



Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, we would like to extend to you a very warm welcome to Year 4. 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 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 aswell 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 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.

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.

Topics

There are many exciting topics being taught in Year 4 this year. In Science we will begin by exploring 'the Digestive system' and move on to studying 'properties of materials'. In geography, we will be exploring the topic, 'Mountains' and during the second half of the autumn term we will move onto our history topic, 'The Romans'.

Home-School Diary

The Home-school Diary is a form of communication between school and home. These have been improved as a result 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 on page 2,

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

Games lessons for the year group will take place on **Monday and Wednesday for all classes** this term and will see the children improving their skills in invasion games.

Please ensure that on these days your child comes to school wearing their kit (house t-shirt, black shorts, socks, plimsolls and trainers) and that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. When the weather turns colder, your child will need a school black hooded jumper and plain black jogging bottoms or trousers. Please remember the children are not permitted to wear branded clothing e.g. Hollister for games, nor will they be allowed to wear their red school sweatshirt. 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 and PE lessons.

Homework

Your child's home-school diary should be used to record the homework that they have been set and have completed each week. They are expected to complete homework for: reading, spelling and core maths skill. Each activity should occur a minimum of five times per week and take between five and ten minutes. An adult must sign to confirm that your child has read and practised their core maths skill on the 'weekly learning support pages'. A weekly spelling assessment in school will be administered to check that your child is practising their spellings regularly which have been allocated using the 'Spelling Frame' online platform.

On a Monday, your child's class teacher will allocate their spellings and weekly spelling strategy. Your child is responsible for ensuring they have an appropriate reading book in school every day.

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 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 4, **Miss Miah** will be the teacher responsible for ensuring 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 ParentPay. This is a termly payment, however if you wish to pay £30 for the year, at the start, it would be gratefully received.

School Visits and Events

4S and 4B Brass Lessons - Monday 18th September
4S and 4B Brass Concert - Monday 13th November
4P and 4C Brass Lessons – Monday 8th January
FOHJS Sponsored Walk – Thursday 29th September

Parent Consultation and Communication

Due to the largely positive feedback from parents regarding the virtual parent consultations last year, we will continue to give the option of either virtual or in person appointments in the Autumn term.

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.

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,

Miss Peaty

Miss Bienge

Mrs Simms

Mrs Clark