

# Holbeach WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th January 2026

## Spring Term Curriculum

Welcome back to another exciting term at Holbeach Primary School. We hope that you all enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing holiday.

With this week's newsletter you will also have received an attachment of the "parent overview" for the topic that your child will be learning about this term.

These overviews include ideas for how you can support your child's learning at home. The topics that are being covered in the Spring Term are as follows:

- **Nursery = Once Upon a Time... and The Great Outdoors**
- **Reception = Heroes and Villains and Gosh and Wow!**
- **Year 1 = Eggs, Lets Get Cracking**
- **Year 2 = Fire, Fire**
- **Year 3 = Earth from Above and Below**
- **Year 4 = Amazing Me!**
- **Year 5 = 2026 - A Space Odyssey**
- **Year 6 = Life on Earth**

**Topic Overview for Year 6**

**Topic Title: Life on Earth**

**To engage the children we will:**

- Visit Natural History Museum
- Visit the Holbeach Wildlife Garden in Ladywell Fields

**What the children will know by the end of the topic:**

- The significance of Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution.
- That plants, micro-organisms and animals can be classified into different groups.
- How animals and plants are adapted to suit their habitat and that adaptation may lead to evolution.
- The names of the invisible lines which divide the Earth (e.g. longitude/latitude).
- How to apply their knowledge of the four mathematical operations in different contexts.
- How to write stories, non-chronological reports and balanced arguments – considering the audience and purpose of the text.
- How the media can influence them.
- How to correctly shape wire to create a human form in action.

**What the children will learn to do during the topic:**

- Closely observe animals and plants.
- Classify animals and plants.
- Devise classification systems and keys to identify animals and plants.
- Research animals and plants in a variety of habitats and discover how they have adapted to suit their environments.
- Use invisible lines to locate places in the world.
- Explore the reasons for changes that have occurred over time in the animal kingdom.
- Bake bread using their knowledge of micro-organisms.
- Use formula to process data on Microsoft Excel.

**The memorable experiences at the end of the topic will be:**

- Becoming the school's Wildlife Garden experts and teaching the Year 4 children about habitats and plants and animals.

**To support your child's learning with this topic you could:**

- Read with (or to) your child each day and discuss what you have read.
- Visit ponds, parks, rivers, woodlands to look for signs of life.
- Practise the spellings that are given weekly for home learning (this is available on the blog).

**P.E. Lessons**  
6W - Wednesday  
6F - Wednesday  
*Please ensure your child has their full PE kit (including trainers).*

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Tuesday 13th January 2025

- The Holbeach Hub Shop is open from 9am

### Thursday 15 January 2026

- Deadline for applications to start primary school in September 2025 ([Click Here](#)).

### Monday 19th January 2026

- Year 2 taking part in a History Drama Workshop (The Great Fire of London)
- Spring Term Extra Curricular Clubs begin (3:30pm - 4:30pm each day)

### Tuesday 20th January 2025

- The Holbeach Hub Shop is open from 9am

### Wednesday 21st January 2025

- 5F Educational Visit to UCL Observatory

## Geography in Year 5

In Geography this term, Year 5 will be learning all about the different countries in Europe.

They started their work this week by using maps and atlases to locate these countries.

You can learn along with Year 5 by playing this game at home to improve your locational knowledge:

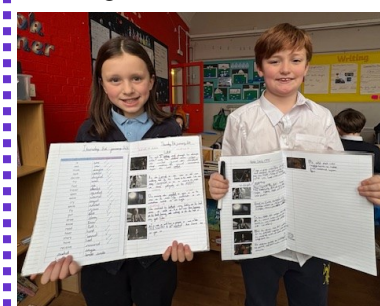
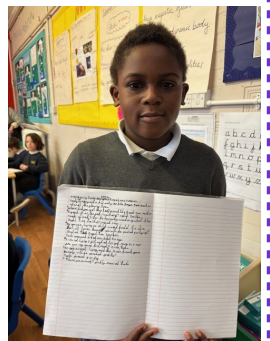
[https://world-geography-games.com/en/countries\\_europe.html](https://world-geography-games.com/en/countries_europe.html)



## New Year Resolutions

Lots of the children at Holbeach have set themselves a New Year's Resolution to work hard on improving their handwriting in 2026.

Frankie and Romilly (5F) and Caleb (6W) have been true to their word and are already working really hard on developing the way in which they form each letter and then transferring their hard work from their handwriting books to their English books. Keep up the good work you three and good luck to everyone who has



made a promise to themselves about the new year.

## Lost Property

The school currently has a small amount of unclaimed lost property. If your child has lost any uniform items please encourage them to come and find it before or after school.

We also have water bottles, hats, gloves and other small items that are unnamed.

We do not have the space to store lost property for long periods of time, so, after a short period, any unclaimed items will be donated to charity.



## ADMINISTERING MEDICINES

If your child needs to take medicine during school hours, please remember to bring it to the office and fill in a medication request form on the first day.

All short course medication prescribed by your GP must be given to (and collected from) the school office every day until the course is completed. Please ensure that the medicine is prescribed by a doctor and in its original box displaying the pharmacy label.

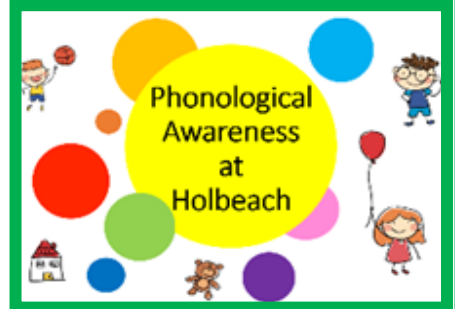
Please also ensure that any medication your child keeps in school (asthma pumps, epi-pens, etc.) is in date and prescribed by your GP.



# Supporting Your Child's Learning

## Whole School Development of 'Phonological awareness'

As you are no doubt already aware, this year at Holbeach, we are focusing on and promoting and the key skills involved in "Phonological Awareness".



For the next two weeks we are focusing our work on **Blending Onset and Rhyme**. This means putting together the first sound (or sounds) of a word, called the onset, with the rest of the word, called the rhyme. In 'cat', the onset is 'c' and the rhyme is 'at'.

### Younger children

Sound Hunt: At home, or out and about, the adult can choose a simple, 1 syllable word they see (e.g. 'cat', 'dog', 'door', 'bus') and ask the child to guess what word they are saying. Then the adult will say the word, breaking it into onset and rhyme. For example "what did I just see... b..... us....?" In the beginning, make this easy by leaving a very small gap between the onset and rhyme.

### Older children

Word games: tell you child to think of a sound (this will be the onset), then you think of the 'rhyme' and see if your child can blend these together to work out the word you created together. For example, if your child chooses the 'p' sound, you could say '-ick' (pick), '-ack' (pack), '-ot' (pot). The words are endless!

Remember when saying the onset sound, make sure you are using pure sounds. Watch this video to help you understand what 'pure sounds' are: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

## Speech & Language Drop-in Clinics



No referral or appointment needed

(Please note your child must be registered with a Lewisham GP)

Are you worried about your child's talking?

Would you like advice on how to help your child's communication?

Why not come to one of our drop-in clinics for a chat with a Speech and Language Therapist? You can get ideas to develop your child's communication and find out about other services that are available in Lewisham.

Monday 1.30pm to 4pm	Tuesday 1.30pm to 4pm	Wednesday 1.30pm to 4pm	Thursday 1.30pm to 4.30pm	Friday 1.30pm to 4pm	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month 9:30am – 12 (midday)
Waldron Health Centre Stanley Street Deptford SE8 4BG	Honor Oak Health Centre 20 Turnham Road London SE4 2LA	Downham Health & Leisure Centre 7-9 Moorside Road Downham BR1 5EP	Kaleidoscope 32 Rushey Green Catford SE6 4JF	Sydenham Green Health Centre 26 Holmshaw Close London SE26 4TH	Virtual clinic accessed via this link <a href="https://hsa.yc.067/s">https://hsa.yc.067/s</a> children-online: Speech-and- Language-Therapy: Drop-In-Service

Please arrive by 3.45 or 4.15 at Kaleidoscope

Any questions? Please call our Admin Team, on 0203 049 1464.

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.*



# Signposting to Services

**NHS**  
South London Children and  
Young People's Community  
Immunisation Service

## Missed your flu vaccine?

**Live or attend school in the borough of Lewisham? Aged 4 – 16?**

Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and protect yourself!

Thursday 8 January, 15:30 – 16:45  
Downham Health & Leisure Centre  
BR1 5EW

Tuesday 13 January, 15:30 – 16:45  
Downham Health & Leisure Centre  
BR1 5EW

**Call 020 3903 3635 or  
scan the QR code for  
more information or to  
book an appointment**



January 2026

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Saturday 17 January, 10:00 – 14:00  
Downham Health & Leisure Centre, BR1 5EW

Tuesday 20 January, 15:30 – 16:45  
Downham Health & Leisure Centre, BR1 5EW

Thursday 22 January, 15:30 – 16:45  
Downham Health & Leisure Centre, BR1 5EW

**Call 020 3903 3635 or  
scan the QR code for  
more information or to  
book an appointment**



January 2026



## Best Start Family Hub - Ladywell

30 Rushey Mead, SE4 1JJ

Monday 5th January to Friday 27th March 2026 - (half term 16th - 20th Feb)  
To book go to [lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk/events](http://lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk/events) or call 07720 152904

[lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk](http://lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk)



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>Child Development Checks</b> 9.00am-4.00pm Health Visitors run regular health and development reviews for your child by appointment only. <b>Contact your Health Visitor to book.</b></p> <p><b>Lunch Break - Reception Closed</b> 12.00pm - 1.00pm</p> <p><b>Mindful Mums Extra</b> A welcoming, supportive space for you to look after your emotions and mental wellbeing, make new friends and connections. Booking is essential Visit <a href="http://blgmind.org.uk/lewisham/mindful-mums/">blgmind.org.uk/lewisham/mindful-mums/</a></p>	<p><b>Baby Stay &amp; Play</b> 10.00am - 11.30am Based on Five to Thrive key activities: <b>Respond, Cuddle, Relax, Play, Talk</b> <b>Age group:</b> Birth to 18 mths</p> <p><b>Triple P for Baby Course</b> 10.00am - 12.00pm 3rd - 24th Feb This 6 week course supports your transition into Parenthood. Suitable for expectant parents and with babies under 9 months. <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:lg.pairslewisham@nhs.net">lg.pairslewisham@nhs.net</a></p> <p><b>Lunch Break - Reception Closed</b> 12.00pm - 1.00pm</p> <p><b>Feel Positive about Parenting</b> 1.00pm - 3.00pm 3rd Feb Being a parent can be difficult, these 1:1 sessions can help. <b>Age Group:</b> 18mths - 10yrs See details above to book.</p> <p><b>Stay &amp; Play</b> 1.15pm - 2.45pm Help your child learn through play and experience messy play, craft activities, singing and much more! Bring a change of clothes if possible - it might get messy! <b>Age group:</b> 0 - 5 years</p>	<p><b>Fussy Eating Workshop</b> 10.30am - 12.00noon 28th Jan Our workshops help with techniques to make mealtimes less stressful and encourage a balanced diet. See details above to book.</p> <p><b>Introducing Solids</b> 10.30am - 12.00noon 11th March Get your baby off to a great start when starting solids. See details above to book.</p> <p><b>Lunch Break - Reception Closed</b> 12.00pm - 1.00pm</p> <p><b>Triple P for Baby Course</b> 1.00pm - 3.00pm 4th - 25th March This 6 week course supports your transition into Parenthood. Suitable for expectant parents and with babies under 1. <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:lg.pairslewisham@nhs.net">lg.pairslewisham@nhs.net</a></p>	<p><b>Baby Messy Play</b> 10.00am - 11.30am Starts back 22nd Jan Sensory, fun &amp; mess play. <b>Bring a change of clothes if possible - it will get messy!</b> <b>Age group:</b> Birth - 18mths See details above to book</p> <p><b>Triple P Parenting Course</b> 10.00am - 12 noon Starts 22nd Jan 6 – 8 week course for parents of primary school aged children that offers positive parenting strategies to manage behaviour. <b>To book email</b> <a href="mailto:family.hub.bookings@lewisham.gov.uk">family.hub.bookings@lewisham.gov.uk</a> or call 07720 152902</p> <p><b>Lunch Break - Reception Closed</b> 12.00pm - 1.00pm</p> <p><b>Children's Bladder and Bowel NHS session</b> 9.30am - 11.30am 5th March This service support children and young people aged 3-16 who are experiencing constipation, daytime wetting and other bladder and bowel difficulties.</p> <p><b>Mindful Mums</b> 1.00pm - 2.30pm 15th Jan - 12th Feb Course for pregnant women and new mums to look after themselves during what can be a challenging period. Visit <a href="http://blgmind.org.uk/lewisham/mindful-mums/">blgmind.org.uk/lewisham/mindful-mums/</a></p>	<p><b>Breastfeeding Hub</b> 10.00am - 12.00noon Get support and discuss any breastfeeding issues that you may be having.</p> <p><b>Education Advocacy Drop-In</b> 10.00am - 5.00pm 27th Feb Support sessions partnered with SIRG providing direct education, advocacy and guidance for parents &amp; carers.</p> <p><b>Lunch Break - Reception Closed</b> 12.00pm - 1.00pm</p>
<p><b>FREE Vitamin D</b> Come and register and collect your free Vitamin D at the Family Hubs</p> <p><b>What is Vitamin D?</b> Find out more by searching 'Vitamin D' on our website <a href="http://lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk">lewishamfamilyhubs.org.uk</a></p>				<p><b>Family Navigators</b></p> <p>Family Navigators are based within Family Hubs and offer free, confidential, and non-judgmental support by connecting you with on site and local support services, led by you.</p> <p><b>Sign up via <a href="#">this form</a>, the QR code, call or speak to someone at the Family Hub.</b></p> 