



10 September 2021

Dear parents/ carers,

At the end of our first full week back, it has been so positive to see the children settled in well and giving their all to their learning. We have been talking to the children about their efforts in coming to school in a sustainable way and ask that parents support us by enabling their child to walk, scooter, cycle or park and stride to school. Our Travel Tracker initiative has a competition running this year and the children are keen to be top of the league.

### **Star of the week**

Our value this month is Responsibility and we have been noticing children who have noticed others. The staff have had a real challenge as so many children in our school show friendship and kindness to others. Congratulations to the following children for their support of others this week.

Elm:	Rebecca Venn	Beech:	Hashim Al-Adhami
Oak:	Hattie Wealands	Larch:	Maxwell Vinyard
Lime:	Liv Frewin	Maple:	Arpith Shelvin Ambadan
Pine:	Freddie Flanagan	Cherry:	Florence Smith
		Willow:	Louie Barratt-Singh

### **Meet the Teacher events**

A quick reminder about our Meet the Teacher events that will be taking place in the hall next week. Would you please fill in the following form if you plan on coming to the event.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uG7YMTTHhkWVtoyW8nUnNxo9Gp\\_LXdtliFaTshkLiGRUNIQzVVZNVdHUVjIBQkJNUFNQQkIBQVZUOS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uG7YMTTHhkWVtoyW8nUnNxo9Gp_LXdtliFaTshkLiGRUNIQzVVZNVdHUVjIBQkJNUFNQQkIBQVZUOS4u) For those parents who are unable to attend, we will be sending home the presentations with the newsletter next week.

We would ask that, where parents live together, only one parent attends the meeting to limit overall numbers. This is a parent only event and families who bring children will not be able to attend.

Wednesday 15 September: 6.30pm- 7.00pm Year 3      7.15pm- 7.45pm Year 5

Thursday 16 September: 6.30pm- 7.00pm Year 4      7.15pm- 7.45pm Year 6

### **Parents' forum**

As identified in the newsletter last week, our parents' forum meeting will be taking place following the election of new parent governors. This meeting will be an opportunity to talk about the what has changed due to the pandemic, what parents have liked about these changes and what you would like to return from pre-Covid times and will take place on Wednesday 22 September at 12.00pm on Microsoft Teams. The link to the meeting is here [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_ODRmZDNmZDctZDYwMS00N2U1LTkzODYtNzAwZDNhYTAyMzhm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2231d86eb8-e131-4586-95b6-8c96f2752737%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229f1a3d1a-5dcb-48db-8856-93b2190b8c64%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODRmZDNmZDctZDYwMS00N2U1LTkzODYtNzAwZDNhYTAyMzhm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2231d86eb8-e131-4586-95b6-8c96f2752737%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229f1a3d1a-5dcb-48db-8856-93b2190b8c64%22%7d)

I hope to see you there. If you are unable to attend but would like something discussed, please email the school office by the end of the day on Monday 20 September.

### **Clubs**

Our club offer for this term will go live from 8.00pm this evening. Clubs can be booked through our parents evening booking system at <https://hgjs.schoolcloud.co.uk/> **This is a different site from PMX Parentmail.** Please **do not** try to do this through PMX Parentmail. Would you please check that you can

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log into the system before 4.30pm today and contact the school office if you have any issues. Please note, your name and child's name will be as you have recorded it on your admission form. The most common issues are the use of a different title e.g. Miss/ Ms or the use of a shortened forename e.g. Nicholas/ Nick. A list of available clubs is attached with this newsletter. School run clubs start the week beginning 20 September and run to Friday 3 December.

### **Diary dates**

Attached to this newsletter is a list of our term dates to date. I hope that you will find this useful.

### **Parent Information Booklets and Curriculum Maps**

Supporting your child's learning is a partnership between school and home. Attached with this newsletter are parent information booklets and curriculum maps for your child's year group to help you support the learning that your child is doing in school. I hope that you will find these documents useful in helping your child.

### **Homework**

Homework is an important way that children can share with you some of what they have been learning in school. Our core homework is reading, spelling and times tables. To further support pupils, we provide set tasks to help their development as independent learners.

All year groups will set this homework on a Friday using Seesaw. Information about our homework arrangements will be shared at the Meet the Teacher evening. Homework then needs to be returned by the following Tuesday.

A copy of our Homework policy is attached to this newsletter for you to read.

Homework should not be something that causes family arguments or upset to you or your child. If you have any concerns at all with homework please make an appointment with your child's teacher. If concerns persist then contact the school office to speak to Miss Campbell.

### **Individual and sibling photographs**

The children will have their photographs taken by Kittle Photography on Wednesday 15 September.

### **Cookery**

I am delighted to say that our cookery lessons have fully restarted again this term. Mr White has put together a menu of tasty treats to support the children in learning how to cook. Details of the different recipes your child will follow are below. Children with reported food allergies or dietary requirements will be catered for.

Year group/ Term	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Year 3	Cheese straws	Vegetable couscous	Fruit salad
Year 4	Cheese scones	Savoury pancakes	Apple tart
Year 5	Scone based pizza	Apple crumble	French bread
Year 6	Vegetable curry	Tagliatelle with tomato and basil sauce	Honey and apple muffins

In order to cover the cost of the ingredients, parents are asked to make a contribution of £5 for the academic year. A payment item is available on PMXParentmail. If parents do not wish to make a monetary contribution, we ask that ingredients are sent in from the list that can be provided on request. Please contact the school office if this is your preference.

### **Fruit**

We will be restarting our fruit offer from Monday 20 September. If you would like to purchase fresh fruit from school for your child to enjoy at break time, please go to PMXParentmail where a payment item is set up.

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 4.25pm. They have access to computers and other school resources to support successful completion of homework.

Date: September 2021

Review date: September 2022

**APPENDIX A**  
**A Guide to Homework Timing**

<b>YEAR GROUP</b>	<b>HOMEWORK</b>
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.



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# AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLUB

**HOLMER GREEN JNR**

**START: WEDS 15TH SEPT**

**FINISH: WEDS 20TH OCT**

**TIME: 3.30PM - 4.30PM**

**COST: £37 FOR 6 WEEKS**

*(INCLUSIVE OF £1 BOOKING FEE)*

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