



11 September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

I hope that you have had a good week. We have had a successful first full week back. Many of the children are looking tired but they have continued to work hard and try their best.

Our September value

Our value this month is positivity and this week we have been looking for children who celebrate the success of others. While it has been hard to choose just one child per class, I would like to congratulate the following children for their particular achievement this week.

Elm:	Mila Williamson	Beech:	Josh Kemp
Oak:	Amelie May Bryant	Larch:	Leah Lugli
Lime:	Amelia Robinson	Laurel:	Yusuf Chaudhry
Pine:	Ella King	Spruce:	Olivia Walker
		Walnut:	Alicia Spinks Gillen

Meet the Teacher meetings

While we are unable to have parents into school for our yearly Meet the Teacher event, we will be holding a virtual Meet the Teacher on Wednesday 16 September. A link to a Teams meeting will be sent to each year group at the beginning of next week. Teams can be accessed through the web or by downloading an app. The teachers will explain the arrangements for the class and there will be a chance to ask questions at the end. The timings for the meetings are 6:30pm-7:00pm for Lower School (Year 3 and Year 4) and 7:00pm-7:30pm for Upper School (Year 5 and Year 6).

Individual photographs

The children will be having their individual and sibling photographs taken next Wednesday. Children in Year 5 should come into school in their school uniform and bring their PE kit into school in a named bag to get changed into once they have had their photographs taken.

Absence messages

If you leave a message on the school phone regarding your child's absence, would you please ensure that you provide detail about why your child is not in school. Thank you.

Medication

If your child has a medical condition that means they need medication in school, would you please ensure this is sent into school or contact Mrs Stockings to discuss their healthcare needs.

Library books

Would you please check at home for any books that your child borrowed from our library last academic year and return any books found to school.

Homework

Your child will be receiving homework today. Following the use of Seesaw for home learning during lockdown, we have decided to use this platform for setting homework. Our homework policy is detailed below. If your child finds their homework particularly difficult or easy, please give us feedback. Please do not force your child to complete work if they become distressed.

Stationery items

The children are able to purchase stationery items from their classrooms. If you wish to take advantage of this, please send your child into school with the order form at the bottom of this newsletter and the correct money in a named envelope.

Parking reminders

While we are encouraging as many children and parents as possible to come to school in a sustainable way or to use the park and stride arrangements, may I ask that those parents who choose to come by car ensure that they turn their engines off when they are parked. May I also remind parents that you must not stop on the yellow lines in front of the school. These road markings are there for the children's safety and I would ask that you do not use these lines as a drop off zone.

Second-hand uniform

If your child needs any further items of school clothing, we have a selection of items available in our second-hand uniform shop. All items are in good condition. Please contact the school office on office@hgjs.co.uk detailing the type and size of any items needed.

Phone issues

You may be aware that we have had some issues with our phone system this week. My apologies if this has caused you any inconvenience. We believe that these issues have now been resolved; however, if you do find you cannot get through, please email the school office at office@hgjs.co.uk Thank you for your patience.

Lost property and naming items

Please may I ask you to ensure that all items that come into school are named. While I am hopeful that we may have slightly less lost property given children are coming into school in their PE kit there are still items that have gone missing. It is much easier to return these if they are clearly named.

A parent has handed me two jumpers from the playground on The Common this morning. Neither of these are named. If you think they may belong to your child, please contact the school office.

PE kit

Both the children and staff have enjoyed their PE day this week. Please may I ask that children bring their full kit into school each week, including their tracksuit. Thank you.

Transfer test information for Year 6 parents

Apologies for any confusion from last week's newsletter. The transfer test information is for Year 6 parents and was sent last week.

Lunch box items

Where possible, please try to ensure that items included in your child's lunch box can be opened easily by your child. This includes container lids and screw tops. Thank you

Amersham School Open Events - Cancellation

In line with Government advice regarding social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Open Evening and Open Mornings will not take place this year.

There will be a virtual school tour available for you to view on the Amersham School website as soon as possible <https://www.amershamschool.org.uk/Default.asp> Cancelled Dates are as follows:

<i>Thu 24 Sep 2020</i>	<i>5.30pm - 8pm</i>
<i>Thu 1 Oct 2020</i>	<i>9.30am - 10.30am</i>
<i>Wed 14 Oct 2020</i>	<i>9.30am - 10.30am</i>
<i>Thu 22 Oct 2020</i>	<i>9.30am - 10.30am</i>

Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Amersham School

Kind regards
Rebecca Campbell
Headteacher



Homework Policy

The Purpose of Homework

We set homework because we believe it is a way of supporting and reinforcing the learning pupils undertake in our school. It also supports our school aims of fostering a positive attitude towards learning and developing high level study skills. We believe that through completing homework children will be better prepared for their next stage of schooling.

The Key Principles of homework at Holmer Green Junior School

All homework activities follow the principles outlined below:

- There is a strong connection between homework and class work.
- Homework is matched to the needs of the pupils to ensure that all abilities are able to participate successfully.
- Parents play a crucial role in supporting homework and are made fully aware of our expectations in terms of the activity, the deadline and the standard of work.
- Teachers monitor, mark and give pupils feedback about the quality of their work.
- Our expectation of the type and amount of homework set differs according to the pupil's age (see Appendix A).

Types of Homework

Homework activities may take any of the following forms:

- Reading with or to an adult, focussing on comprehension and vocabulary development
- Spelling practice (see Appendix B)
- Times tables practice
- Tasks focusing on Literacy or Numeracy skills
- Preparation for lessons
- Oral presentations, including poetry recitals
- Personal research about particular topics

In addition to the above, children are encouraged to practise skills and develop independent learning habits by using educational websites the school has signed up for.

Completion of homework

All homework is set online on Seesaw on **Fridays**. Children complete their homework using the templates provided on the site or in books before taking a photo of their work and uploading it. Paper copies can be provided where requested. Children must complete and upload their homework by the deadline of the following **Tuesday**.

Teachers mark homework directly onto Seesaw giving the children individual feedback before the next homework is set. Any additional work posted will be read and acknowledged by the teacher.

Reading homework is evidenced through daily annotation in planners by parents and children. A photograph of the current week is uploaded to Seesaw by the child during their Computing session

once a week (see timetable) so that teachers can give individual feedback about their reading habits.

Homework club

Where teachers, parents or children feel that extra support is required with homework, children are given the opportunity to attend a weekly homework club after school until 4.30pm. They have access to computers and other school resources to support successful completion of homework.

Due to Covid-19 safety measures in place, homework club will not be running in the Autumn term. This will be reviewed as government guidance is updated.

Date: September 2020

Review date: September 2021

APPENDIX A
A Guide to Homework Timing

YEAR GROUP	HOMEWORK
Year 3	<p>Reading 10 – 15 minutes per night. At least one reading session will be to an adult. Children encouraged to record own reading with planners signed by an adult</p> <p>Regular spelling and mental maths/tables practice (at least 4-5 times a week)</p> <p>1 x 30 minute activity per week: English or mathematical focus, occasionally cross-curricular</p> <p>Additional personal research is encouraged</p>
Year 4	<p>Reading 10 – 15 minutes per night. At least one reading session will be to an adult Children encouraged to record own reading with planners signed by an adult</p> <p>Regular spelling and mental maths/tables practice (at least 4-5 times a week)</p> <p>1 x 30 minute activity per week: English or mathematical focus, occasionally cross-curricular</p> <p>Additional personal research is encouraged</p>
Year 5	<p>Reading 15 – 20 minutes per night. At least one reading session will be to an adult Children encouraged to record own reading with planners signed by an adult</p> <p>Regular spelling and mental maths/tables practice (at least 4-5 times a week)</p> <p>2 x 30 minute activity per week: English AND mathematical focus, occasionally cross-curricular</p> <p>Additional personal research is encouraged</p>
Year 6	<p>Reading 15 – 20 minutes per night. At least one reading session will be to an adult. Children encouraged to record own reading with planners signed by an adult</p> <p>Regular spelling and mental maths/tables practice (at least 4-5 times a week)</p> <p>2 x 30 minute activity per week: English AND mathematical focus, occasionally cross-curricular</p> <p>Additional personal research is encouraged</p>

NB – If pupils are chosen to attend intervention groups, staff will work together to decide on the relevant homework.

APPENDIX B

Spelling practice

Children are set 8 weekly spellings to practise at home. These are tested in school on a Friday.

Spellings lists comprise of:

- 5 spellings which contain spelling patterns from the National Curriculum statutory lists
- 3 spellings taken from the National Curriculum statutory word-lists ('tricky words')

Two compulsory spelling tasks are set for each year group:

Task 1: rote practice of spellings. Children are asked to write down their spellings at least 4-5 times per week using a variety of methods such as Look Say Cover Write Check, Rainbow writing or Pyramid words.

Task 2: words in context. Children are asked to complete an activity which gives them more practice of their spellings but in a context. E.g., inserting words into a paragraph with missing spaces or writing sentences containing their spelling words.

Spelling practice should be an independent activity, but parents are encouraged to check their children's progress so that they are fully prepared to take their test at the end of the week.

Holmer Green Junior School

Stationery Order Form

Pupil Name: _____

Class: _____

Preferred Email: _____

Please return order form by hand to the school office or via email to office@hgjs.co.uk.

Please do not send money with the order form.

Payment should be made upon collection from the school office.

Item	QUANTITY	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL
Lined whiteboard		60p	
Whiteboard pen		50p	
Whiteboard eraser		60p	
Ruler - 30cm		40p	
Eraser		40p	
Pencil		20p	
Pencil sharpener		60p	
Glue Stick		60p	
Handwriting pen - blue ink		50p	
Stationery Pack***		£4.50	
	TOTAL AMOUNT		

***** Stationery pack includes:**

- 1 x HGJS small pencil case
- 1 x lined whiteboard
- 1 x whiteboard pen
- 1 x whiteboard eraser
- 1 x 30cm ruler
- 1 x eraser
- 3 x pencils
- 1 x pencil sharpener
- 1 x glue stick