



Year 6 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, a very warm welcome to Year 6! 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.

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 and connection making. 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 last year we re-joined 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.

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 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](https://www.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. 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. 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 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, to describe 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 story or text and the key vocabulary with an adult at home; this can significantly build confidence in reading ability and fluency. There are questions at the back of the children's Home-School diaries that you can use to support your child with developing their comprehension skills by asking these when sharing books together at home. 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. 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.

Topics

There are many exciting topics being taught in Year 6 this term. In Science, we will begin by exploring ***Evolution and Inheritance*** and move on to studying ***Animals including Humans***. Our first history topic is an exploration of the **Victorian Era**. This topic will involve an exciting Victorian Day, more details to follow. After half term, we will move on to investigating ***similarities and differences between biomes***.

Home-School Diary

The Home-School diary is a crucial learning tool and should be brought into school **daily**. The children's diaries will be checked weekly to confirm they have completed their homework. If you wish to pass on a message to your child's class teacher, please use the comments section at the bottom of each page and 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 completed each week. Children will be expected to complete homework for: **reading, spelling, GPS** and **maths**. Additional work and guidance can be found on the school website and Google Classroom pages. Here is an outline of homework expectations:

Homework		Homework Review	Expectation
Reading	Read to an adult at home and discuss the book.	Parents / carers, please sign the diary when your child has read.	At least 5 times a week, for 5-10 minutes
Spelling	Practise spellings issued on a Monday (available on Spelling Frame).	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
English focus	To recap and consolidate on learning within class with a grammar and punctuation focus.	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
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 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 completed the English and maths focus activities 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 rule/pattern.

PE

In Year 6, PE lessons will take place on **Tuesday** afternoons and **Friday** mornings. 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 PE 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. For health

and safety reasons, it is school policy for long hair to be tied back and for earrings and watches to be removed or covered for PE 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 and long hair should be tied up.

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
● Colour pencils	● A rubber

Should your child run out of any stationery items, they can make use of our school stationery shop "Inkpot", which is run by Upper School children every **Tuesday and Friday lunchtime**. Inkpot runs from **12:30pm in the Library**. A price list of items can be found within each classroom. Teachers encourage children to take their pencil cases home at the end of each half term in order to replenish supplies.

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 6, **Mr James** will be the adult 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 Arbor.

School workshop

As you have previously been informed, we have Victorian Day on **Friday 18th October** as part of our history topic. During our Victorian Day we have organised a visit from the Freshwater Theatre Company. During the workshop, children will have a Victorian schoolteacher who will teach them aspects of the Victorian curriculum and explore the cultural context of the time. In order for this interesting activity to take place, a contribution of £5 has been requested.

Parent Consultation and Communication

Due to the largely positive feedback from parents regarding the virtual parent consultations last year, we will use a combination of virtual and 'in person' meetings this year. During the autumn term, all meetings will be in person and in the spring term, parent's evenings will be virtual. The autumn meetings are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th November. More information to follow.

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,

Miss E Cooper

Miss H Bienge

Miss Z Baxevanidis

Miss R Armitage