 Holly Park Primary School – Year Four Information

What To Expect In Year Four

Welcome To Year Four!

The move from Year Three to Year Four is not a big one and many of the things that parents and children have become used to last year, remain the same in Year Four. 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 last year, 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.

**School Dinners**

Just as in Y3, 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**

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 proven 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 4 continue to swim every Wednesday afternoon until the February half term. 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 continue 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.

**Homework**

Homework continues as it did in Y3. 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.

**Year 4 Review**

In the Summer Term all of the children in Y4 will do a very large assembly together as a year group. This is in addition to the normal class assembly that they will still dio at some point during the year. Every child will have a small part. Some will speak, some will dance and everyone will sing. There will only be one performance. The review will cover what the children have been learning across the year and will demonstrate the broad and balanced curriculum that we offer at Holly Park.

**Trips and Curriculum Days**

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 Four it will be a Church (different to Y1).

In addition, there will also be a whole year group Sleepover for Y4 in March. The sleepover will be run by staff who will stay at school overnight. The children will sleep in the Infant classrooms, separated into boys and girls groups. There will be a small cost for the sleepover. Children will need to return to school at 6.30pm (after having their evening meal at home) on Friday and be collected at 9.00am on Saturday morning.

The sleepover will include a session with Non-Stop Action, an evening snack of pizza, a talent show, a late night film and breakfast. There will be more information nearer the time but it is a fantastic opportunity for children to spend a night away from home with friends and in a familiar setting. We realise that for some children this will be their first time sleeping away from home and we feel it is important in preparations for our residential trips in Y5 and Y6.

**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. 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.

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. This continues through KS2. 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 year. At Holly Park, we want the children to understand what the multiplication tables are but to also know them by heart.

**National Multiplication Test For Y4**

This is a new national test for all children in Y4. The test is done online. It asks 25 multiplication questions (based on tables up to 12x12) and the children have 6 seconds to answer. Please help your child to learn these at home in preparation for the test later in the year.

**Spelling**

There will be a greater emphasis on 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 already on towards Y6 national spelling test.

**Bikeability**

Last year, your child was 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, Healthy Living Council and Learning Council.

Once a child has been on a 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.

**Mixing The Classes At The End Of Y4**

It is now established practice to reallocate the children in our Year 4 classes at the end of the year and create new classes for the start of Year 5. In the second half of the summer term we will be looking at the children in our present Year 4 to redistribute them into new classes ready for the start of Year 5.

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 Mr French who is the KS2 Phase Leader.