

Newsletter 27 – Friday 22nd May 2026

What a wonderful week - trips, experiences and residential coming out of our ears! Everyone's exhausted, staffing has been a nightmare, the prep and organisation that goes into making it happen is endless but it is so worth it to see those gorgeous faces having the time of their lives! I'm so proud of the offer we provide here at Holly Hill, unbelievably grateful for the team that make it happen, always thankful for such supportive parents and always emotional when you hear the children talking about "the best day ever!". So, this crazy week has consisted of....

Year 5 Hathersage residential

Our Year 5s headed off to Hathersage on residential from Monday to Wednesday. The weather wasn't amazing for them but they were still able to have a wonderful time. Residential is such a unique experience where children get to shine in so many different ways. I loved hearing about Riley rocking and rolling down a hill and Leo wobbling at first on his bike and then being able to do a 7 mile ride!! They facetimes me to show me the torrential rain and sent me videos of the incredible amount of bats they saw on their night walk (Mrs. Fisher said that it's the first time they have seen so many because they normally arrive on a Wednesday and that's bell ringing night in Hathersage!). There were lots of sleepy faces in school yesterday but it sounds like it was worth it. Thank you Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Close, Mrs. Brooks and Miss Carter for taking them.

Cross-country competition

On Wednesday morning, Mrs. Cottee and Miss Mitchinson took a team of Year 3/4 children out to Eastwood for the cross-country competition. There were some absolutely amazing runs on the morning and some displays of tremendous resilience and effort. A special shout out to Alfie in Year 4 who came 6th in his race and Bebe in Year 4 who only went and finished in 1st place! When I went out on lunch duty, lots of children were running over to me saying "you'll never guess what Bebe did?" and "go and ask Alfie what place he came" – it was a gorgeous moment to hear how proud all of their friends were of them too!

A huge well done to all of our fabulous runners:

Alfie – 6th, Finley – 17th, Jack – 22nd and Jason – 37th

Bebe – 1st, Lilah – 21st, Jasmine – 29th and Rebecca – 35th

Absolutely brilliant – what a team!!

A trip to the Butterfly House and an ugly bug ball!

Our lovely little FS2s went off to the Butterfly House on Thursday for an exciting day looking at all of the creatures there. Despite getting held up on the motorway, they were still able to fit everything in: holding the bugs, walking through the butterfly house, watching the bird display and playing on the tractors. Meanwhile, back in Nursery, Miss Halliday and the Nursery children enjoyed an ugly bug ball! Thank you parents for your support with costumes for this – the cutest little bugs I've ever seen! Thank you Mrs. Jeffrey, Miss Halliday and the EYFS team for a day to remember!

A trip to Cresswell Craggs

The coaches were lining up on Thursday as Year 4 also went off for their visit to Cresswell Craggs. Another wonderful day spent learning about the stone age and being a caveman for the day. Gorgeous behaviour all round, as always! Thank you again Mrs. Ward for organising and to the team of staff and parents that went along to help.

...and a Viking!!

I did have a little smile to myself when I walked into the staffroom on Thursday morning and the staff were sat having a coffee...with a Viking! Perfectly normal start to the day in the world of a primary school teacher! Our Year 5/6s enjoyed a day being entertained with Viking battles, exploring weapons and artefacts, playing Viking board games and being taken on an interactive timeline of the Viking era. It sounded like a brilliant day (I could hear lots of shouting and fighting coming from the hall!) – thank you Miss Self for organising such a great experience.

The week ahead...

- Monday 1st June – Children return to school
- Monday 1st June until stocks run out – Sports equipment and gadget stall (see separate letter and price list to follow)
- **WEDNESDAY 3rd JUNE – CLASS PHOTOS AND YEAR 6 LEAVERS BOOK PHOTOS!! *THIS DATE HAS CHANGED TWICE SO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THIS NEW ONE.**

We hope you all have a wonderful half term in the glorious sunshine that has been forecast!

Thank you for your continued support,

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 Owls with 95% - well done Owls, amazing attendance!!!

ATTENDANCE ABOVE 96% IS AT THE EXPECTED STANDARD.

RECEPTION	81.5%	KINGFISHERS	93.4%
PUFFINS	91.8%	DOVES	94.6%
WRENS	93.2%	SWALLOWS	92.3%
WOODPECKERS	90.3%	OWLS	95%
		FALCONS	94.2%
		SWANS	91%
WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR (excluding Nursery)			
93.3%			

*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.

