



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.

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 – even those in Reception – very independent and confident.

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 there are staff waiting and say goodbye there. This is actually the tarmac line where the new playground ends.

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 your child is late (after 9am), 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 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 buzzed 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.

For safety and safeguarding reasons, parents are NOT allowed inside the Junior building at any time of the school day.

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:

08.45-9.00	School day starts
09.00	Lesson 1 begins

10.20	Break
10.40	Lesson 2 begins
11.40	Assembly
12.00	Lunchtime
13.00	Lunchtime ends
14.20	Break
14.30	Lesson 3 begins
15.30	End of the school day

School Dinners

For the next year, school lunches are free for KS2 pupils as the Mayor of London is paying for all junior children in London to have free meals for another year. 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. We do have a packed lunch policy. KS2 packed lunch boxes should be left on the correct year group trolley in the packed lunch shelter.

Snacks

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.

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

Children should wear PE kit instead of school uniform on their PE days.

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?

We expect the homework to be handed back in via Google Classroom. If a child cannot do this due to lack of computer equipment at home then we will provide a large homework book.

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.

Learning Spellings for a half term spelling test is also a part of the expected homework.

Learning Times Tables for a half term tables test is also part of the expected homework.

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 two matinee performances.

Trips and Curriculum Day

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

- RE place of worship. In Y3 this is a Hindu Temple.
- Geography Fieldwork
- 3 Curriculum Days, at least one of which will be an off-site trip (not just in the local area).

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

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 Tables

It is vitally important that children know their multiplication tables by heart up to 12x12 by May of Year 4. In Y4 there is a national times table test which your child will have to sit. This asks 25 quick fire 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 the Y6 national spelling test.

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 Meetings

This year, we will be continuing with our parent meetings. These are designed to get parents more involved in their child's learning and give ideas about how to support the children at home. Some of these will be online and for some you are invited to come in to the school. One of the sessions will be specifically for Y3 parents to show how phonics links into spelling. 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.