



# Holly Park Primary School – Year Six Information

## What To Expect In Year Six

Welcome To Year Six!

The move from Year Five to Year Six is not a big one in terms of the fact that many of the things that parents and children have become used to during KS2, remain the same in Year Six. However this is the final year at Holly Park and there are some major events such as national tests, choosing a secondary school, a big end of year show and a week residential trip. It is a very busy and exciting year. 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.

### **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 available on the school website and will be emailed at the start of the year.

### **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 away 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. We recommend that primary age children do not need a smart phone.

## **School Dinners**

Currently, school lunches are free for KS2 pupils as the Mayor of London is paying for all junior children in London to have free meals. 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 Holly Park PE kit for inside and 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.

## **KS2 Stationery Equipment**

KS2 children (Years 3,4,5 and 6) will need to bring in their own stationery equipment to use at school. The list of equipment is quite specific and children will not be allowed to bring in anything of their choosing.

Children will need:

A clear pencil case

2 HB pencils

A 40g glue stick

A 15cm clear plastic ruler

2 purple ballpoint pens

2 blue ballpoint pens

These will need to stay in school and will go home every half term so that equipment can be renewed

## **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 6 Homework**

**Reading:** Children should read for 30 minutes every day from our Reading Challenge. This is best done supported by an adult. Adults should discuss the text with their child. This helps comprehension skills.

**Spelling:** Children take home spellings every half term. These are a mixture of common words, national curriculum words, non-nonsense spelling pattern words and topic words. There is a half termly spelling test. Children should practice spellings every week at home supported by parents. Spelling is part of the Holly Park homework provision.

**Maths:** Children will be given a weekly maths homework. The maths will reinforce maths that has already been taught in class.

**Grammar:** One week the children will do work based on developing fluency and consolidation of all grammar taught in KS2.

**Reading Comprehension:** One week the children will be given a short reading comprehension to do.

Children will have a book to record their answers in.

Homework will be marked in class together and teachers will pick up teaching points and address misconceptions at the time. Late homework will therefore not be marked.

There are National tests in Y6 which the children should be working towards. The Upper KS2 homework is designed to support preparation for the national tests and also as part of the preparation for the transition to Key Stage 3 and secondary school.

Homework will be set each week using Google Classroom so that parents can see clearly what the weekly homework tasks are.

It is the responsibility of children in KS2 to do their homework and to take ownership over doing it each week. We want children to become independent and increasingly ready for the homework expectations at secondary school.

Children at Holly Park will be rewarded each half term for doing their homework. Children in KS1 and Year 3 will receive house points for doing their homework.

At the end of each half term children who have done the majority of their homework that needs to be handed in each week will receive Golden Time. Golden Time will be done in year groups. Golden Time for homework will be 15 minutes and will be extra playtime, Amazon Climber, ball area.

Children who have NOT done the vast majority of homework that needs to be handed in will not participate in Golden Time.

## **Secondary School Application**

Be sure to make your secondary school application by the closing date in October. Late applications will not be dealt with until all other children have been allocated places. It is your responsibility to submit your application. If you are late there is nothing Holly Park can do about it. If you have any questions about the application beforehand, please do come and speak to us.

## **Year 6 Show**

In the Summer Term all of the children in Y6 will do a very large show as a year group. Every child will have a part. The children will audition for parts and they will also be asked if they want a small or large part or a non speaking part. Some will speak, some will dance and everyone will sing. There will be two casts. Each cast will do an afternoon and an evening performance as their main part. However, all children will be expected to attend all performances. A reminder that babies and siblings under 12 will not be able to attend evening performances. The show is a very exciting end to their time at Holly Park.

## **Trips and Curriculum Days**

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

- RE place of worship. In Y6 this is a Mosque.
- 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 residential trip. We have again booked a five day /four-night residential visit for Year 6 to Norfolk Lakes. 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, which may include sailing, paddle boarding, rafts, low ropes and many other activities. 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 lasting memory of their time at primary school.

For those not going on the trip we will endeavour to provide a fun week of 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.

**Reading At Home** – Please ensure that you continue to ensure that your child reads 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 about to sit the national reading test in Y6 which is based on some very difficult texts. The reading challenge in KS2 has been designed to ensure a variety of texts and genres that provide challenge. The challenge increases in difficulty as it progresses. To do well in the Y6 tests we would expect Y6 children to be on **a minimum of Gold level**.

## **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 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.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

All of the children in Year 6 will have a special role to play this year or an area of responsibility. The class teachers will explain each role to the children. The roles include such things as House captains, play leaders, assembly monitors etc

## **National KS2 Tests**

In Year 6, at the end of key stage 2, all children in the country will take national curriculum tests in English reading, English grammar, punctuation and spelling and mathematics. The tests help measure the progress pupils have made. The key stage 2 tests will be taken on set dates in May

At the end of the summer term you will receive test results for:

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling
- English reading

- **Mathematics**

As there is no test for English writing, this will be reported as a teacher assessment judgement. This is a judgement teachers will make, based on your child's work at the end of key stage 2.

Results will be passed to the secondary schools. The assessments allow teachers to see how your child is performing against national expected standards. The assessments are formal, timed tests done under exam conditions.

The judgements arrived at are in English and Maths to establish where the children have reached at the end of KS2. Children will be deemed to be:

- Not working towards the expected standard,
- Working towards the expected standard
- Working at the expected standard
- Working at greater depth within the expected standard

The assessments will be marked using a scaled score with 100 being expected.

Across the year, there will be several opportunities for the children to do practice tests in test conditions.

The whole point of this is for children to get used to test conditions, doing tests in timed conditions and to be aware of the level of challenge that is expected. The whole point of doing the tests is to learn from them and once the tests have been marked the teachers will go through them in class. Some children will have further opportunity to go through the tests in more detail with a teaching assistant and the children will also eventually bring the tests home so that you can support them too.

There will be a meeting for Year 6 parents in January to go into more detail about the end of KS2 assessments – please look out for this nearer the time.

### **Booster Groups**

Later in the year, some children will be asked to attend booster groups. Not every child will need to be part of a Booster group. Booster groups will be for Maths. These groups will be either early morning at 8.30am or in school assembly or lunch times. These groups are designed to support children who have potential to achieve their potential but may be in danger of not doing so.

### **Transfer To Secondary School**

Children will find out which secondary school they are going to at the start of March. During the summer term, our Y6 teachers will meet with the secondary school teachers to discuss the children. The Holly Park teachers will do some transition work with the children to help them think about – travelling to school, timetables, being organised, making new friends, who to talk to if they need help etc. The children may be asked to attend their new school in July with you to sign behaviour contracts or to do internal tests. There will certainly be a transition day where they will visit their new school, do some taster lessons, meet new friends and form tutors etc.

### **Leaving Holly Park**

At the very end of their time at Holly Park, there will be a Leavers' party one evening for the children.

Attendance is by invite only – we expect good behaviour in the run up to the end of the year in order for children to attend. The PTA pay for a disco, the school staff supervise the party and we ask for Y6 parent volunteers to decorate the hall. All parents are asked to provide picnic food just as they do for Christmas parties each year.

There will also be a Y6 Leavers' ceremony on the final day of the school year. Parents are invited to attend and see the children graduate from primary school.

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