



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 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.

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 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.

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

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

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 4 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. One week it will be times table homework. This will be set on Times Tables Rockstars. The next week it will be fun activities for improving attitudes and confidence towards maths.

In addition, children are also encouraged to practice times tables each half term for a half termly tables test. Parents will be informed about which times tables should be practiced each half term. Times tables is an area where parents can really help to practice and reinforce quick recall. Children should practice times tables every week at home supported by parents. Practising times tables at home is part of the Holly Park homework provision.

There is a national Times tables Check in Y4 which the children should be working towards.

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.

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.