



Newsletter- December 2025

'Inspiring young minds to unlock their potential to grow.'

Season's Greetings

As we come to the end of another busy term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the strong sense of community that makes Hollywell such a special place. The Autumn term has been full of hard work, achievements and memorable moments, and this is rooted in the teamwork and support shown by our families throughout the term.

On behalf of all the staff, thank you for everything you do to support the school. Whether you are attending events, volunteering your time, or encouraging your children each day, your involvement plays an important role in creating a happy and positive learning environment.

I would also like to thank families for the kind and generous gifts given to staff this Christmas. There is absolutely no expectation, but these thoughtful gestures are very much appreciated and reflect the kindness and care that sit at the heart of our school community.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 5th January 2026.

As we head into the festive season, I hope you and your families have the chance to relax, recharge and enjoy some well-earned time together. On behalf of everyone at Hollywell, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, filled with happiness as we look ahead to the new term.

Merry
Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Congratulations Mrs Stone

Earlier this half term, we said a fond farewell to Mrs Stone as she began her maternity leave. We are delighted to share the lovely news that Mrs Stone has now welcomed a beautiful baby boy. We send our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Stone and her husband and very much look forward to meeting the new arrival

Fundraising



This half term, the Hollywell community has demonstrated our shared school values through generous support for a range of charities. In November, pupils and staff showed great teamwork and happiness by taking part in non-uniform day and wore spotty accessories, while Year 5 made and sold bookmarks in aid of Children in Need, raising an impressive £370.

We also supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, reflecting our *open-mindedness* and *wonder* as pupils learned about remembrance while raising a wonderful £212.72 through the sale of poppies and accessories.

At the start of December, our much-loved Hollywell Christmas Fair brought the community together in the spirit of teamwork and happiness, raising a staggering £1,893.50. In addition, our Community Action Group raised £149.31 for Rumbletums, and a group of Year 6 pupils demonstrated strong resilience and growing leadership by raising a further £78.05 for the Eastwood Food Bank. This brings our total fundraising amount to an astonishing £2,120.86.

Friday 12th was our Christmas Jumper Day, and we raised £180.00 for Save the Children.

In the New Year, classes will be discussing how they would like the school to use the funds raised, encouraging open-mindedness and shared decision-making.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents and families who generously donated and supported these events. By working together, we continue to live out our Hollywell values and make a positive difference to others.

Attendance and Punctuality

We recognise that this half term the school has been particularly affected by illness, which has had an impact on attendance for many pupils. As we move into the new term, we are hopeful to see attendance improve across the school.

Regular attendance plays a vital role in supporting pupils' learning, confidence and long-term success, and being in school every day gives children the best possible chance to thrive. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping pupils attend school whenever they are well enough to do so.

Just a reminder that the school gates close at 8.50am. Any pupils arriving after this time will be marked as late. Punctuality is extremely important, as arriving on time ensures children are settled and ready to learn from the start of the school day. Thank you for your continued support in helping pupils arrive promptly each morning.

95%	=	40 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	80 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 days
85%	=	120 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	160 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?

BE SMART BE THERE!
Percentages based on 190 academic days

Events in School this Half Term

This half term has been jam-packed with a range of memorable and enriching events. In November, many pupils from Hollywell attended the Remembrance Parade in Kimberley, where a wreath was laid on behalf of the school at the memorial. This was a meaningful opportunity for pupils to reflect, show respect, and understand the importance of remembrance. We also held a two minute silence and a special assembly in school.



Many pupils also supported the local community by decorating Christmas decorations, which were proudly hung by the School Council on the Christmas tree in Toll Bar Square. This was a lovely way for children to contribute to the community and represent Hollywell beyond the school gates.



To further inspire learning, pupils have taken part in educational visits and welcomed visitors into school. The Partake Theatre Group visited Hollywell twice, bringing learning to life for Year 3 and Year 4 pupils studying the Stone Age and the Ancient Egyptians. Year 5 enjoyed a trip to Conkers to deepen their understanding of the Vikings, while Year 6 took part in a wartime dance workshop led by Cath Withe from Train With Us, a local dance company.



Just last week, our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils performed a fantastic Christmas production, Baubles, for families, showcasing the growing confidence of the children. Our Reception pupils also took part in their very first nativity, The Wriggly Nativity, which was a truly special moment and brought a tear to my eye.

On Monday, the whole school enjoyed a trip to the pantomime, which is always a memorable experience for our pupils. This year was made even more special when two of our pupils, along with Mr Owen, were invited onto the stage. We have to say that our very own Mr Owen certainly stole the show.



Together, these events have enriched pupils' learning and created many memorable experiences across the school.

Sporting Superstar!

Congratulations to Grayson in Year 3, who is truly a swimming superstar. Earlier this month, Grayson was awarded the Age 7 Champion title for Kimberley Swimming Club. Impressively, he also holds a number of UK first-place rankings, including the 100m butterfly — no mean feat at just seven years old and a real demonstration of resilience and determination.



In fact, Grayson is the first swimmer in 40 years at Kimberley Swimming Club to complete the 100m butterfly without being disqualified, which is an incredible achievement. A superstar in the making — well done, Grayson!



Uniform and PE Kit

A reminder that **black is not part of our school uniform**. Children should wear grey trousers, shorts or skirts in line with our uniform policy. If they wear leggings these are worn in place of tights under a skirt. We have a supply of pre-loved uniform available from the school office for families who may need it.

We kindly ask that children do not return to school in incorrect uniform colours. In addition, **trainers are not part of our school uniform**. We understand that towards the end of term children's feet can grow quickly and, in some cases, trainers may need to be worn for a short period. However, all children will be expected to return in appropriate school footwear in the new term.

Please ensure that PE kits are in school from Monday to Friday, as we are finding that a number of children do not have their kit available when it is needed. Having PE kit in school allows pupils to fully take part in all PE sessions. Our PE kit consists of red shorts and a plain white, round-necked T-shirt. During the colder months, pupils may bring a tracksuit to wear for outdoor PE and are encouraged to have a warm jumper to help them stay comfortable.

Thank you for your support in maintaining our high expectations and smart appearance across the school. More information on uniform can be found [here](#).

Clubs

Tuesdays	8.00 – 8.45am	KS1 Glow in the Dark Dodgeball	Y1 – Y2
Tuesdays	3.30 – 4.30pm	KS2 Handball	Y3 – Y6
Tuesdays	3.30 – 4.15pm	Ukulele Club	Y2 – Y6
Wednesdays	8.00 – 8.45am	Y3/Y4 Glow in the Dark Dodgeball	Y3 – Y6
Wednesdays	3.30 – 4.30pm	Y5/Y6 Glow in the Dark Dodgeball	Y3 – Y6
Fridays	3.30 – 4.30pm	SH Active RC Cars	Y1 – Y6

Thank you for your continued support and for being such a valued part of our school community.



Key Dates 2026

22-2 nd Jan	Xmas Holidays
5 th Jan	Return to school
8 th Jan	Coping with Anxiety course for parents/carers starts (4 weeks)
12 th Jan	5-Year old Dental Programme
15 th Jan	YR & Y6 NCMP Programme
23 rd Jan	KS2 GROWTH starts (block 2 x7 wks)
4 th Feb	Y5 Veolia ECO Visit
10 th – 11 th Feb	Parents evening 3.30-6pm
15 th – 20 th Feb	Half Term
5 th March	World Book Day
12 th March	Y2 Yorkshire Wildlife Park Visit
13 th March	Last KS2 GROWTH (block 2)
20 th March	Community fundraiser & coffee morning
25 th March	Y3 & Y4 Performance 9.30am & 4pm
30- 10 th Apr	Easter Holidays
13 th April	Return to school
17 th April	KS1 GROWTH (block 1 X6wks)
4 th May	May Bank Holiday
11-14 th May	Y6 SATS
14 th May	Y5 Planetarium Visit
19-22 nd May	Y6 Residential (Walesby Forest)
22 nd May	Last KS1 GROWTH (block 1)
25-29 th May	Half Term
1 st June	Return to school
1-10 th June	MTC check window
5 th June	KS1 GROWTH starts (block 2 x6wks)
7-12 th June	Phonics screening
22-24 th June	Y5 Residential (provisional) - Beaumanor
25 – 26 th June	Y4 Residential – The Mill
3 rd July	Sports Day 1.15pm
8 th July	Y5 & Y6 Production 9.30am & 5pm
9-10 th July	Y6 Transition days TKS
10 th July	Whole school transition day
15 th July	Open afternoon 2-4pm
23 rd July	Disco
24 th July	Leavers assembly 9.30am
24 th July	Children finish for the summer
27 th July	INSET Day
27- 31 st Aug	Summer Holidays

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm. Children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by "preschool" (4 and under), "younger" (ages 5 to 8) and "older" (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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