



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 the Year 4 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 9.00am.

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.

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 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

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

Swimming

Year 4 will swim every Wednesday afternoon across the school year. Each Y4 class will do a term of swimming. 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. We do our swimming lessons at St John's School. The total cost of swimming for your child is £60 for the term. We are not given money in our budget for the swimming lessons therefore we need to continue to ask parents for a contribution of £30 per child for the term. Parents can make this contribution in one amount or spread it out across the term in three instalments of £10.

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?

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.

Year 4 Class Assembly

At some point in the school year, each Y4 class will do an assembly. This is an opportunity to perform an assembly in front of other children in the school. We also invite parents in to watch. The date for the assembly is given out in the 'Term dates for parents' leaflet at the start of each term – so parents can make a note of this in advance. From time to time due to unforeseen events in school, dates do have to be re-arranged. This cannot be helped but we try our best to communicate this in advance if possible. Every child

will have a small part. Some will speak, some will dance and everyone will sing. There will only be one performance. The assembly will cover some aspect of what the children have been learning during the year and will demonstrate the broad and balanced curriculum that we offer at Holly Park OR it will be about a religious festival. The assemblies are at 9.10am in the school hall and last about 20 minutes.

Trips and Curriculum Days

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

- RE place of worship. For Y4 it will be a church (a different church to Y1)
- 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 Pyjama Party for Y4 in March. The pyjama party will be run by staff who come back in their own time after school. The evening will be great fun and generally runs from 6.30pm to 10pm on a Friday evening. There will be a small cost. Children will need to return to school at 6.30pm (after having their evening meal at home).

The pyjama party will include a session with Non-Stop Action, an evening snack of pizza, and a late night film. There will be more information nearer the time but it is a fantastic opportunity. It is an important event 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 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.

National Multiplication Test For Y4

This is a national test for all children in Y4 which your child will take. 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. The test will be towards the end of May.

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.

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 look at the children in our 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.