | Holly Hill Primary and Nursery School](#)

The week ahead...

- **Assessment week**
Next week in school, Years 1 to 6 will be doing their end of term assessments. This is nothing to be worried about and happens at the end of every term. Completing standardised tests helps to inform our assessments and gives a clear view of next step targets and interventions needed for the term ahead. It is very important that children attend school as much as possible next week to be able to complete their assessments. They must be done by the time we break for Christmas and none of them will want to have to do them during our exciting Christmas week activities.
- Thursday 11th December, 10am & 2pm – Foundation Stage Christmas shows

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Leanne Steed

Headteacher

Attendance heroes

Good attendance in school is extremely important. The government target for good attendance is 96%.

This week's winners were Wren class with 95.2% Well done Wrens!!

RECEPTION	85.9%	KINGFISHERS	94.9%
PUFFINS	88.0%	DOVES	89.3%
WRENS	95.2%	SWALLOWS	90.6%
WOODPECKERS	94.0%	OWLS	90.0%
		FALCONS	70.7%
		SWANS	90.3%
WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR (excluding Nursery)		93.%	