



Year 3 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, a very warm welcome to Year 3! We are sure that the children will have a fantastic year and will thoroughly enjoy the exciting journey ahead of them. This letter is to inform you of the various topics and events that will take place during the Autumn term and also to explain the general organisation of the year group, which we hope will be of interest to you.

Maths

At HJS, we are proud to be continuing our journey with the 'London South-West' Maths Hub, where we use a 'teaching for mastery' approach for the teaching and learning of mathematics. This is where **all** children can contribute and explore ideas that can be very effectively fostered in mixed-ability classrooms. Within this 'teaching for mastery' approach, we emphasise the importance of developing secure mental maths strategies alongside formal written methods (mathematical fluency) in order to provide a sound basis for calculation. This in turn allows our pupils to develop 'depth' in their understanding, in order to access a range of reasoning and problem solving activities.



Maths Awards

Each academic year at HJS, pupils can take part in earning a bronze/silver/gold/platinum award for Maths. Pupils will need start from bronze and work through the stages up to platinum.

All you need to do is to print off (or ask your class teacher) the task from our website, complete it at home and bring it into school for your class teacher to mark. Your child will then receive a certificate and for gold/platinum they will receive a badge as well as a certificate.

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Happy calculating and good luck!

+ Year 3

+ Year 4

+ Year 5

+ Year 6

Times Tables Rock Stars

By the end of Year 4, pupils are expected to know their multiplication tables up to 12x12. Within your child's first few weeks at HJS, they will be given their username/log in details for 'Times Tables Rock Stars' so that they can practise their tables.

More details will follow as to how to log into their account and compete against the clock and other competitors!



English

Our English curriculum equips the children with a strong command of the written and spoken word and aims to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. English is taught every day, usually during one of the morning sessions, and lessons focus on one or more of the following areas:

- Reading, including reading comprehension
- Writing
- Grammar and Punctuation (Spelling is taught separately)

In addition, this year we are focusing on the development of oracy skills. The ability to communicate verbally is a vital skill, essential to success in all areas of life. Furthermore, oracy skills support and enhance a range of social, emotional and inter-personal skills including self-confidence, self-awareness, resilience and empathy. Throughout the year, we will be integrating the teaching of oracy – learning to talk well and learning well through talk – into lessons across the curriculum. Moreover, there will be numerous whole-school events focusing on the development of oracy skills, beginning with our poetry competition later this term.

Reading

Reading comprehension is taught daily during dedicated Guided Reading lessons; in addition, it can also be a focus of English lessons. Reading comprehension is delivered via whole-class teaching and focuses on enhancing the children's skills of fact retrieval, inference and deduction, making comparisons, summarising, predicting and understanding authorial intent.

Writing

Writing lessons are based around key texts that are read by the class as a whole, or have strong cross-curricular links to science, history or geography topics. The children will have the opportunity throughout the year to write for a range of audiences and purposes including to entertain, to inform and to discuss.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Grammar and Punctuation is taught explicitly in dedicated English lessons; it is also taught during writing lessons to enable the children to use certain features appropriately in context. Spelling is taught separately during weekly lessons and will often focus on a particular spelling pattern. Spelling homework will concentrate on these spelling patterns, on words from the statutory spelling list for your child's year group, or a personalised list of words taken from your child's work in class.

Upcoming Events

Roald Dahl Day (no dressing up) – Friday 13th September
National Poetry Day – Thursday 3rd October
No Pens Wednesday – Wednesday 9th October
Poetry Competition Final – Date TBC

We hope to continue to welcome authors into our school throughout the year to inspire the children and we will also be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair. Dates for these events will be confirmed nearer the time.

Topics

There are many exciting topics being taught in Year 3 this term. In Science, we will begin by exploring **Rocks** and move on to studying **Animals Including Humans**. Our first history topic is

Savages to Settlers: an exploration of Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. This topic will involve an inspiring visit to Butser Ancient Farm, the details of which were sent out before the summer break. After half term, we will move on to **The Secrets of the Pyramids**, where we focus on Ancient Egypt. We will have a themed Egyptian day on **Monday 18th November**, when the children will have the opportunity to dress up and immerse themselves in Ancient Egyptian life.

If you have any artefacts or specialist skills that could support any of these curriculum areas, please contact your child's class teacher.

Home School Diary

The home school diary is a crucial learning tool and should be brought in to school **daily**. If you have any comments or you need to inform us of anything then please use the diary, but also remind your child to show it to their teacher!

Please be aware that in the event of a diary being lost, a replacement copy will need to be purchased from the office at a cost of £5.00.

Homework

The home school diary will be used to record the homework that children have been set and have completed each week. Children will be expected to complete homework for: **reading**, **spelling** and **times tables**. Additional work and guidance can be found on the school website.

Homework		Homework Review	Expectation
Reading	Read to an adult and discuss the book.	Parents / carers, please sign the diary when your child has read. If your child is on the reading scheme, please also comment in the reading record booklet.	At least 5 times a week, for 5-10 minutes
Spelling	Practise spellings issued on a Monday (listed in the home school diary).	The previous week's spellings will be tested each Monday, after which, a new set of spellings will be issued.	At least 5 times a week, for 5-10 minutes
Times Tables	Practise the times table(s) written in the home school diary. An additional worksheet will be sent home to support this learning.	Parents / carers, please sign the diary when your child has worked on their number skills.	At least 5 times a week, for 5-10 minutes

As you can see in the table above, each homework activity should occur a minimum of five times per week and take between five and ten minutes. Please sign the home school diary to confirm that your child has read and practised their times tables on the 'weekly learning support pages'. A weekly spelling assessment in school will be administered to check that spellings are also being practised five times per week.

On a Monday, class teachers will allocate new spellings and the weekly spelling strategy. We will also identify the times table(s) that children need to practise that week.

Games / P.E.

Games lessons for the Year 3 will take place on Friday this term and will see the children improving their sending and receiving skills in the context of different sports. P.E. will take place on Tuesdays. The PE activities for this term are teambuilding and gymnastics, during which we will be looking at different methods of communication within a sporting context.

Please ensure that your child has their kit (house t-shirt, shorts, socks, plimsoles and trainers) in school every day and that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Your child will need the school's **black tracksuit top** and **plain black tracksuit bottoms** for when the weather turns colder. Please remember that the children are not permitted to wear branded clothing for Games and P.E lessons and for hygiene reasons, they are not permitted to wear their red school sweatshirt or cardigan. It is school policy for long hair to be tied back and for earrings and watches to be removed or covered for health and safety reasons during these lessons.

Uniform and Equipment

At Hampton Junior School, we believe that the school uniform is an important part of the school's success, building a sense of belonging to our school. We are proud of the image portrayed by children wearing our school uniform in the local community. Please send your child to school in appropriate school uniform and school shoes and remember that nail varnish is not permitted.

It would be very helpful if your child could arrive each morning equipped with the following named stationery:

• At least two sharp pencils	• A whiteboard marker
• A ruler	• A glue stick
• A green and a yellow highlighter	• A purple pen for editing

We have a stationery shop in school 'The Ink Pot' which runs on Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes, with very reasonably priced items of stationery to purchase. If your child would like to buy some items, they may bring a small amount of money into school in a named purse or wallet.

Behaviour and Rewards

At Hampton Junior School, both adults and children set high expectations in regards to behaviour. We are extremely proud that Ofsted recognises that children at our school are: *'very polite and show respect for one another and all adults'*.

As a school, we strive to: *'be the best you can be'* and, in order to achieve this, it is important that the children follow our golden rules:



Be kind to others



Be a good listener



Be respectful towards yourself, others and the school environment



Be hard working and challenge yourself



Be responsible

Each year group has a senior member of staff, who oversees behaviour within that year. For Year 3, **Mrs Gale** will be the teacher responsible for ensuring the children maintain our high expectations for behaviour.

Voluntary contribution

This year, alongside termly cooking sessions, the children will be completing a week long Food Technology project as part of the Design Technology curriculum. The cost of ingredients and resources are now included in the new termly curriculum contribution of £10 per child. However, if you would like to pay £30, covering the rest of the year, it will be gratefully received. Please pay this via ParentPay.

Volunteering in School

Parent/carer helpers make a huge difference to the children's learning. If you are able to spare some time in school to hear readers, help with cooking, other activities or on school visits, please see your child's class teacher. There will be a sign up sheet at the Welcome to Year 3 meeting on **Monday 16th September at 6.30pm.**

You will also be asked to read and sign our volunteer policy and apply for a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) if you do not already hold a certificate. All volunteers are also required to attend one of our annual volunteer training sessions, which will be held on *Thursday 19th September at 2pm, Friday 20th September at 9.15am and Wednesday 2nd October at 9.15am.*

School Visits

As you have previously been informed, we will be visiting Butser Ancient Farm on **Wednesday 2nd October** as part of our topic 'Savages to Settlers'. Please ensure that you have returned the necessary reply slip and paid via your ParentPay account.

Parent Consultation and Communication

Throughout the year, there will be many opportunities to have discussions with your child's class teacher; if you need to do so, please arrange a suitable time, preferably after school. There will also be parent consultation meetings in November and again in the Spring term.

If you have chosen to receive paper copies of newsnotes, they will be sent home on a Thursday. If not, please check your emails and text messages for home-school communications. Please ensure that the school office has your up to date contact information.

Health & Safety/Healthy School

As a healthy school, children are encouraged to bring a snack for morning break. We allow snacks in the form of fruit (fresh or dried) or vegetables. Pieces of fruit are also available for children to buy during break times for approximately 20p per item.

We are a 'Nut Aware' school, which means we have children with **severe** nut allergies. Please do not include nut products in your child's packed lunch. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Please make sure that your child and younger siblings do not use the playground equipment before or after school. Also, for the children's safety we ask bikes / scooters are not used in the playground.

Many thanks for your continued support and do not hesitate to see your child's class teacher if you have any queries or problems. Successful learning is the result of a productive and meaningful collaboration between staff, pupils and parents. We look forward to working with you and are confident we will enjoy a truly rewarding year.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S Parsons

Miss N Taylor

Miss L Smith

Miss H Harden