



Holly Park Primary School – Year Two Information

What To Expect In Year Two

Welcome To Year Two!

The move from Year One to Year Two is not such a big one and many of the things that parents and children have become used to, remain the same in Year Two. Your children are now in the final year of Key Stage One. They are in classes of 30 (the same classes they were in last year) There is still one teacher to 30 children. There is still a year group teaching assistant who works across both classes.

Children in Year 2 do NOT need to bring in any equipment from home – all stationery is provided in KSI.

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 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.

Continuing The Integrated Day

In Years Two, our classroom provision is similar to that in Year One. Children will independently access many varied activities at a time of their choosing. There will be several carpet times during the day and the teacher will still work with small groups, developing the key skills of the children in that group throughout the day. 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. In the summer term, there will be some small changes (in preparation for Year3) whereby the children will all be doing English and Maths in class at the same time doing a carousel of activities.

Lunch Time and Snacks

As last year, 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.

Please only use packed lunch boxes for lunch, rather than snacks as sometimes children are confused by this.

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. 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 will wear PE kit to school on their 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 on the carpet 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

Children in Y2 continue to be in the same House Team as last year. They are already in one of our five house teams:

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

Children continue to 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. In the summer at Infant Sports Day the children are asked to wear a T-shirt of their house colour (see above). They will compete in their teams.

Homework

At Holly Park we believe that homework helps the children and parents understand that learning is a life skill that does not just happen in the classroom. We nurture a belief that learning is a continuous process which should be happening outside as well as in school. We encourage parents to take an active role in their child's learning. Homework should enhance and reinforce the child's experience of the curriculum, and should encourage the children to share their learning with their family.

Learning and Education is a partnership between home and school and there are certain areas such as reading, spellings and multiplication tables which parents can really support their children with. Whilst we teach multiplication and spelling at school and we do not expect children to do all the learning of spellings, multiplication etc at home – those who practice at home and are supported at home tend to be more confident with these skills.

Year 2 Homework

Reading: Children take home a free choice book from the book corner and will also be allocated an electronic Bug Club book.

Spelling: The children will be given a weekly spelling activity to do based on learning the Year 2 common exception words.

Grammar: One half term the children will do work based on developing fluency with Y2 grammar.

Maths: The next half term children will be given a maths activity based on fluency with number e.g number bonds, partitioning, times tables etc

Homework will be done on paper. Any homework will brought back to school and kept in a folder.

Homework will be set each week using Google Classroom so that parents can see clearly what the weekly homework tasks are. The homework will be handed back in on paper.

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 babies and siblings under 12 years cannot attend the evening performance.

Trips and Curriculum Day

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

- RE place of worship . In Year 2 this will be a synagogue.
- Geography Fieldwork
- 3 Curriculum Days, at least one of which will be an off-site trip (not just in the local area).

Reading

Reading continues as in Year One.

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 - 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.

Musical Instrument Tuition

During Y2 children can audition to take up instrumental tuition (which you would need to pay for) All music tuition is run by BEAT.

Mixing The Classes At The End Of Y2

It is our long established practice to reallocate the children in our Year 2 classes at the end of the year and create new classes for the start of Year 3. In the second half of the summer term we will be looking at the children in our present Year 2 to redistribute them into new classes ready for the start of Year 3.

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.