



Hampton Junior School

Year 6 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to welcome you back to an exciting final year! We aim to make this year as fruitful and as memorable as possible. This letter is to inform you about the curriculum in Year 6 this term and to provide you with details about the general organisation of the year group, which we hope will be of interest to you.

Mathematics

At Hampton Junior School, we use a 'teaching for mastery' approach for 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. Previously, HJS has been part of the London South-West Maths Hub and this year we are proud to be re-joining the hub so we can continue to develop and sustain our outstanding teaching and learning of mathematics.



Maths Awards

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

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. If the answers are correct, your child will then receive a certificate for each level they complete. For gold and platinum they will be awarded with a prize as well as a certificate.

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, 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.

Happy calculating and good luck!

+ Year 3

+ Year 4

+ Year 5

+ Year 6

Times Tables Rock Stars

Every pupil has a TTRockstar account. Please encourage your child to log into their account and practice their times tables.



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.

In June 2024, 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
- Vocabulary
- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
- Oracy

Reading

Reading comprehension is taught during dedicated Guided Reading lessons every morning. As our English lessons are text-driven, comprehension skills are often developed within English units of work as well. 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.

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.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary is valued greatly at our school and underpins all aspects of the curriculum. Subject specific words are carefully selected and integrated into lessons to support the children with their understanding enabling them to enhance their knowledge throughout units of work. Our carefully connected curriculum ensures children have opportunities to recall and revisit learnt vocabulary to make sure it is embedded into their long term memory. We pride ourselves on our vocabulary-rich classrooms whereby the children encounter a vast range of words through our high-quality texts, class readers, modelled writing and 'Golden Words' display. An extensive vocabulary gives the children a rich palette with which to express their ideas with greater accuracy and clarity and demonstrates their understanding of relevant areas of the curriculum.

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 taken from your child's work in class. Spelling Frame, an engaging and interactive platform to practise spellings, will be used to support the children's understanding of spelling patterns and rules. Further information regarding Spelling Frame will be communicated during this half term.

Oracy

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 integrate 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 Scheme

Children in years 3, 4 and 5 (and selected children in Year 6) 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 key vocabulary and themes with an adult; this can significantly build confidence in reading ability and fluency. As our reading scheme will allow us to broaden our understanding of each child's reading practices, along with their perceptions of themselves as a reader, we would expect that your child's reading homework will be to read their reading scheme book, which will then be signed in their Home-School diary. Please see the separate letter regarding the reading scheme for further information. For those who would like additional reading material, please see the school's website for a suggested reading list for each year group.

For those children who are no longer on the scheme in Year 6, they will be selecting books from our well-stocked Year 6 library as well as the whole school library.

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.

Topic

There are many exciting topics being taught in Year 6 this year. In science we will begin by exploring 'Evolution and Inheritance' and move on to studying 'Animals including Humans'. In computing, we will be building upon our prior learning of internet communication as well as continuing to educate ourselves about online safety. Our history topic will be a study of the Victorian era, during which we will explore how Britain was revolutionised during this period; this will link to our art topic of printing and sculpture. Our Geography topic will be studying the different biomes and their similarities and differences. In R.E we will be learning about different world religions. Our PSHE lessons will focus on our HJS values and raising mental health awareness; our topics will be 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Living in the Wider World'. Finally, for Art we will be exploring the work of William Morris and in DT we will be learning about the different types of bridges and building our own.

Home School Diary

The Home School Diary is a form of communication between school and home. The Home School Diary should be used to record when you hear your child read and when they practise their spellings and times tables; they will be signed by your child's teacher on a weekly basis.

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

Games lessons for the year group will take place on **Thursday afternoon and Friday morning**. This year we ask that all children attend school, on their designated games day, **wearing their full HJS games kit**. Children will arrive at school and return home in their kit; there is no need for them to bring in their school uniform on these days. Please ensure kits are washed on a regular basis.

Your child's games kit must include: their **house t-shirt, black shorts or tracksuit bottoms**, their **HJS hoodie, socks and trainers**. These must be clearly labelled with your child's name. Please remember the children are not permitted to wear branded clothing e.g. Hollister, Nike, Adidas for games. Children will not be allowed to wear their school jumper for games. 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 games lessons.

Homework

The home-school diary should be used to record the homework that your child is set and completes each week. The table below outlines the expectations for Homework in all areas.

Homework		Homework review	Expectation
Reading	To read to an adult and discuss the book.	Parents / Carers, please sign the diary when your child has read.	At least 5 times a week, for 10 -15 minutes
Spelling	To practise spellings issued on a Monday (on Spelling Frame).	Spellings will be tested in school every Monday, before new spellings are issued.	
Maths focus	To recap and consolidate on learning within class. To continue to practise times table facts and additional facts including: prime numbers, squared numbers and cubed numbers. Work will be posted for this up onto Google Classrooms.	Parents / Carers, please sign the diary when your child has worked on this.	

An adult must sign the diary on the 'weekly learning support pages' to confirm that reading and Maths practise has been completed. A weekly spelling assessment in school will be administered to check that spellings are also being practised 5 times per week.

On a Monday, your child's class teacher will allocate their spellings and weekly spelling strategy which will be on Spelling Frame. They will also identify the Maths focus that they need to practise which will be uploaded onto Google Classroom. Your child is responsible for ensuring that they have an appropriate reading book in school.

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 sharp pencils	• A whiteboard marker
• A rubber	• A white board rubber
• A ruler (30cm)	• A glue stick
• A green and a yellow highlighter	• A purple pen for editing

This equipment is provided in school to share, however it is good for the children to get used to looking after their own stationery.

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 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 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 6, **Mr James** will be ensuring the children maintain our high expectations of 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 ParentPay. This is a termly payment, however if you wish to pay £30 for the year, at the start, it would be gratefully received.

Key Dates/Events :

Junior Citizen – **Thursday 28th September**

National Poetry Day – **Thursday 5th October**

Victorian Day (dressing up) – **Thursday 19th October**

Closing date for secondary applications- **Tuesday 31st October**

Author Day (no dress up) – **Wednesday 1st November**

Cycling Proficiency (more details to follow) – **W/C 13th November, 20th November and 27th November**

Carol Concert – **Monday 11th December**

Year 6 Christmas Market/Christmas Jumper Day – **Friday 15th December**

Parent Consultation and Communication

In the week commencing 6th November there will be a face to face parent consultation with your child's class teacher. The dates are as follows:

Tuesday 7th November

Thursday 9th November

Health and 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.

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 that bikes/scooters are not ridden in the playground.

By working together we are sure that this will be a very successful year for your child. The Year 6 team are very much looking forward to the exciting and challenging times that the new academic year will bring. Should you have any concerns during the year, please feel free to make an appointment to see one of us or alternatively catch us at the end of the day in the playground.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 6 Team

Miss Z Baxevanidis Mrs A Gale

Ms A Logan Mrs T Woolf Miss B Clark