 Holly Park Primary School – Year Three Information

 What To Expect In Year Three

Welcome To Year Three!

The move from Year Two to Year Three is quite a big step. Your children have now left Key Stage One and are beginning Key Stage Two. They are now mixed into new classes of 30, which they will stay in for the next two years. As well as the class teachers, there is a teaching assistant who will work in both classes at various times across the year.

**Saying Goodbye**

Just as in Key Stage 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. For safety and safeguarding reasons, parents are NOT allowed inside the Junior building. If your child is late, then they must go to the school office to be signed in and to get a late card to take to their teacher.

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.

**The School Day**

Being in a Key Stage Two classroom is rather different to being in KS1. The children no longer move around the room so freely. They no longer have an outdoor area. They will all be learning the same subject at the same time. They still have opportunity to sit on the carpet, however much of the time will be sitting at their desk. The school day is now:

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| 08.55 | School day starts |
| 09.00 | Lesson 1 begins |
| 10.20 | Break |
| 10.40 | Lesson 2 begins |
| 11.40 | Assembly |
| 12.00 | Lunchtime |
| 13.00 | Whole Class reading |
| 13.20 | Lesson 3 begins |
| 14.20 | Break |
| 14.30 | Lesson 3 begins |
| 15.30 | End of the school day |

**School Dinners**

School dinners were free for all children in KS1 – as this was funded by the government. Now your child is in KS2, you have to pay for your child’s school lunch. We are a cashless school so you will have to pay for this online. We do recommend that your child has a school cooked lunch as they are excellent.

If your child has a packed lunch please be aware that they must not bring a drink as water is available for all children. They must also not bring chocolate or sweets. All food provided must be nut free. KS2 packed lunch boxes should be left on the correct year group trolley in the packed lunch shelter.

**Snacks**

Again in KS1, the school takes advantage of the Free Fruit for Schools and provides the children in KS1 with one piece of fruit or vegetable per day as a snack – however this is only available for KS1 children. It is quite a long morning from breakfast to lunchtime so we do suggest that your child brings in a healthy snack for morning break. We suggest fruit or vegetables or rice crackers. Children cannot have crisps, chocolate, sweets or anything with nuts in it. Snacks need to be named and taken into the classrooms; snacks should not be put in lunch bags as the children are not allowed to access these until lunchtime.

**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. Children are fairly resilient and it has been scientifically proved that cold weather cannot give you a cold. 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

**Swimming**

Year 3 are due to start swimming every Wednesday afternoon after the February half term. Swimming lessons go on for one year into Y4. The children will need to have a swimming costume (no bikinis or swimming shorts, please – this is a requirement of St John’s School whose pool we use), a swimming hat and a towel, brought to school every Wednesday in a waterproof, named bag. The children are taken to their lessons in groups of 15, led by an adult. For Health and Safety reasons, we need two adults to accompany each group on the walks to and from St John’s. The school provides a member of staff for each group, but we are reliant on parent helpers to make up the numbers. Please understand that if we do not have the parent support for these lessons, we may well have to cancel the swimming provision.

We do understand that some children already have swimming lessons outside of school. However, it is a requirement of the PE National curriculum that all children swim in school as part of the PE provision. All children must attend school swimming lessons. The total cost of swimming for your child is £90 for the year. We are not given money in our budget for the swimming lessons therefore we need to ask parents for a contribution of £45 per child for the year. Parents can make this contribution in one amount or spread it out at £15 per term.

**Learning Partners**

As in KS1, each week your child will be chosen alongside another child to be ‘Learning Partners’. They will sit next to that child for a week and will be encouraged to talk to them about their learning. We change these partners weekly so that children get the opportunity to work with a variety of children and not just their friends. The names of the partners will be displayed on the walls of each classroom.

**Homework**

Children in Key Stage Two bring home weekly homework. In Key Stage Two, this consists of two formal pieces. We want our homework at Holly Park to be a balance between open ended, creative, independent tasks where the children can be enquiring and do their own research and present their findings in a manner that suits them. However, we also recognise the need for children to practice and embed some of the maths and grammar skills that they have been learning at school. We hope we have achieved a balance with this. In Years 3, 4 and 5 the children have a weekly open-ended question to answer and present in their own style. The questions allow for self-differentiation; fit with each individual’s own learning style and are designed to show breadth across all subjects over the year. With the open-ended tasks across the school the children will vary with the amount of time that they spend on them. The main questions to consider are – Is my child proud of what they have produced? Is this work a good effort for my child?

In addition the children will complete either one maths task or one Spelling, punctuation and grammar task each week. These 2 tasks are alternated each week.

The decision on whether to set homework at all – and if so how much – falls to individual Head teachers. At Holly Park, we understand that parents value homework, but we also want children to relax and play at home – they work very hard during the day!  Lots of current research has shown that homework does not necessarily add much value to the learning process in terms of academic attainment.

The most important skills to work on at home are reading and times tables, and no child can ever read too much!

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 the teacher.

**The Nativity**

In December it is a tradition at Holly Park that the Year 3 children will perform the nativity. Every child will have a small part. Some will speak, some will dance and everyone will sing. There will be a matinee and an evening performance. 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 Three it will be a Gudwara.

In addition, there will also be a whole year group team building day for Y3 in the summer term. The children will go to Trent Park and take part in fun team building games and activities led by Non Stop Action.

**Reading**

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 – Please ensure that although your children can now read, that you continue to read with them daily. There is a national dip in reading as children move into KS2 – this is largely because parents stop listening to their children reading or stop reading bedtime stories. Reading is now more important than ever as it becomes more about vocabulary meaning and comprehension which takes into consideration inference, intent and personal opinion on a text. It is vital now that parents talk to their children about what they are reading. The children are now on a reading journey that culminates with an extremely challenging national reading test in Y6 which is based on some very difficult texts. The reading challenge has been introduced into KS2 and runs right through the juniors. The challenge has a mixture of different genres, different authors both modern and classic. The challenge increases in difficulty as it progresses.

There is a booklist for each stage. Children have to read 10 books at each stage. The levels are:

* Blue
* Red
* Bronze
* Bronze Advanced
* Silver
* Silver Advanced
* Gold
* Gold Advanced
* Platinum
* Platinum Advanced
* Diamond
* Diamond Advanced

The majority of children in Y3 will begin on Bronze Level. However, some who need some consolidation will begin on Blue or red. A very few children will continue with the Bug Club from KS1 as they start KS2. It is expected on average that Bronze level is for Y3, Silver in Y4, Gold in Y5 and Platinum and above in Y6. Of course children will progress at their own rate.

**Times Table Challenge**

In KS2 we also have a graded times table challenge that the children do in class. Certificates are awarded for each grade. It is vitally important that children know their multiplication tables by heart up to 12x12. In Y4 there is a new national times table test which your child will have to sit. This asks 25 multiplication questions and the children have 6 seconds to answer. At Holly Park, we want the children to understand what the multiplication tables are but to also know them by heart. Please help your child to learn these at home.

**Spelling**

There will be a greater emphasis on KS2 spelling. Children will get (e-mailed to you) a spelling sheet every half term. This will be a combination of National Curriculum words, topic words and also spelling rules that the children will be learning each half term. Please print out the sheet and display it somewhere prominent in the house. Please help your child to learn the words. There will be a spelling test at the end of each half term. This will help the children in preparation for the journey they are on towards theY6 national spelling test.

**Barnabas Choir**

Later in the Autumn Term, your children will be given an opportunity to audition for the KS2 Barnabas Choir. This choir is by audition only. Your child may not be chosen the first time but they will have opportunity to audition again. If you agree to your child being in this choir then they must attend rehearsals regularly and commit to performing in concerts wearing concert dress (white shirt and school tie). Mr Hogan runs this choir.

**Bikeability**

In Y3, your child will be given the opportunity to take part in cycling lessons. They must own their own bike and already be able to ride it. These lessons teach children how to ride safely. There will be opportunity to do this again in Y4,5 and 6. There are different levels that the children can complete.

**School Councils**

Children continue to have the opportunity to be on one of our various councils – The School Council, the Eco Council and the Healthy Living Council.

In KS2, they can be on The Learning Council. Learning Council is made up from one pupil from each class from Year 1 – Year 6. These pupils are chosen by the class teacher.

The aim of the Learning Council is:

* to make children at the school more aware of what good learning is;
* have pupil input into what makes a good lesson
* get children more involved in the learning process.

Once a child has been on Healthy Living council, they may not be on it again. Children on a council stay on that council for one academic year. They get a Council badge and have their photograph on the website and Council board. They attend regular meetings. They also get to go on an additional Council trip during the school year.

**Parent Workshops**

This year, we will be continuing with our parent workshops. These are designed to get parents more involved in their child’s learning and give ideas about how to support the children at home. There will be workshops held for parents and children together to learn and explore together. This year there will be Y3 workshops over the year on different subjects. There will be one each term. You are invited to come and work with the children in gthe hall for an hour. These are informative for parents and great fun for the children. They love it when you come and work with them. Look out for the dates. These workshops will continue when your child is in Y4 and 5. They are likely to be on different themes.

There will also be an online safety workshop for all parents – these are highly informative and we would very much recommend you attend as your child is now in KS2.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter you can speak to your class teacher OR Mr French who is the KS2 Phase Leader.