



# 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. 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 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 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.

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

### **Lone Walking**

Children in Y5 and Y6 can walk home alone with parental permission. If you would like your child to walk home alone then you will need to complete a 'Lone Walker' form at the start of the school year and hand it in to the school office for our records. This is on the website and a copy will also be emailed at the start of term.

### **Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones are not allowed in school. Only children who have parental permission to walk home alone may bring in a mobile phone for safety on their way home. Any other children do not need a phone in school at any time. If a child is a Lone Walker and has a mobile phone, then they will hand it in on entering the school site in the morning. The phone will be locked in the school office and will be given back at the end of the school day. If a child attends a club or After School Club then the phone will be given to an adult from the club to give back to the child just before they leave school.

## **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 on PE days instead of school uniform.

## **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 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! Forest school will be run 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.

## **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?

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.

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 Class Assembly**

At some point in the school year, each Y5 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. In Y5 it is to the Gudwara.
- 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 is a residential trip. This is a three day /two-night residential visit. The trip is to Cuffley Camp.

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. 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. For those not attending the residential we will endeavour to put on three days of fun activities at school.

### **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**

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**

There will hopefully be opportunity to do this in Y5. Children 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 Y6. There are different levels that the children can complete. We will send out more information as we have it.

### **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.

*\***Important** - Some of the selective schools or schools where some places are offered for musical aptitude, hold open sessions and require parents to register interest already. Some schools will hold auditions and exams during Y5 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 research, 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.