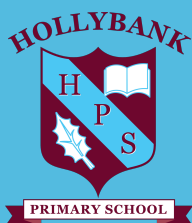




## HOLLYBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT



Subject Coordinator Update to Parents and Carers

**2020-2021**

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**HOLLYBANK**



**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**ENGAGE, EMPOWER, EXCEL**

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# OUR ETHOS:

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'Hollybank Primary School strives to create a welcoming, caring and respectful environment with the child always at the centre of all that we do. Every pupil is encouraged to reach their full potential, with support and guidance to enrich their individual learning experiences.'



# MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**COORDINATOR:**

**MISS BRETT**



## **A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS SUBJECT:**

Some children and young people have enjoyed being off school, while others will have really struggled – with the coronavirus outbreak keeping them at home and away from friends. Others may be coming to terms with family problems, loss or changes to their living situation. With nationwide and local restrictions being regularly reviewed, they may also have to deal with self-isolating because of an outbreak in school or another period of school closure or have worries about getting or passing on the virus. It's still uncertain what further changes we all may face.

Feelings like these will gradually ease for most, but there are always steps we can take to support them emotionally and help them cope with problems they face.

## **DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN SCHOOL SO FAR:**

We made many changes prior to the children returning to school, to help them settle back into school life and prepare for the year ahead. Each morning every pupil identifies their emotional zone, and teachers are teaching pupils how to regulate these emotions daily. This is done through mindfulness sessions three times a day; regular brain breaks and many MHWB intervention programmes. We have switched off the bells and offer Art Therapy and Resilience programmes to those children who are struggling. Each class is timetabled for a weekly PATHS lesson, which promotes alternative thinking strategies.

## **WHAT WE WILL BE WORKING ON THIS YEAR:**

We will be further developing our mindfulness morning sessions to include nurture approaches, including stretching, self-massage, breathing and focus activities.

Thrive will be funding a remote Fresh Little Minds Programme, a fabulous resource which P2-P4 thoroughly enjoyed last year.

Our ENGAGE project teacher will be focusing on building self-confidence and being ready to learn.

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD:**

Talk about emotions with your child, what they feel like and what helps them self-regulate. If your child is struggling, ask us for some of the ideas we use in school. Keep an eye on Tuesday note for top tips also.

# LITERACY

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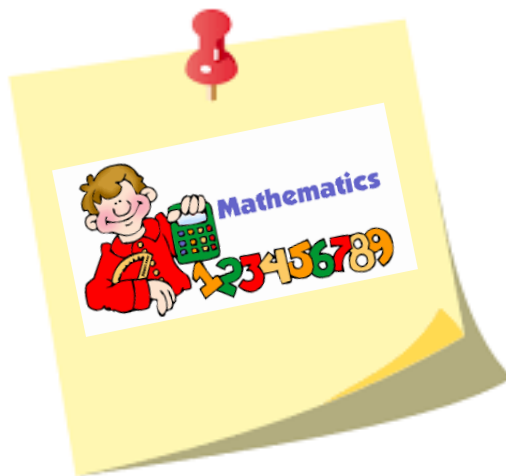
<b>COORDINATOR:</b>	Mrs Campfield
<b>A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS SUBJECT:</b> Literacy is the foundation of all other subjects, reading, writing and talking and listening are crucial for success in all areas of school life. We have been faced with many challenges during the pandemic, meaning we have had to adjust some of our approaches. We will be sending reading books home again after half term, which will be quarantined for three days when they are returned. We have purchased an online reading resource: 'Reading Eggs' which will help the children when learning at home. Details will be sent home after the half term holidays.	
<b>DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN SCHOOL SO FAR:</b> We are using our READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE ethos to teach children how to listen again, and encouraging lots of talk throughout all the subjects. We have assessed the learning gaps in Literacy and are working to address these over the coming months. Our year 6 and year 7 pupils have access to Accelerated Reader to help boost their comprehension skills.	
<b>WHAT WE WILL BE WORKING ON THIS YEAR:</b> Our assessments so far indicate that Spelling is an area we need to focus on post lockdown. We will be doing a lot of work on spelling strategies which help children transfer their vocabulary correctly when writing. This will involve over-learning vocabulary, spelling bee competitions, wow word of the week, and daily spelling reflection time.	
<b>HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD:</b> Keep an eye on Tuesday note, where we will be placing spelling tips for homework and home learning. Encourage your child to play spelling games such as hangman, build on words they already know, and keep a spelling journal at home. In this journal they can note the spelling rules and add lots of examples as they meet them. Tricky words should be practised in pencil, pen, shaving foam, rice, paint etc! Anything that helps them visualise the words, drawing their attention to tall and short letters.	



# NUMERACY

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<b>COORDINATOR:</b>	Mrs Nelson
<b>A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS SUBJECT:</b> Numeracy has a number of areas: Number, Shape and Space, Data Handling, Measures and Processes. It is essential that children not only have a sound knowledge of these areas, but the skills also to transfer this knowledge in different contexts.	
<b>DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN SCHOOL SO FAR:</b> We have started assessing our pupils to address any gaps in learning that may be present after lockdown. We have renewed our subscription to Mathletics for children to practise their knowledge at home.	
<b>WHAT WE WILL BE WORKING ON THIS YEAR:</b> One of the necessities of remote learning is to be able to transfer knowledge outside the classroom. To this end we will be working on mental maths strategies and lots of talking to build confidence in problem solving scenarios.	
<b>HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD:</b> Practise number bonds with your children, speedy recall of number facts is really important. E.G $2 \text{ plus } 8 = 10$ and $20 \text{ plus } 80 = 100$ , rote counting and tables recall will also help build their confidence in number. Encourage your child to use Mathletics regularly, maybe try a little family competition!	



# ICT

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**COORDINATOR:**

Mrs Culbert

**A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS SUBJECT:**

ICT is Information Communication Technology. This is using computers, I pads and a variety of programmes to enhance our learning opportunities, across all the subjects.

**DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN SCHOOL SO FAR:**

We have been using our technology to assess where our children are in Literacy and Numeracy. As always, all classes are busy using Seesaw to share their learning journey regularly. The Department of Education has granted some pupils laptops in year 3 and year 6 for remote learning, and we are hopeful they will fund extra resources for this. The Department is also updating our desktop computers in the ICT suite in the coming weeks. P7 have been learning about internet fraud and all classes will be completing online safety lessons.

**WHAT WE WILL BE WORKING ON THIS YEAR:**

We will be teaching the children keyboard skills to help their spelling when typing and completing online assessments, alongside spelling games. ICT will also be used as a cross curricular skill in other subjects to enhance their understanding of the subject.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD:**

Although ICT is an invaluable tool, we ask that you limit your child's screen time at home and use their games as a reward after completing their schoolwork. There is increasing research that shows some of the games our children are playing are causing anxiety, frustration and anger issues. Everything in moderation is our advice!





# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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**COORDINATOR:**

Miss Taylor

**A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS SUBJECT:**

Physical Education is essential to keep our pupils fit and healthy. It covers a wide range of activities and sports, unfortunately due to the pandemic guidelines we have had to change our practice somewhat. For example, we cannot do PE inside, so everyone needs a coat! Equipment cannot be shared between bubbles, so we are currently trying to ensure each bubble has access to their own.

**DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN SCHOOL SO FAR:**

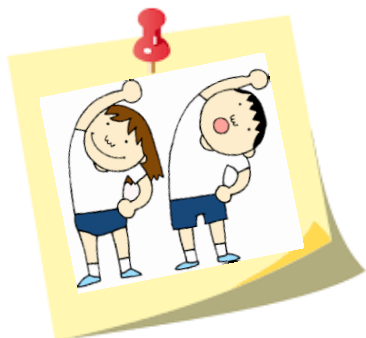
We are encouraging many PE links across the curriculum to help motivate pupils and engage them in learning once again. We are providing equipment at lunch time play to teach turn taking and teamwork. All classes are timetabled for outdoor PE sessions regularly throughout the week, and brain breaks are providing a great opportunity to teach yoga and tai chi.

**WHAT WE WILL BE WORKING ON THIS YEAR:**

We will be linking PE to mental maths strategies and spellings in a fun and energetic approach. We are trying to source extra equipment for our bubbles and will be developing our yoga poses and breathing to support our Mental Health and Wellbeing.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD:**

Encourage your child to look after the equipment that they own and teach them how to use it properly. Encourage your children to take regular brain breaks at home, away from the screen or homework. Fresh air and exercise will work wonders!





# WORLD AROUND US

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**COORDINATOR:**

Mrs Culbert

**A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS SUBJECT:**

World Around Us is the umbrella term for History, Geography and Science. Each year group covers three topics a year to teach these subjects, with as many links to Literacy, Numeracy and ICT as possible. This enables the children to see clearly that learning is connected and one subject supports another.

**DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN SCHOOL SO FAR:**

All classes are already enjoying Forest Schools' opportunities to encourage learning outdoors. Each class is timetabled for the outdoor classroom and are currently planning their flower bed to represent their class, at the front of school.

**WHAT WE WILL BE WORKING ON THIS YEAR:**

We will be using topics to support our work in spelling and problem solving, so the children see these areas in real life contexts. We will be taking many lessons outdoors so please send your child in with a coat.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD:**

Encourage your child to be curious about the world around them, discussing risks and safety measures as they explore. Find out what areas they are interested in and build spelling and mental maths games around these areas. E.G. TITANIC: hold a spelling bee quiz on vocabulary linked to the Titanic, creating a maths problem around the topic.



# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

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<b>COORDINATOR:</b>	Miss McIlwain
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## **A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS SUBJECT:**

Special Educational Needs is an area of school life which permeates every class. As the coordinator I liaise with teachers to place pupils on the right stage of the Code of practice when needed. We are very excited this year as we have opened an Autism Specific Classroom, a first in the history of Hollybank.

## **DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN SCHOOL SO FAR:**

Our new classroom opened in October after much planning and hard work. We were delighted to welcome three P4 pupils, who have settled into their new home really well. We have named the classroom The Hollybank Hive... where everyone can thrive!

## **WHAT WE WILL BE WORKING ON THIS YEAR:**

Although the children will be based in The Hive, we will be integrating the pupils with their mainstream peers. This will involve P4 pupils visiting The Hive and playing with our children, and The Hive pupils joining the P4s for different lessons as the year progresses.

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD:**

Talk to your child about Autism, there are great stories and videos on YouTube which explain it in child friendly language. Reinforce our message of Ready, Respectful, Safe so we can continue to boost our family ethos of being inclusive and welcoming to all.



*Thank you for taking the time to read our updates. If you have any questions about any of the subjects mentioned, please contact the subject coordinator, via the school office.  
Tel: 02890 864944*

