

# Primrose Hill Primary School Weekly Newsletter

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Fri 7th July 2023  
Issue No. 35  
(2022-2023)

Twitter   
[@NW1PrimroseHill](https://twitter.com/NW1PrimroseHill)  
 [@primrosehillprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/primrosehillprimaryschool)



Dear Primrose Hill Families,

As our time together draws to a close, I want to say goodbye to Tom West and express my sincere appreciation for his passion as our music teacher. His incredible journey here has been filled with beautiful melodies and will leave us with unforgettable moments.

We also bid goodbye to Kirstie, Natalie, Rikki, and Caroline, all of whom have guided, supported, and dedicated their time to shaping the onwards journey for Primrose Hill. Through their efforts, the school is poised to reach unimaginable heights.

I would like to take a moment to bid farewell to all of you and express my deepest gratitude. It has been an incredible journey leading this school as your Headteacher over the past year, and I am truly honoured to have been part of such a vibrant and dedicated community. Together, we have achieved remarkable things. Our pupils have grown academically, creatively, and personally, thanks to their hard work and the unwavering support of our staff team. Each pupil possesses unique talents and abilities, and I have witnessed their growth and development first hand.

As we close one year, we welcome 2023 -2024. On Monday, the new Year 1 to 6 classes will spend time with their new teacher in their new classrooms.

Year Group	2023-24 Classes	Current Class	Class Teacher/s
6	Kestrels	Woodpeckers	Lucy
	Heron	Blackbirds	Nabila
5	Woodpeckers	Hedgehogs	Marianne
	Blackbirds	Foxes	Hannah
4	Foxes	Squirrels	Georgia
	Hedgehogs	Bats	Alice
3	Squirrels	Beetles & Grasshoppers (MIXED)	Jacob
	Bats	Beetles & Grasshoppers (MIXED)	Paul
2	Beetles	Dragonflies	Marina
	Grasshoppers	Butterflies	Joanna
1	Dragonflies	Reception (SPLIT)	Hatty
	Butterflies	Reception (SPLIT)	Sophie
Reception	Ladybirds	New intake	Maria
			Liam
Nursery	Froglets		Emma
Pre-Nursery	Tadpoles		Karen

Our Year 2 families have received an accompanying letter with further explanations for the changes.

I would like to thank the staff and governors for their support and commitment to excellence. Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to parents, carers and the entire school community for your unwavering support and collaboration. It is through our collective efforts that we have created an environment where learning flourishes, friendships are forged, and memories are made.



Although I will be moving on to new headship, the memories we have shared will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your headteacher.

I wish you all continued success, happiness, and fulfilment.

With Best Wishes,

Harsha Patel

**Please join the SEND Staff Team every Monday at 9am in the Community Room for a coffee morning where you can meet other parents/ carers and discuss any concerns or raise any issues. Everyone is Welcome!**



**SCHOOL  
REPORT**

**End of Year Reports Drop in.**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July

3:45- 4:45pm

Top Playground

**The Summer Fair - Tomorrow**  
**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 12pm to 4pm**  
(in the school grounds)



We are very excited about the **Summer Fair** tomorrow.

**Everyone is welcome!**

Please invite all your families and friends to join us and make this event remarkable!

**Sleepover**



It's been another lovely week at Primrose Hill. We have had a great sleep over for our Year 4 pupils who definitely took over the school. The children really enjoyed, great food, a great film, great friends and lots of fun. A big thank you to Marianne, Jacob, Alice, Georgia and Iuli for organising the night entertainments. Humphrey and Amal + Friends of Primrose Hill for organising the dinner for the children.

## WHY IS ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT?

Good attendance is vital for children to feel settled within school and in order for them to make good progress from wherever they currently are with their learning. The government's expectation is that children's attendance will be at least 96% which enables them to be making the best of all the opportunities, social and academic, within school. To this end, all schools are expected to monitor and follow up on all attendance concerns. The impact of attendance is shown in the chart below.

% attendance in a school year	Days of absence in a school year	Weeks missed in a school year
98%	4	Less than 1 week
95%	9.5	Almost 2 weeks
90%	19	Almost 4 weeks
85%	28.5	Almost 6 weeks

The Attendance team includes Mandy Aplicano and Tara Kerrigan.



**SUPPORTED BY THE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME**

### CRICKET COACHING PROGRAMME

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

**VENUE: SOMERS TOWN COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE**  
134 CHALTON STREET  
SOMERS TOWN  
NW1 1RX

**WEEK ONE: MONDAY 24th JULY to THURSDAY 27th JULY 2023**  
**WEEK TWO: MONDAY 31st AUGUST to THURSDAY 3rd AUGUST 2023**  
**WEEK THREE: MONDAY 7th AUGUST to THURSDAY 10th AUGUST 2023**  
Every day, 10am-3pm



## PLATFORM

Supporting young people to progress through and in cricket



### IS THIS COACHING PROGRAMME FOR YOU?

This course is appropriate for any child in school years 3 to 7.

Children will experience cricket in a fun, safe and progressive environment, building on their development at an appropriate rate.

Both beginners and children who have experienced cricket before are welcome.

### DETAILS

- **COST:** These courses are Free of Charge
- **PLACES:** Allocated to the first 30 respondents on a first come-first serve basis (some places reserved for children eligible for a Free School Meal)
- **AGES:** 7-12 Years Old
- **LUNCHES & REFRESHMENT:** Parents of children entitled to a Free School Meal will be provided with a hot lunch (Please highlight any dietary requirements when signing-up)
- **CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT:** Regular sports kit & trainers (non-marking soles); Personal protective equipment preferred, although we can supply if a child does not have their own

### THE COACHES

#### LEAD: JAHID AHMED



Jahid Ahmed is a former Essex seam bowler who has worked extensively in youth cricket. He is one of an exclusive group of Level 3 coaches, he has led the development of junior cricket in East London and he is a fast bowling and high performance coach with Kent CCC.

#### OTHER COACHES INCLUDE:

Matt Golding (current Minor County Cricketer; Level 2 Coach), Jonathan Rodda (Club Youth Lead; Level 2 Coach), Matt Stiddard (London Schools U14 Lead; Level 2 Coach), Radha Maripatti (Former Professional player; Level 2 Coach).



**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE OR TO DISCUSS ANY ASPECT OF THE COURSE PLEASE CONTACT:**

**MATT GOLDING**

**MOB: 07340 488 629**

**EMAIL: [matthew.golding@platform-ldn.org](mailto:matthew.golding@platform-ldn.org)**



# Online safety - Smartwatches

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## 10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

### AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

### CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

### BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

### MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

### BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

### TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hugging panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

### THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police: location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

### STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

### USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

### Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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**Summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2023 (Wathsala Senadheera, [Wathsala@youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk](mailto:Wathsala@youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk))**



Camden's Holiday Activities and Food Summer 2023 programme runs from **24th July to 1 September** and is now open for bookings. Please share the link to [Camden's HAF booking portal](#) with parents and carers so that they can book places for their children.

Places are **free for children and young people aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for free school meals**. Schools can support the Camden HAF Programme by helping families to show proof of FSM eligibility. We would appreciate it if schools could only send an email or a letter **to the families entitled to FSMs**. A short statement you can use: "You have received this message because your child/ren is/are eligible to book a free HAF Summer place. Please share this email or show this letter to the HAF provider to book your places."

You can support SEND children and young people to access a HAF place as follows - for any child or young person who receives one-to-one staff support at school, we would very much appreciate it if the school could send an email to the parent or a letter confirming the child is receiving one-to-one support at school, so the parent can show the letter or forward the email to the HAF provider.

**Places are limited, and we expect to get them fully booked soon.** So, if you could circulate this opportunity as soon as possible, we would be very grateful to ensure those children and young people who need support most can access it.

All HAF participants will receive free access to daily physical and enriching activities and nutritional education. Some providers will cook on-site, where children and young people will be involved in activities and make their lunch on the day. In addition, there are various activities, including sports such as football, basketball and creative activities, including photography, drama, dancing, and arts and crafts.

The **Summer HAF Programme will run from 24 July to 1 September**, with most programmes running between **10 am and 2 pm**. Please visit the [Camden HAF web page](#) to view all programmes and essential information. Place availability will be refreshed, so please ask parents and guardians to **check the page regularly for updates**.

Infant pupils who receive a free meal under universal infant school meals must also qualify for benefits related to FSM to access a place on the HAF programme. Please also encourage parents and guardians of children or young people with SEND needs to book their HAF places using the booking link. All Camden HAF providers are ready to make arrangements to welcome them into their programmes.

For more details and questions, please email Wathsala Senadheera, Young Camden Foundation's HAF Project Manager, at [Wathsala@youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk](mailto:Wathsala@youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk).



We hope you received Year 4's letters and have been able to collect some change to make a change to those in need. Please take any donations to your class teachers by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June so we can organise presenting it to Nigel from Purple Mash, who introduce us to the charity, to pass it along on our behalf. Thank you

"At Bankuet, we believe that no one should be going hungry in the UK, and we need your help to get food banks what they need, when they need it.

When you donate through Bankuet, we combine your donation with others' and use them to bulk buy the items food banks most need. Please give what you can to support our communities at this challenging time."

You can access a story and activities to learn more about about Banquet and food banks by logging into Purple Mash and searching "Kobe Ketchup".



## Harsha's Talk Homework:

# HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

Let's talk about...

## Freedom



### Quotes about freedom



Jim Morrison  
singer, songwriter, poet

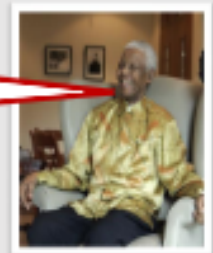
A friend is someone  
who gives you the  
total freedom to be  
yourself.

My father always  
said, 'Malala will  
be free as a bird'.



Malala Yousafzai  
Pakistani activist

For to be free is not  
merely to cast off one's  
chains, but to live in a way  
that respects and  
enhances the freedom of  
others.



Nelson Mandela  
former President of South Africa

DIALOGUE  
WORKS

### Caring thinking

Can you think of a way you give  
your friends freedom to be  
themselves?

### Collaborative thinking

How can people work together to  
remove some of the barriers to  
freedom some people have to  
overcome?

### Creative thinking

If freedom were a colour, what  
colour would it be and why?

### Critical thinking

Is freedom of speech a good  
thing? Should everyone be  
entitled to this even if they want  
to say damaging things?



## Caring thinking

How can we show we accept children who think and communicate differently?

## Collaborative thinking

As well as talking, how many other ways of communicating with others can you think of?



## Creative thinking

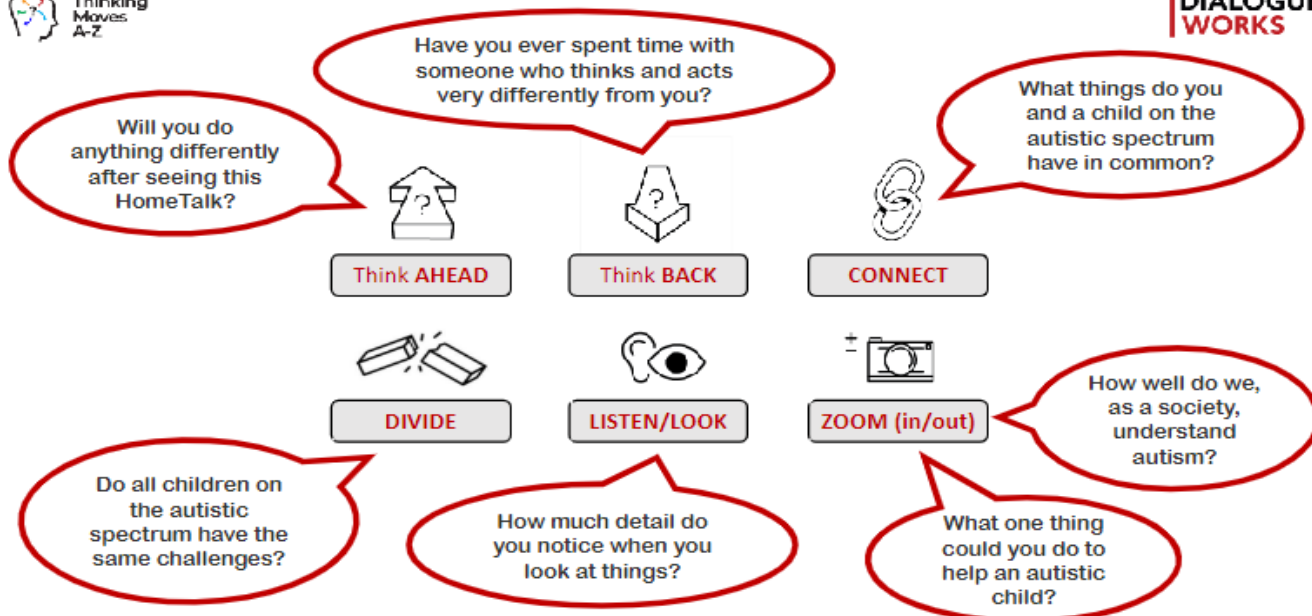
How many special strengths can you think of that children on the autistic spectrum might have?

## Critical thinking

Do you think we all make enough effort to understand children with different needs and abilities?



**DIALOGUE WORKS**



To find out more about the Thinking Moves A-Z visit <https://dialogueworks.co.uk/thinking-moves-a-z/>

## Stimulus

### Poppy

A HomeTalk story for families and schools



<https://dialogueworks.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HomeTalk-Autism-Poppy.pdf>

### What would it be like to be Poppy?

Here are some of the things that matter in Poppy's life. Let's think how it would feel to be Poppy.

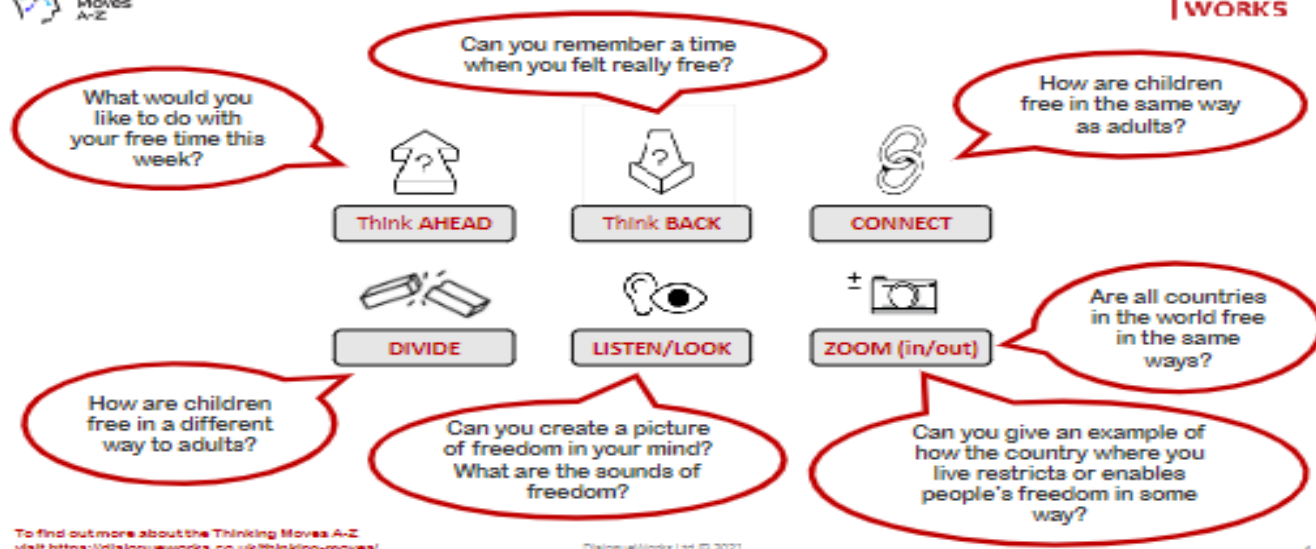
## Talking Points

- What do you think is the most interesting thing about Poppy?
- If you met Poppy, what would you talk about with her?
- How do you think Poppy feels about other children at her school?

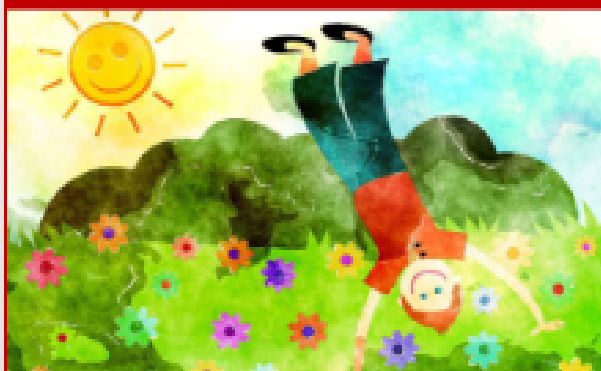
## Activities

- With a friend or an adult to help you, see if you can write a story about yourself – like the one about Poppy.
- Then have a chat about what's similar and what's different between your story and Poppy's.





## Stimulus



<https://www.storyberries.com/poems-for-kids-freedom-by-phoebe-coghlan-bedtime-stories/>

Follow this link to listen to and read a poem called Freedom by Phoebe Coghlan

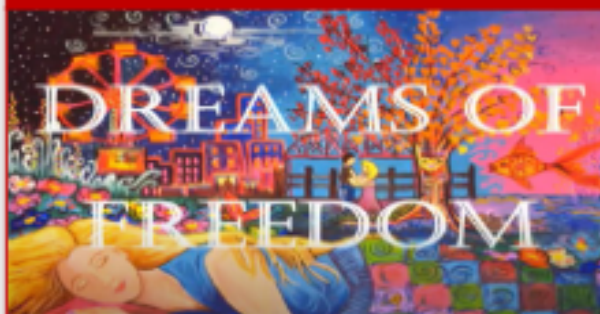
## Talking Points

- Look at the pictures that illustrate the poem. Which do you like best?
- What makes you feel free?
- Where do you feel most free; inside or outside?
- Do you think grown-ups are free? Why or why not?

## Activities

- Can you create your own picture to show what freedom is to you?
- Can you collect some pictures that show freedom in different ways?

## Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/bKyc2L9hHY>

**Dreams of Freedom by Lily Rappaport**

In this book created by Amnesty International and Lily Rappaport, we see beautifully illustrated quotes about freedom by different people.

## Talking Points

- Have a think about all the different quotes about freedom. Which ones do you find interesting?
- Which two or three quotes do you like best? Why?
- What does freedom mean to you?

## Activities

- Take one or two of the quotes in the book and see if you can research a bit about the person who said the quote.
- Can you write your own definition of freedom?
- Could you write your quote out and illustrate it in your own style?