

Holbeach

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 19th December 2025

Memorable Experiences

This week, each of the year groups have been marking the end of their Autumn Term topics by holding their "Memorable Experiences".

Year 1 shared their Dinosaur videos with each other while Year 2 invited their parents in to see their Toy Exhibition.

The Year 3 parents and carers were invited into the classrooms to show them all

of the different things they have learned about Victorian Britain.

Year 4 reenacted a Viking Banquet (trying out some very unusual recipes) and Year 6 reenacted an Ancient Egyptian burial ceremony. You can see photographs from each of these amazing events on the class blogs.



IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 5th January 2026

- INSET DAY (School Closed to children)

Tuesday 6th January 2026

- Spring Term Begins (children to arrive between 8:50am and 9am as usual)

Thursday 8th January 2026

- Prospective Parents Meeting (9:30am)

Tuesday 13th January 2026

- Holbeach Hub Shop re-opens for Spring (see page 2)

Thursday 22nd January 2026

- 4A Class Assembly (parents and carers encouraged to attend at 10:40am)

Guitar and Trumpet

Over the last two weeks, the children in Key Stage Two have been able to enjoy 'work in progress' performances from both the school's Guitar Club and Trumpet Club.

Thank you to Joff (Guitar) and Hattie (Trumpet) for your guidance and support for these pupils this term.



Friends of Holbeach Update

Winter Wonderland

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Winter Wonderland event after school last Friday. The event raised well over £500.

It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying themselves and taking part in the different craft stalls as well as visiting Santa's grotto.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the cake and toy stalls and to the many volunteers who organised the event and who came to help.

Winter Cinema Screenings

Both of the Friends of Holbeach Winter Cinema Screenings were really well attended, with Home Alone pretty much a sell-out. There was a great mix of families at each of the film screenings with the final amount raised from this event being around £480.

The school is very grateful to the FoH for all their efforts this year!



Christmas Productions



This week it was the turn of the children in Year 5 and Nursery to showcase their singing and acting skills.

On Tuesday evening, Year 5 gave a very slick and impressive performance of their version of the famous Dickens tale of A Christmas Carol, called "Bah Humbug".

Then, on Thursday afternoon, the Nursery rounded off our Christmas Performances with some very cute renditions of a few festive favourite tunes.

Thank you to all of the staff for their hard work in preparing all of our Christmas Productions

Much Ado... Review

- Congratulations to the Holbeach Performing Arts Club who received their full review of their performance of Much Ado about Nothing.
- The review is on page 3 of this newsletter and is an impressive recount of just what an exceptional job this group of children did.
- Mrs Freeman is already planning the Performing Arts Club's next adventure.

Cricket in Year 4

Over the past 5 weeks, Year 4 have been taking part in Platform Cricket lessons. The children threw themselves into every session with enthusiasm, teamwork and determination. It has been fantastic to watch their confidence grow as they developed their batting, bowling and fielding skills.

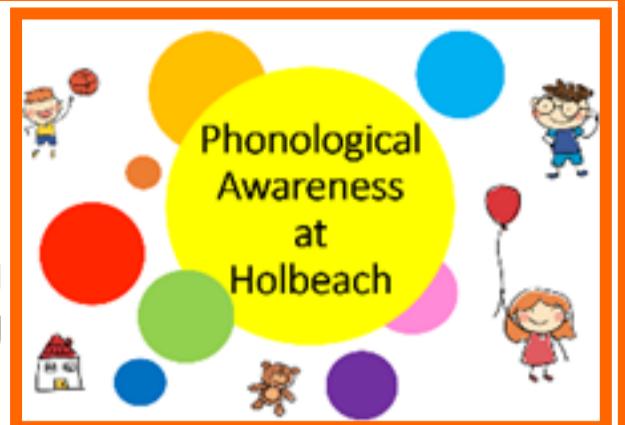
Across the sessions, the coach was incredibly impressed with the children's positive attitudes.

A huge well done to all of Year 4 for their effort and sportsmanship throughout the block.

Supporting Your Child's Learning

Whole School Development of 'Phonological Awareness'

This week, the children have once again been focusing on the following skill: "**Deleting Syllables**". This means getting rid of one (or more) syllables within a word and then saying the rest.



Here are some ideas to help children delete syllables in words:

Younger children

Stick to 2 syllable words, and start with compound words (two words grouped together to make a new word e.g. 'tea-pot', 'tooth-brush', 'train-track') as younger children find these the most easy to break apart. First, ask your child to clap the syllables (to make sure they get this bit right), then ask them to "take away the first syllable / last syllable". You can hold up 2 fingers and use these to help show them ☐

Older children

Choose a word with multiple syllables, like "butterfly" or "happily." Have your child say the word and then ask them "what word would you get if you delete the first / middle / last syllable". For instance, for "but-ter-fly," you could delete "but" and end up with "ter-fly."

Watch this video of how to help children delete syllables in words <https://youtu.be/QKL9GLVvYl0>



When it comes to the multiplication tables, **speed AND accuracy** are both equally important. The more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations.



Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging online programme designed to help students master times tables!

Little and Often: In order to get the best out of Times Tables Rock Stars children should play regularly for short bursts of time so we would ask you to allow your child to play for 5-10 minutes at a time.

If your child cannot remember their login details please ask their class teacher.

“Be Not Afraid of Greatness”

Much Ado About Nothing
by Holbeach Primary School
at The Albany, 13th November 2025
appraised by Iain Jones



It is an absolute delight, in our 25th anniversary year, to be celebrating with Holbeach Primary School and to be marking this milestone with their wonderful production of Much Ado About Nothing as part of Shakespeare Schools Theatre Festival's autumn season. Here are some of my highlights from the performance at The Albany.

This Company, comprising of Years 4, 5, and 6 took on a mature story with remarkable confidence and creativity. The production didn't shy away from the play's big themes of deceit and trickery, drawing the audience into a vibrant, busy, and wonderfully gossipy world. This was perfectly captured in the ball scene which sparkled with brilliant masks, fancy dancing, and a sense of joyful playfulness.

What a brilliant idea to reimagine the narrators as announcers inside an ingenious TV set. This clever device gave the show a modern twist, reminiscent of Gogglebox. The announcers commented on the unfolding drama, filled in the backstory, and even tried to shout through the screen when things went wrong! This was an inventive and funny way to keep the audience engaged while making the story feel accessible and fresh.

Visually, the production was vibrant and detailed. The costumes added colour and character. The Police looked suitably official in their hats, Don Pedro's military jacket gleamed with epaulettes, the Friar's robe lent gravitas, the announcers looked very showy in pink and blue jackets, and Hero's wedding dress and veil were simply stunning. The wedding scene itself was dramatic and powerful, with Hero's fainting moment drawing shocked gasps from a stunned audience.

The company showed great skill in reimagining the language. This helped to make the plot relevant without losing its traditional flavour. The young cast delivered their lines with clarity and confidence, ensuring the story was easy to follow. Don John was splendidly evil, while Dogberry's hilarious mix-ups, particularly his instruction to “stay vegetarian” instead of “stay vigilant” had the audience in stitches. One TV announcer's quip about needing marshmallows “for when it all goes up in flames” was another memorable modern touch. Accompanied by a romantic soundtrack, the entire performance balanced humour and heart beautifully. This was a lively, imaginative take on this timeless comedy from a talented young company.

“I do love nothing in the world so well as you. Is not that strange?”

Performances like this show us that Shakespeare can live on, in the hands of young people, in fresh, exciting and reimagined ways. We hope to welcome you back to Shakespeare Schools Theatre Festival for another 25 years - and beyond!

Holbeach Primary School

Family Support in Lewisham

Dads Stay & Play

all Dads and Male Carers Welcome!



Join your local Family Navigator and Early Years Practitioner for a morning of activities for you and your children.

Refreshments Provided

Saturdays - 10.00am - 12.00pm

Bellingham Family Hub
109 Randlesdown Road
SE6 3HB
18th October
20th December
21st February
18th April

Deptford Family Hub
Alverton Street
SE8 5NH
15th November
17th January
21st March

lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk

FREE

AMURU CO-OP
CHANGING LIVES FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

INCLUSIVE FESTIVE PARTY

FOR SEND & DISABLED YOUNG PEOPLE

Especially for Children Age 5-10

with special educational needs and disabilities.
Expect lots of laughter, music, and inclusive activities in a relaxed, sensory-friendly environment.

LIMITED SEATS

Location
Lochaber Hall Manor Lane Terrace
Lewisham, London, SE13 5QL

Sunday, 21st December 2025
11 AM - 3 PM

JOIN US

We're Planning:

- A Special visit from Santa with treats!
- DJs spinning feel good anthems, with treats! (sensory-friendly effects)
- Free activity stalls offering crafts and games
- Dance-offs with prizes & one-hour disco finale
- Costume Competition: dress as your favourite character
- Plenty of balloons & inclusive games for all to enjoy
- Drinks and seating for grown-ups

A Silent Disco

RSVP:
020 3576 1960
admin@amuru.org
Secure Your Place!

Charity Reg : 1133230

Being a Parent

Parenting programme for parents of children aged 2-11

Delivered by trained Parent Group Leaders from Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC), part of South London & Maudsley NHS Trust, in partnership with Lewisham



A FREE 9-week course to help parents learn practical skills for everyday life such as:

- Looking after yourself as a parent
- Recognising and managing your child's emotions
- Learning positive parenting strategies

ONLINE
Wednesday 9.45-11.45
23rd January - 27th March 2026
(no session 18th Feb - half term)

To sign up and find out more click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code:
Or Contact 07860 371868

Feedback from Lewisham Parents

"I absolutely loved this course. I would recommend it to anyone. It has helped me out so much as a parent."

"The leaders were amazing, made me feel so much more confident and feel like people actually do care."

EMPOWERING PARENTS EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

NHS
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

Lewisham