

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

### Sports news

On Wednesday a group of Year 5 athletes took part in the Indoor Athletics competition at The Forest school. There were individual track events and team relays, alongside field events such as standing long jump, vertical jump, target throw, speed bounce and chest push. The children showed resilience, teamwork, respect and behaved beautifully. There were 10 schools competing and we finished a very impressive 4th overall. *Mrs Harman*



### Curriculum

Year 2 pupils enjoyed their Geography this week, learning about the location of hot and cold countries in the world, as well as the equator.

Year 3 pupils used their observation skills to learn more about rocks and their properties.



### London mini marathon

The London mini marathon is approaching and will be held in London on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. As a school we are going to enter the ballot for places, as some families have shown an interest in this already.

If this is something you think your child would enjoy and like to take part in, please email [deputy@holbrookprimaryschool.com](mailto:deputy@holbrookprimaryschool.com) **NO LATER than Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of January**, so that the right number of places can be applied for.

To find out more information about this event please go to:- [2026 TCS Mini London Marathon - Running in London — Let's Do This](#) *Mrs Davies*

## Big Bird Watch News

The RSPB are encouraging people to record the number of birds they see between Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Further details can be found on their link [Big Garden Birdwatch](#)

At school, we will be taking part over the next few weeks in the RSPB Big School watch. From the children's feedback, we know how much they enjoy identifying birds and being part of the survey. Below are last year's results from the School survey.

### Last year over 100,000 pupils and teachers took part...

...and the Woodpigeon came top with an average of six recorded per school.

Blackbird and Carrion Crow came second and third.



On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January, Sussex Green Living charity are offering children the opportunity to make bird boxes at the United Reform Church, Springfield Road. Further details can be obtained by their organiser, Carrie Cort at [cort@sussexgreenliving.org.uk](mailto:cort@sussexgreenliving.org.uk)

*Mrs Filson*

## Maths morning

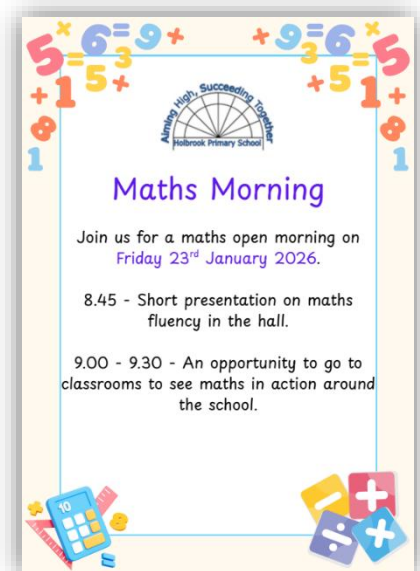
A reminder that we have a Maths morning for parents/carers on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 8:45am in the Hall. This will include a short presentation about maths fluency, information about the resources we use in school to support maths and an opportunity to visit classrooms to see maths in action. We look forward to seeing you at this event.

## Reaching Families SEND support group

Reaching Families is a parent-carer led charity which aims to support parents and families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in their daily lives, in particular through the delivery of information, training and peer support.

They provide a range of free services for parent carers, including information and advice, training, wellbeing support and peer support groups. Further details about their work can be found [here](#).

They are running a **FREE** parent/carers support group called Umbrellas in Horsham on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 10-11.30am at The Horsham Family Hub, Three Acres, RH12 1RS. Umbrellas groups offer a safe, relaxed and non-judgemental space for parent/carers to meet others who understand life with SEND, share experiences, gain emotional support and exchange practical advice.



## Safeguarding – dropping children off

Please avoid dropping children off at the entrance to Holbrook Community Centre and the staff car park. Both these areas have yellow zig zag lines and the Highway Code states you **MUST NOT wait, park, or stop** to set down/pick up passengers, as they keep the area clear for children's visibility and crossing. It can be tempting when there is rain or a family is running late but it is more important to arrive safely, than to have or cause a serious accident. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## Thank you

We received a letter from Cancer Research UK this week, thanking the Holbrook community for our donation collected from our Christmas productions and carol service. The Springboard Project have also sent their thanks for the donation sent to them and how it will make a difference to families in the locality. Thank you once again for your generosity in thinking of others less fortunate than ourselves.



## Happy Holbrook Lovely to See You!

A big thank you to everyone who came along to last week's very first Happy Holbrook stay and play session for toddlers! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces, share great conversations, and engage with parents of pre-school age children.

Join Us Again - our next Happy Holbrook session will take place on Friday 6th February, and we'd love to see you there. Whether you came last time or couldn't make it, everyone is welcome — come along for a warm drink, a friendly chat, and to meet other parents. See you soon!

<b>CUT OFF DATE Thursday 23:59</b>	<b>FOR WEEK COMMENCING</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	2 <sup>nd</sup> February
29 <sup>th</sup> January	9 <sup>th</sup> February
12 <sup>th</sup> February	23 <sup>rd</sup> February
19 <sup>th</sup> February	2 <sup>nd</sup> March
26 <sup>th</sup> February	9 <sup>th</sup> March
5 <sup>th</sup> March	16 <sup>th</sup> March
12 <sup>th</sup> March	23 <sup>rd</sup> March

<b>Diary Dates (new additions in bold)</b>	
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	KS1 Multiskills event
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Y3 Swimming Starts
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Maths open morning
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Y6 Indoor Athletics at Forest
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	KS2 Benchball tournament
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Happy Holbrook
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Y5/6 Swimming Gala
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	HALF TERM
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Choir to O2 for Young Voices

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Ian Holmes  
Headteacher