



Year 3 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2020

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.

Covid-19 Safe School

The Executive Leadership Team have completed a rigorous risk assessment regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic and staff have been well briefed in the actions put in place to reduce the risk of infection. The processes in place will continue to be reviewed and follow guidance set out by the Department of Education and Public Health. If you have any questions regarding these action please contact either Mr James or Ms Lockey.

Mathematics

At HJS, we are proud to be entering our third year 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/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 to start from Bronze and work through the stages up to Platinum. All you need to do is print off the task (or ask your class teacher) from our website, complete it at home and bring it into school for you class teacher to mark. Your child will then receive a certificate and for the Gold/Platinum awards they will receive a badge 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

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)
- Oracy

Reading

Reading comprehension is taught daily during dedicated Guided Reading lessons; 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.

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. Their 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 the 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.

To help us protect the books, please provide your child with a named plastic wallet to take their book home in.

Upcoming Events

Roald Dahl Day (no dressing up) – Friday 18th September
National Poetry Day – Thursday 1st October
Poetry Competition Final – Monday 19th October
No Pens Wednesday – Wednesday 25th November

We hope that later in the year we will be able to resume our author visits to inspire the children, as well as host 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, more details to follow. 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 **Wednesday 18th November**, when the children will have the opportunity to dress up and immerse themselves in Ancient Egyptian life.

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. Please see above for further details.	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
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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

Games lessons for the year group will take place on **Monday and Wednesday** afternoons. 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.

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

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

Due to current guidance we are unable to invite volunteers into school. This will be reviewed by the ELT at half term. Volunteers may be required to help on day visit in which we will communicate to parents nearer the event.

School Visits

As you have previously been informed, we will be visiting Butser Ancient Farm on **Tuesday 20th October** as part of our topic 'Savages to Settlers'. More information to follow.

Egyptian day- Wednesday 18th November

Parent Consultation and Communication

Following current government guidance we will not be completing face to face parent consultations this term. At the end of the Autumn term, families will receive an interim report outlining the progress their child has made in the first term.

We hope that in the Spring term we can begin to resume parent consultations whether it be face to face or through a virtual platform.

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 contact 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,

Mrs S Aarons

Mr T Elson

Miss H Harden

Miss N Mahmood

Miss G Stanley