



# Holly Park Primary School – Year One Information

## What To Expect In Year One

Welcome To Year One!

The move from Reception to Year One is quite a big one for both children and parents. Your children are now leaving the Early Years Foundation Stage and entering Key Stage One. The curriculum changes and becomes more demanding and also the ratio of children to teachers changes – whereas there were two adults to 30 children in reception, there is now just one teacher to 30 children. There is a year group teaching assistant who works across the classes in Year One. There are quite a few changes to take on board.

To ease the transition between Reception and Year One, we try very hard to keep many systems and routines the same for the children. There are also, however, many things that will be different. This information sheet will try to explain some of those changes. If you would like more information about anything on this sheet or you have other issues, please speak to your child's class teacher and they will be happy to help you.

### **Start Of The Normal School Day.**

The start of the school day will run with a soft start time, which means that children come in to school and go straight to class with no waiting around needed in cold or wet weather. It enables a lovely calm and peaceful start to the school day makes the children very independent and confident.

Your children will now come through the main school gate with the rest of the school.

Mr Reid will open the main gates at 8.45am and children will enter between 8.45am and 8.55am.

Parents/carers will not be coming on to the school site and will say goodbye either at the main gates or will walk down to where the tarmac changes colour and there are staff waiting - please say goodbye there.

Children will walk in to their classrooms independently.

### **Start Times:**

Year 1 to Year 6 – a soft start between 8.45am and 8.55am

If you need to speak to the class teacher you can drop them a note, send an email to the school office to be sent to them or call the school 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.

### **Home Times:**

All parents/carers will be able to come on to the school site to collect their children.

Parents/carers will enter down the path to the buzzered gate. The gate will open at 3.20pm.

Parents/carers will then come on to the school site and will wait outside their child's classroom.

EYFS and Infant teachers will let children out one at a time to their parents/carers.

KS2 teachers will bring their classes outside into the playground as a group to be collected.

Reception to Year 6 will finish at 3.30pm.

### **Integrated Day**

In Years One and Two, our classroom provision is similar to that in Reception whilst teaching the requirements of the National Curriculum for Key Stage One. Children will independently access many varied activities at a time of their choosing. The teacher will work with small groups, developing the key skills of the children in that group. 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, whilst still enabling children to reach their academic potential.

## **Lunch Time and Snacks**

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.

The school policy for playtime snacks is that the children can bring fresh fruit and vegetables and/or a plain carbohydrates. Grapes are not allowed as they are a choking hazard. Dried fruits are not allowed as a snack as it is not healthy for the children's teeth.

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**

Key Stages One and Two have PE 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

We do not always have enough spare PE kit for children who do not have the correct items. Children will need to wear their PE kit to school on PE days instead of school uniform.

## **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.

## **House Teams**

Throughout Years One to Six, the children are grouped into five house teams:

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

Siblings will always be in the same house team. Children can 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. You can see the housepoints for each week in the newsletter on Fridays. Three times a year, the children will take part in a House Challenge with children from other year groups in the same team. In the summer we hold an Infant Sports Day and the Infant and Junior 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 will do weekly homework. In Years One and Two, this consists of a new piece of homework each week. Set on Google Classroom. The homework will mostly be Literacy or Maths but may be linked to any area of the curriculum and could be quite creative. The homework is an opportunity for your child to practise the skills they have been learning at school or to investigate new things. 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. If you do not have access to internet or a suitable device – we can provide a homework book for the homework to be done in. Please do ask.

### **Infant Show**

In February, Years One and Two perform the Infant Show. The show is held in the evening 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 Days**

Every year group (not including nursery) should offer at least **5** experiences:

- RE place of worship. In Year one it will be a church.
- Geography Fieldwork
- 3 Curriculum Days, at least one of which will be an off-site trip (not just in the local area).

### **Forest School**

At some point during the year, the children in each class will get the opportunity to do Forest School. It can happen that due to a variety of circumstances, that one class may miss doing it in Y1 but they will get to do it at the start of Y2. They will not miss out.

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 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 Four Seasons Forest School. There will always be a member of Holly Park staff with them and we will need at least one parent volunteer with each group.

### **Reading**

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.

### **School Councils**

In Y1, your child may have the opportunity to be on one of our school councils.

School Council

These pupils are elected by their peers. There are two children from each class. The school council looks at behaviour, bullying and general day-to-day school issues as seen from a pupil point of view e.g lunches, toilets, play equipment etc. Once a child has been on school council, they may not be on it again.

#### Eco Council

Eco Council is made up of one pupil from each class from Year 1 – Year 6 who are chosen by the class teacher. The aim of the Eco Council is to help the school develop as an Eco School. They look at pollution, waste, litter, energy etc. Once a child has been on Eco council, they may not be on it again.

#### Healthy Living Council

Healthy Living Council is made up of one pupil from each class from Year 1 – Year 6 who are chosen by the class teacher. The aim of the Healthy Living Council is to look at healthy eating, exercise etc. 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. In the past the School Council have been to the London Assembly rooms. The Eco Council have been to recycling centres and wildlife centres. The Healthy Living Council have been to The Olympic Park.

### **Parent Consultations**

Meeting with staff to discuss your child is now different in KSI. There are 3 parent consultations a year – one each term. For the first two (Autumn and Spring) we expect every parent to attend. The third in the summer term is after you have received your annual school report and is **only** intended for those parents who want to ask something about the report. We would hope that all parents can attend the dates that we have set, however if for some particular reason you cannot attend either date given, then please speak to the class teacher and I am sure that they will arrange something for you. Parents sign up for appointments using an online system.

The parent consultations take place in the main school hall. Each teacher will be sitting at a desk. Each consultation slot is for 10 minutes. The norm in most primary schools is 5-10 minutes. The teachers will try their best to keep to time and we would ask that you please arrive in time for your slot. We do ask that **all children** come to the consultation meetings and are part of the discussions. This is a system that we have used now for many years. We believe that it is very important that the children are part of the discussions and hear what is being said about them.

### **Book Looks**

Now in KSI you are invited to come and look at your child's work ahead of the parent consultation evening. These happen in the Autumn and the Spring term. They usually happen a week or two before parent consultations. They are advertised in the 'Dates for parent leaflet' which is e-mailed out at the start of each term AND are advertised in the dates section of the newsletter a couple of weeks before.

There are 2 book looks so do be sure to get the right date

There is a KSI Book Look – this is for Y1 and Y2

There is a KS2 Book Look – this is for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6

The idea is that you can go into the classroom and sit down with your child and look at their work. This will give you an idea about how you think your child is doing ahead of parent meetings. Please be aware however that in Year 1 there will not be huge amounts of work in the first term, as much of the work that the children are doing is practical. The classrooms are open from approx 3.45 to 5.45. You can come along any time within that window. (At the end of the school day, the teacher will indicate when you can come in once the teacher has made sure all of the children are safely accounted for) You will probably spend approximately 20-30 minutes with your child and their books. The teacher will not be present in the room as this is for children and parents to look together. The event is not really suitable for toddlers. However if it is unavoidable that they have to attend due to child care, we do ask that they stay with you and do not wander round the classrooms and play with equipment. At the end of the session, please leave your child's work in a pile on the desk. In the summer term, books will be sent home.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter, you can speak to your class teacher.