



Dear Parents

05 September 2014

Welcome

It has been lovely to see all of the children returning to school looking so happy. I would particularly like to welcome our new Year 3 pupils and those children in Years 4 and 5 who have joined the school this term.

Staffing

It is not only new children and parents who we have welcomed this term. Mrs Hawkes, Miss McIlroy and Mrs Randall have joined us as new teachers and Mrs Pauline Cavaghan and Mr Ben Stevenson will be working as support assistants. In addition, Mrs Gillian Craddock and Mrs Christine Vass have joined our admin team to support the school and parents.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Kayleigh Rodger (nee Hunt) following her marriage during the summer.

The following table reconfirms the class teacher arrangements from September 2014 as well as identifying which support staff are linked to each year group:

Class	Teacher	Support Staff
Y3 Oak	Mrs Harvey	Mrs Bedwell, Mrs Shepherd, Mrs Cavaghan
Y3 Elm	Mrs Barton/ Mrs Hawkes	
Y4 Pine	Miss McIlroy	Mrs Fagan, Mr Stevenson, Mrs Rodger, Mrs Shepherd
Y4 Lime	Miss Harrington	
Y5 Beech	Mrs Randall	Mrs Kentish, Mrs Rodger, Mrs Cavaghan
Y5 Larch	Mr Thornhill	
Y6 Sycamore	Mr Walters	Mrs Kentish, Mrs Saunders
Y6 Willow	Mrs Marshall/ Mrs Asare Archer	
PPA	Mrs Sharma/ Mrs Hardy Mr Reeves/ Mrs Jones	
PE Support	Mrs Duggan	

Meet the Teacher Evening – Thursday 18th September (6.30 – 7.30 pm)

I hope that many of you will be able to join us for our annual Meet the Teacher meetings on Thursday 18th September between 6.30pm and 7.30pm. Meetings for Year 3 and 4 classes will start at 6.30pm with Year 5 and 6 sessions starting at 7.00pm. These meetings will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher, find out information about day to day issues and learn more about the curriculum your child will be covering.

Homework

Homework is an important way that children can share with you some of what they have been learning in school. Key to our homework is that it supports each child and their education as well as their development as independent learners. All year groups will be sending their homework out on a Friday and it will be expected back the following Tuesday. There is, of course, an expectation that children will read regularly as well as learn their weekly spellings and times tables. A copy of our Homework policy is attached to this newsletter for you to read. Teachers will also confirm homework arrangements with you at our Meet the Teacher meetings.

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.

End of the day arrangements

It was lovely to see so many parents at the end of the day yesterday. May I remind you that the side gate onto the playground will unlock electronically at 3.20pm. The gate can then be opened to ensure access to the playground before the children come out.

Following the introduction of the 'permission to leave the school site' form last year, we will continue to use the permissions we had on file from the end of last year. If you wish to change the arrangements we have on file, please contact the school office.

For Year 3 parents, please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter if you wish your child to be able to leave the school site at the end of the day. If we do not have a slip on file, we will keep your child until an adult arrives to collect them from the playground.

Please find below a reminder of key dates for the next two weeks. Our termly diary sheet will be sent home in the next week together with details of clubs on offer this term. The majority of clubs will start during week commencing 15th September.

Rebecca Campbell
Headteacher

KEY DATES

M 8/9		M 15/9	School clubs start
T 9/9	Secondary transfer preparation test – Year 6	T 16/9	11.00 Active Gamerz assembly
W 10/9		W 17/9	
T 11/9	Secondary transfer test – Year 6	T 18/9	6:30 – 7:30 pm: Meet the Teacher
F 12/9		F 19/9	

PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL SITE AT THE END OF THE DAY

Name of child _____ Class _____

I give permission for my child to leave school at the end of the school day without an accompanying adult.

Signed _____ Date _____



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:

- Tasks focusing on Literacy or Numeracy skills
- Reading with or to an adult, focussing on comprehension and vocabulary development
- Preparation for lessons
- Spelling and times tables practice
- Oral presentations
- 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.

Date: September 2014

Review date: September 2015

APPENDIX A
A Guide to Homework Timing

YEAR GROUP	READING	CURRICULUM ACTIVITY
Year 3	10 – 15 minutes per night. At least one reading session will be to an adult and reading record books will be signed by an adult	1 x 30 minute activity per week: cross curricular literacy or numeracy focus Regular spelling and mental maths/tables practice (3-4 times a week) Additional personal research is encouraged
Year 4	10 – 15 minutes per night. At least one reading session will be to an adult and reading record books will be signed by an adult	1 x 30 minute activity per week: cross curricular literacy or numeracy focus Regular spelling and mental maths/tables practice (3-4 times a week) Additional personal research is encouraged
Year 5	15 – 20 minutes per night. At least one reading session will be to an adult and reading record books will be signed by an adult	2 x 30 minute activity per week: Cross curricular literacy and numeracy focus Regular spelling and mental maths/tables practice (3-4 times a week) Additional personal research is encouraged
Year 6	15 – 20 minutes per night. At least one reading session will be to an adult and reading record books will be signed by an adult	2 x 40 minute activities per week: Cross curricular literacy and numeracy focus Regular spelling and mental maths/tables practice (3-4 times a week) Additional personal research is encouraged

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

