What a thoroughly enjoyable first half term it has been at Hollymount. Thank you to all the parents, staff, and particularly the children for such a warm welcome.

We received the great news this week, that Hollymount’s project application to build an outside classroom was approved to go through to the public vote in the Aviva Community Fund 2018! Voting opens on 23rd October, Tues (Half term) and the project with the most votes wins! Therefore we will be asking you, family, friends and neighbours to vote for us! You can vote a maximum of 10 times each. Once voting opens, we will share with you a link to vote for the project, so please look out for the notification on Classlist next week. We are bidding for £5,000 so please vote.

I hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable half term and I look forward to seeing the children at the gates on Monday 29th October (NO INSET DAY). Next half term promises to be very busy with the run up to Christmas...I am already excited.

Hollymount Netball Team

On Tuesday, Hollymount’s Netball team took part in the High 5 Netball tournament winning 3 out of 5 games and finishing 7th out of 16 teams overall. Both Charlotte and Josh managed to score some fantastic goals. Annie and Eva also displayed great interception skills. When asked what their top three things were about the day... Annie-Ray replied “it was so exciting when both teams had the same score and then we managed to get one more to win.” Sophie said “I enjoyed playing against my friends from other schools” and Onyx thought that “Hollymount played really well as a team”.

Communication Team visit the Mayor

As part of Democracy Week, the Communication Team visited the Mayor. The Mayor was very impressed with their tough questions and respectful behaviour. Perhaps a future mayor in the team?
Hollymount at the Basketball!
On Sunday, a group of Hollymount pupils got to experience the British Basketball All-Stars at the Copper Box. This was all part of our drive to give children the opportunity to watch world class competitive sport. Here’s Thomas and Toby enjoying the action.

Foundation Stage Room on the Broom Dress up Day
On Wednesday, children, staff and even some parents dressed up as characters from the book ‘Room on the Broom’. The costumes were simply brilliant. Thank you to the parents that helped out.

Holidays in term time
I have been overwhelmed with requests from parents to take children out of school during term time to go on holiday. It has shocked me the number of requests I have had. If your child is taken out of school during term time, it will be unauthorised and the local authority may fine you. The general excuse I am receiving is, ‘It saves us money’. Whilst I understand, the impact it has on your child’s education and teacher’s workload is significant.

Castle workshop for Year 2
We took part in a medieval banquet, medieval dancing, jousting, sword fighting and much, much more! We also acted out the legend of George and the Dragon!

Fair Funding for all Schools
Fair Funding for all Schools Meeting - Tuesday 6 November, 7.30pm, Hatfield Primary School
Parents are becoming increasingly concerned about the cuts in funding to our schools. In response to this, some local parents from Hatfield Primary School are holding a meeting with guest speakers to talk about this issue and look at ways that parents can help to reverse the funding cuts. If you would like more information on our campaign email us at mertonschoolfunding@gmail.com to be added to our updates

Year 3 go to the theatre
Year 3 were lucky enough to go and watch ‘Three Sat Under the Banyan Tree’ at the Polka Theatre this week. The play was about three orphan children who sat near the foothills of the Himalayas and told magical stories, that come alive. The children had a great time and took away the message of being true to yourself, respecting not only those around you but also yourself. What a wonderful experience for the children to go to the theatre.
Dear Parents/Carers,

I have been asked on many occasions to provide parents with information about certain apps and games that their children are using or are interested in trying. So, every week, I will be featuring one game or an app that has been brought to my attention by parents and ones that children tell me that they play at home or at friends’ houses. It is so important that you talk to your children about their online behaviour, how they interact with their friends and others online and how to keep themselves safe. Please see the advice at the end of this letter.

**What is WhatsApp?**

WhatsApp allows your child to send instant messages only to contacts that they have added to their WhatsApp account. Only people who have a WhatsApp account can send and receive messages through the app. Messages can be sent one to one or within a group conversation. For all messages sent WhatsApp sends “read receipts” to tell sender if the message was delivered, read, seen or played. It is estimated that WhatsApp has over 1.5 billion active monthly users worldwide.

**Features:** Whatsapp’s main purpose is to send messages to friends - it isn’t public in the same way that Twitter is, and people can only message friends who are already added on their phone. As long as your child only has trusted people as contacts on their phone, it is a relatively safe social media app. If this is the case, the only thing you’ll need to make your child aware of the fact that they can come into contact with strangers on group chats.

**Age Restriction** (recommended age ratings for the game)  **WhatsApp's minimum age of use is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, or a country that has adopted the GDPR, as the UK has.**

**Features to be aware of or that are not suitable for Primary children**

**Bypassing restrictions:** Like many age restrictions on social media apps, some children may ignore warnings and sign up for WhatsApp when they’re younger. It’s up to you as a parent to decide if you’re comfortable with this or not.

**Group chats** The group chat function allows up to 256 people to chat in one conversation stream. Each group is set up by one person, known as the group admin who is the only person who can add or remove participants and change or add further group administrators.

Anybody in the group, even if they’re not one of your child’s phone contacts, will be able to see messages that your child posts and likewise your child will be able to see theirs. Also, if your child is added to a group with someone they have themselves blocked, that person will then be able to contact them.

Although your child might not be able to control if they’re added to a group chat, they can always control their own participation within it – they can leave whenever they want to. It’s a good idea to talk to your child about group chats, stating the risks and showing them how to exit a group if they’re invited to one that has people in it that they don’t know. You can also send pictures and videos.
**End-to-end Encryption** WhatsApp uses end-to-end encryption in all its users’ communications. This means that only those with access to the phones of the sender and receiver of a message conversation between the two can access them. This has caused problems for law enforcement agencies when trying to access the communication records of suspects. However, it is an attractive feature for those concerned about the privacy of their messages. Even WhatsApp cannot access them.

**Bullying:** In the past, year 5 and 6 children have had friendship issues caused by other children in WhatsApp groups excluding or including certain children with abusive and bullying language used. This, of course, has a detrimental affect on class work and your child’s happiness and wellbeing. It is vital that your child knows to tell you about these behaviours as they are happening and to block the offending sender.

**Reporting any concerns**

There is no direct way to report a user, or specific abuse, other than to block them from sending you further messages. To block a contact, when the conversation is open, click on the 3 dots on the top right, tap ‘More’, then ‘Block’. Blocked contacts won’t be able to see your profile information, and they won’t be able to contact you. To permanently delete a contact from WhatsApp, you’ll need to delete them from the contacts on your phone.

**Blocking:** The app has a **default privacy setting** which allows anyone else on WhatsApp to view the user’s profile photo, status, and when they last used the app. It’s easy to change this setting to specify that the WhatsApp profile is only seen by ‘My contacts’ or ‘Nobody’ making the app feel a lot safer for younger users. To do this, click on the WhatsApp icon on your phone’s home screen, then tap the 3 dots on the top right then tap Settings > Account > Privacy > Status. In this area, you can also manage any blocked contacts. In addition, WhatsApp now gives you the ability to request and view all the data that it holds on you. This option is found under Settings>Account below Privacy.

Full safety details for WhatsApp can be found in their FAQs. This can be from spamming content to abusive of inappropriate content or behaviour. However, Whatsapp reminds users that if they feel that they or someone else is in emotional or physical danger, they should contact your local law enforcement authorities.

**As with all games and apps, we offer this advice to parents:**

- Talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you or another trusted adult if they are feeling worried or upset by anything they have seen. You can use these conversation starters to help.
- Explore your child’s online activities together. Understand why they like using certain apps, games or websites and make sure they know what they can do to keep themselves safe.
- Agree your own rules as a family when using sites, apps and games. You can use this Family Agreement template to help you get started.
- Manage your technology and use the privacy and parental control settings available to keep your child safe.

**Maria Halpin**
IT Manager/co-ordinator
Next week: Roblox
Hooray: A Successful Application

THIS HALF TERM, HELP US WIN!!!

A £5000 grant towards an Outside Classroom.

Online voting starts this Tuesday, 23rd October (Half term).

WATCH OUT for the voting link coming through Classlist. Parents voting is essential, BUT NOT ENOUGH. We need you to share the link with your UK family, friends, colleagues, Facebook friends, twitter followers etc.

WHY DO WE WANT AN OUTSIDE CLASSROOM?
Watch this video to see what our children and staff say
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jeSB2zMZDs&feature=youtu.be

The projects with the MOST VOTES WINS, therefore, we will be asking you, family, friends and neighbours to vote for us!! You can vote maximum of 10 times each.

Buy Now!
Your Child's Personalised Christmas/Festive Art Card!
Offer expires on 2nd Nov 2018

Our children have made some wonderful designs for the Christmas/Festive cards this year. Look out for the sample in their bookbags today. Order here: https://parent.classlist.com/#/events/view/4858497062281216 or use the paper order form that is in their bookbags.

SAVE THE DATE!
Exciting snow filled adventures in the journey to the Snow Kingdom!

SNOW KINGDOM WINTER FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 1ST DEC 11AM-3PM
Hollymount School SW20
INTRODUCING

HOLLYMOUNT'S
Resident DJ

Hey guys and gals,
My name is Rob and I've been
dJaying since 1988 which is quite a
long time ago.

Some Kool things that DJs say:
PUT THE NEEDLE ON THE RECORD
SPIN SOME TUNES
PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR AND
WAVE THEM LIKE U JUST DON'T CARE

Thes are the decks I used 2 play

DJ ROB will be spinning at the
Shine & Spook Disco

BOOK NOW! FRIDAY 2nd Nov

Mufti Day - £1 per child. Pay on day into buckets at school gate or purchase
with your disco tickets.
Reception/KS 1 Disco, £5 with a snack bag, collect from classes at 4.30pm
KS 2 Disco, £3 with cash tuck and shine shop selling fun Glow items. (Suggested
max spend £5). Collection at 4.45pm
Both Disco's are straight from school!

It is a MUFTI Day so children can come to school in the morning dressed for the
disco! SHINE or SPOOK costume optional. Children will be taken directly from
class to disco!

Tickets may only be purchased via Classlist here:
https://school.classlist.com/f/community-
events/create/5094733999243264

Hawes & Co
Established 1885

Current Leader board:

Boards: 53
1. Venus 75 points
2. Jupiter 70 points
3. Neptune & Mercury 65 points

WISHING YOU A HAPPY HALF TERM!
FUNKY MOVES
STREET DANCE & ART SPOOKTACULAR THEMED HOLIDAY COURSE FOR KIDS AGES 3-12 YEARS

Mon 22nd – Thurs 25th October
9:30am – 12:30pm daily
3-12 years
Hillside Church, WIMBLEDON
£125+VAT for full course

Fun, themed dance routines, arts & crafts, fancy dress & games
A special break dance workshop & performance
A healthy snack for each child every day of the course
A friendly, welcoming atmosphere and community feel as all the kids become part of the Funky Family
A show for family on the final day and art to take home

BOOK NOW at www.funkymoves.com

THE MANNA DAY CENTRE
12 MILLFORD STREET, LONDON SW2 1QF
www.mannaLondon.org.uk
Tel: 020 7237 9169

(Day centre for homeless people & those in need)

A BIG “THANK YOU” FOR YOUR HARVEST FESTIVAL GIFTS.

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A BREAKFAST & COOKED LUNCH
For 150 HOMELESS & NEEDY PEOPLE
Everyday (7 days a week)

Many Thanks

Write a brilliant Bedtime Story

WIN £250 worth of books for you and for your school

BookPeople Bedtime Story Competition

Are you aged between 5 and 11?

Do you have an idea for a bedtime story?

Would you like to see your story published?

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www.thebookpeople.co.uk/bedtimestory
Closing date 29 October 2018

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