 Holly Park Primary School – Year Five Information

 What To Expect In Year Five

Welcome To Year Five!

The move from Year Four to Year Five 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 Five. The children are now mixed into new classes of 30, which they will stay in for the rest of their time at Holly Park. 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 previous years, 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 other years, 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

**Forest School**

At some point during the year, the children in each class will get the opportunity to do Forest School again as they did in KS1.

Forest Schools is a type of outdoor education in which children visit forests/woodlands (in this case Coppetts Wood), learning personal, social and technical skills. Children learn in a woodland environment. A forest school uses the woods and forests as a means to build independence and [self-esteem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-esteem) in children. Topics are cross-curricular including the natural environment, for example the role of trees in society, the complex ecosystem supported by a wilderness, and recognition of specific plants and animals. Personal skills such as teamwork and problem solving are also developed. The woodland environment is used to learn about mathematics and communication too. The children will participate in a range of activities including building homes with natural materials, going on a minibeast scavenger hunt, exploring different types of trees, making fires and toasting marshmallows! All the activities will be led by Mrs Casey who is a trained Forest school teacher, There will always be a member of Holly Park staff with them and we will need at least one parent volunteer with each group.

**Homework**

Homework continues as it did in Y3 &4. 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 5 Review**

In the Summer Term all of the children in Y5 will do a very large assembly together as a year group as they did in Y4. 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 Five it will be a Mosque.

In addition, there will also be a residential trip.

I am delighted to tell you that we have again booked a three day /two night residential visit for Year 5 in May. The rip is to Gilwell Park Scout Centre. Much of the trip will be led by Non Stop Action. On this trip there will be great emphasis on team building and developing social skills as well as the outdoor adventurous P.E. curriculum. The children will also be encouraged to develop greater independence in a controlled and safe environment. Of course there is fun and excitement from dawn to dusk with a very full and varied programme, which may include archery, climbing, team games, campfire cooking, crate stacking, a hike and many other activities. This is a trip that I am sure will be a fantastic and memorable time. For some children, a trip like this can be life changing, and it certainly is an experience that cannot be gained from within the classroom walls. It will also provide a good lead in to the Year 6 trip which is a week away. There will be more information later this term along with costs and a payment plan. There will also be a meeting where you can come and hear more about the trip and ask any questions.

**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 you continue to read with your child daily – they still need it! 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 very close to sitting the 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.

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. However to do well in the Y6 tests we would expect Y5 children to have completed Gold levels by the end of the year.

**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 the Y6 national spelling test.

**Bikeability**

Your child may have already had the opportunity to take part in cycling lessons in Y3 or Y4. There is more opportunity in Y5. 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 Y5 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.

**Secondary Transfer Meeting**

You will hardly be able to believe it but it is almost time to begin thinking about moving on from Holly Park to secondary school. During the summer term of Y5, we hold a meeting for Year 5 parents to come and find out more about the process of selecting a secondary school and how the procedure works. Some of the selective schools hold open sessions and require parents to register interest already. Some schools will hold auditions and exams this term or in early September as part of their selection criteria. If you are interested in the exam entry selective route for your child, you need to begin now to look up dates for these tests on the individual school websites, as some require you to register very early. State secondary schools will hold their open evenings in September and October of Y6.

At our Y5 secondary transfer meeting, we run through a PowerPoint with lots of information. A pack of information will come home in the summer term of Y5 following the meeting, followed by another at the start of Year 6. Do look out for the date of this meeting later in the year.

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.