



Hampton Junior School

Parent Newsletter

Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to the autumn term. Your child has a fantastic year ahead of them and we hope that they will thoroughly enjoy the events and activities that will take place throughout the year.

Mathematics

At Hampton Junior School, we believe that every child can succeed in mathematics. Through our 'teaching for mastery' approach, all pupils explore ideas together in mixed-ability classrooms, building rich mathematical connections and secure, fluent calculation skills.

Underpinning all of our daily lessons are the Five Big Ideas from the NCETM Maths Hub framework. We build coherence through small, logical steps that connect learning so every child grasps concepts deeply. We bring abstract ideas to life using clear representations and concrete resources, encouraging pupils to discuss patterns, reason logically and develop true mathematical thinking. Alongside this, we nurture calculation fluency through quick recall and secure mental strategies while using carefully structured variation in tasks to highlight key relationships and deepen problem-solving skills.

By embedding these core principles, we ensure our children don't just learn procedures - they develop a genuine, lifelong understanding of how mathematics works..

Maths Awards

Each academic year at HJS, pupils can take part in 4 different maths awards. Pupils start from challenge 1 and work through the stages up to challenge 4.

The challenges can be accessed on your child's Google Classroom or from the school's website. Children need to complete it at home and bring it into school for their class teacher to mark.

Times Tables Rock Stars

Every pupil has a TTRockstar account.

By the end of Year 4, pupils are expected to know their multiplication tables up to 12x12. This resource is a useful way to support your child's learning at home.



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In June 2027, all Year 4 pupils will participate in the Department for Education's statutory Multiplication Check.

In Years 5 and 6, this resource continues to support children for their preparation towards the KS2 Maths SATs.

You can access the account from the following link: **play.ttrockstars.com**

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 daily, usually during one of the morning sessions, and lessons focus on one or more of the following areas:

- Reading, including reading comprehension and vocabulary
- Writing
- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
- Vocabulary
- Oracy

Reading

Reading comprehension is taught during dedicated Guided Reading lessons. Reading comprehension is delivered via whole-class teaching and focuses on enhancing the children's skills of fact retrieval, vocabulary, inference and deduction, making comparisons, summarising, predicting and understanding authorial intent. Some children will need to continue developing their reading fluency so will attend additional interventions such as phonics or Yellow Box, to support their reading comprehension skills.

Writing

Writing lessons are based around key texts or a visual stimulus that are read/watched by the class, 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, to describe 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 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.



Reading Scheme

All children will be allocated books from our updated reading scheme. We use the Collins Big Cat Reading Scheme in school to expose children to a range of genres, appropriate to their current reading level. The children's progress will be monitored regularly by their class teacher to ensure that they are on the correct reading band. Your child will change their reading book once a week, on a specific day. If your child finishes their book within the first few days, we would encourage them to re-read the book and continue to discuss the story or text and the key vocabulary with an adult at home; this can significantly build confidence in reading ability and fluency. For additional reading material, please see the school's website for a suggested reading list for each year group. Some children will instead bring home phonics books, if they are attending phonics interventions. If this is the case, you will be informed about this. Over the course of the year, HJS will host author visits, conduct visits to the local library and host the Scholastic Book Fair. Dates for these events will be communicated nearer the time.

Home School Diary

The Home-school Diary is a form of communication between school and home. These have been improved because of feedback from pupils and parents. The Home-School Diary should be used to record when you hear your child read and when they practise their spellings and maths skill; they will be signed by your child's teacher on a weekly basis. The Home-School Agreement is found in the diary. Please be aware that in the event of loss of your child's diary a replacement will need to be purchased from the office at a cost of £5.00.

Games and PE

Please ensure that your child attends school wearing their games kit on their allocated days. This includes the house t-shirt, black shorts, socks and trainers. Additionally, please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Games and PE days can be found on the curriculum map.

Uniform and Equipment

The governors and staff at Hampton Junior School believe the school uniform is an important part of the school's success. We believe it builds a sense of belonging to our school and we are proud of the image portrayed by children wearing our school uniform in the local community. Please send your child to school in the appropriate school uniform and shoes.

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

- At least two pencils
- A whiteboard marker
- A ruler
- A glue stick
- A yellow and green highlighter



- A purple biro

Behaviour and Rewards

At Hampton Junior School, both adults and children set high expectations with regards to behaviour. We are extremely proud that Ofsted recognises that children's 'behaviour is exemplary' at our school. As a school, we strive to: 'be the best you can be' and, to achieve this, it is important 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, to ensure the children maintain our high expectations for behaviour.

Voluntary Contribution

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £10 per child towards the cost of resources and activities throughout the term. This year, alongside termly cooking sessions, the children will be completing a week long Food Technology project as part of the new DT curriculum. The cost of ingredients and resources are now included in the new termly curriculum contribution. This can be paid online via Arbor. This is a termly payment, however if you wish to pay £30 for the year, at the start, it would be gratefully received.

Parent Consultation and Communication

During the autumn term, all parent consultations will be in person appointments and virtual during the spring term. More information will be shared closer to the time.

Health & Safety/ Healthy School

May we remind you that we are a 'Nut Aware' school. This means we have children with **severe** nut allergies. Please do not include nut products in your child's play time snack/packed lunch. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.



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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.

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,

Year 4 Team