 Holly Park Primary School – Year Two Information

 What To Expect In Year Two

Welcome To Year Two!

The move from Year One to Year Two is not such a big one and many of the things that parents and children have become used to, remain the same in Year Two. Your children are now in the final year of Key Stage One. They are in classes of 30 (the same classes they were in last year) There is still one teacher to 30 children. There are still two teaching assistants across Key Stage One who will work in class at various time s across the year.

**Saying Goodbye**

Just as in Year One, we ask that you bring your child to the main playground before 8.55am and stand by their class cone. When the bell rings and the teachers come out to collect the children, we ask that you stay standing in the playground and let your child walk to their classroom with their teacher. Year two children do not need parents to come to the classroom door with them. There will be additional school adults to support children who are finding it difficult to say goodbye if necessary. If you need to speak to your child’s teacher, you can catch them (if it is very brief) when they come out in the morning. You can write them a note or leave a message at the office. You can also speak to them at home time when they have a bit more time. Please be aware however, that they may have a meeting they need to attend at the end of the school day – so you may need to make an appointment agreed with them. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

**Continuing The Integrated Day**

In Years Two, our classroom provision is similar to that in Year One. Children will independently access many varied activities at a time of their choosing. There will be several carpet times during the day and the teacher will still work with small groups, developing the key skills of the children in that group throughout the day. We still have outdoor classrooms and areas such as role-play and construction areas. We are proud of our provision as it encourages excellent independent learning skills, whist still enabling children to reach their academic potential. In the summer term, there will be some small changes (in preparation for Year3) whereby the children will all be doing English and Maths in class at the same time doing a carousel of activities.

**Lunch Time and Snacks**

As last year, lunch time in Key Stage One is from 12.20 to 1.20. The children in Key Stage One eat in the latter part of the lunch break. (The Junior lunch break finishes at 1.00 so they need to have finished eating first). Some children will be hungry as they may not have eaten since their breakfast. You are more than welcome to bring in a snack for your child to access throughout the morning. The snack must be labelled with their name and MUST NOT CONTAIN NUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS eg Nutella. We take advantage of the Free Fruit for Schools and provide the children with one piece of fruit or vegetable per day as a snack but this is not always filling enough. Please only use packed lunch boxes for lunch, rather than snacks as sometimes children are confused by this.

**PE**

PE continues to be twice a week. One of these sessions is in the hall and the other is in the playground. We are required to teach a certain amount of PE each week and we do go outside in hot and cold weather. Please make sure that your child has the correct PE kit for going outside. They will need:

* red shorts
* white T-shirt
* white trainers
* green tracksuit top
* green tracksuit bottoms

**Learning Partners**

Each week your child will be chosen alongside another child to be ‘Learning Partners’. They will sit next to that child during whole class teaching sessions and will be encouraged to talk to them about their learning. We change these partners regularly so that children get the opportunity to work with a variety of children and not just their friends. For the rest of the day, they will be free to work with whomever they choose. The names of the partners will be displayed on the walls of each classroom.

**Learning Skills Sticker Chart**

Each child continues with their own ‘Sticker Chart’. The charts have six sections.

Enquiry

Reflection

Self Manager

Teamwork

Commitment

Creativity

When a child demonstrates one of these learning skills in their work, they may be given a sticker to place on their chart. When their chart is completed and full of stickers, the child is awarded with a badge in Celebration Assembly.

**House Teams**

Children in Y2 continue to be in the same House Team as last year. They are already in one of our five house teams:

* Dragon – green
* Hydra – blue
* Phoenix – red
* Griffin – yellow
* Unicorn – black/white

Children continue to earn points for their house and these are called ‘housepoints’. These can be rewarded by any adult at school for any positive behaviour. Once a week these points are counted up and a cup is awarded to the winning team in assembly every Monday. In the summer at Infant Sports Day the children are asked to wear a T-shirt of their house colour (see above). They will compete in their teams.

**Homework**

Children in Key Stages One and Two bring home weekly homework. In Years One and Two, this consists of a folder with a new piece of homework in the front each week. The homework will mostly be Literacy or Maths. The homework is an opportunity for your child to practise the skills they have been learning at school. They will have been taught the learning objective over the course of the week. Please allow your child to attempt the homework themselves; we often receive homework that has been done by parents and we know that the child has had little input. If your child really struggles, please come and tell us and we will be able to help you.

**Infant Show**

In February, Years One and Two perform the Infant Show. The show is held in the evenings at 6.30pm with one afternoon performance. We start practising the show in January and it takes up a lot of time and effort. Please be sure to note the dates in your diary when they are released after Christmas as we will need your child to come back to school in the evening to perform their part. Year One children take part in the dancing and singing; Year Two children take up the acting roles. Please note that siblings under 12 years cannot attend the evening performance.

**Trips and Curriculum Day**

During the year, your child will go on two trips and will also have two curriculum days.

The children will also make a visit to a place of worship. In Year Two it will be a synagogue.

**Reading**

Reading continues as in Year One.

Whole Class Reading Daily - The children take part in daily-shared class reading for 20 minutes every day. The children read aloud and with the teacher and discuss the texts. This method means that every child reads for one hour forty minutes a week. Of course, some children still need individual reading and they will still receive this

Reading Books Coming Home - All children will continue to bring home 1 book from their class library each week to share with you and, an online e-book from the Bug Club. These book club books are graded and link very much with phonics. They are a graded scheme and become progressively harder. We suggest that any school reading whether from the real library books coming home or the e-books from the Bug Club are read early in the evening as school homework. Of course we would encourage you to also read and share books with your child at bedtime – but NOT the books sent home by the school. Children love to be read to right up to the age of about eleven years old. You reading to your child at bedtime is excellent modelling of reading and is also a relaxing end to the day. We would not recommend reading the Bug Club books off a phone screen as this is too small. A tablet or laptop is best. If you have any problems accessing these technologies please do speak to the class teacher. We realise that parents like to limit screen time – however this is promoting very positive use of screen time and is only a small amount of time. It is up to individual parents to manage how this fits in with their own philosophy on screens and to work out how to fit it into their daily/weekly routines and hours of screen usage. It is not replacing real books. Please be aware that the teachers can see online if children are opening and reading the e-books from Bug Club – so they can monitor how much reading a child is doing at home.

**End of KS1 National Assessments**

Your child’s teacher is responsible for judging the standards your child is working at in English, maths and science, by the end of key stage 1. To help inform those judgements, pupils sit national curriculum assessments in English and maths. These assessments are done very informally in small groups within the normal classroom environment. We do not make a big fuss about these and the children are told they are tasks to be done. Children may not even know they are taking them as the teachers will incorporate them into everyday classroom activities. The assessments are just a tool to inform the teachers own professional judgement They also allow teachers to see how your child is performing against national expected standards. The assessments are done during May and they are not timed. Teachers will use the results from these assessments, along with the work your child has done throughout the year, to help them reach their own judgements about how your child is progressing at the end of key stage 1. These teacher assessment judgements will be reported to you by the end of the school year.

The judgements arrived at are in English and Maths to establish where the children have reached at the end of Year 1 and 2 (KS1). Children will be deemed to be:

* Not working towards the expected standard,
* Working towards the expected standard
* Working at the expected standard
* Working at greater depth within the expected standard

The assessments will be marked using a scaled score with 100 being expected.

There will be a meeting for Year 2 parents in January to go into more detail about the end of KS1 assessments – please look out for this nearer the time.

**Musical Instrument Tuition**

During the course of Y2, your child will be introduced to a variety of musical instruments. At the end of Y2 they can audition to take up instrumental tuition (which you would need to pay for) in Year 3.

**Mixing The Classes At The End Of Y2**

It is our long established practice to reallocate the children in our Year 2 classes at the end of the year and create new classes for the start of Year 3. In the second half of the summer term we will be looking at the children in our present Year 2 to redistribute them into new classes ready for the start of Year 3.

In reallocating the children, we would consider many factors, including:

* The happiness and self-esteem of the children
* The ratio of boys to girls in each class
* The spread of ability
* Positive friendship groups
* Children with a wide variety of needs

The process is a very careful one and is done over several weeks. Many staff are involved

If you have any questions about the information in this letter, you can speak to your class teacher OR Mrs Fitzpatrick who is the KS1 Phase Leader.