



Year Two Parent Meeting

Thank you to those who were able to attend our Year Two parent meeting. For those of you who were unable to attend, please find some useful information below. The meeting focused on how to support your children as readers and the PowerPoint used during the meeting can be found on the school website.

Home Learning

All the home learning we set will positively impact your child's learning and is linked with the learning we are doing in school. We always recommend you spend a little time a few times per week rather than an hour long sit down once a week. We also appreciate that family time is precious and children can be busy with clubs after school, so if you can't read EVERY day that is ok 😊. Your child will benefit from completing the home learning each week, independently or with your support, however if they are finding the quantity or expectation challenging, please come and speak with us. Home learning should never be a battle.

Reading: To become fluent, confident, life-long readers, it is crucial children practise their reading skills frequently, if not every day. We recommend children read to you for 10 minutes (either reading a book or practising individual letters and digraphs), as well as you reading to them. They are not too old for a bedtime story 😊. Please remember to record this reading in their Reading Record book.

Handwriting: We have begun to join our letters in our handwriting lessons. We are using a scheme called Happy Handwriting which teaches different joins each week. There is a Home Practice sheet available for each week so you can see which joins your child has learnt as well as give them an opportunity to practise the joins and their handwriting. This can be kept at home for you to refer to and does not need to be sent back into school. We will be sending home 2 sheets this week (for last week and this week), but from 18th September, we will send home only one sheet.

First Half of the Autumn Term

Mathematics Skills: On Monday 11th September, a booklet to develop and improve your child's core Mathematics skills was sent out. Each week, your child will have a short ten question check on a particular skill as identified in the booklet. The booklet contains differentiated practical ideas and internet links to support them while learning/improving each skill. When relevant, there will be '2dos' on Purple Mash for your child to complete. In order to fully embed each skill, your child should practise it for 5-10 minutes every other day, rather than just once, the day before the check. Each page (and skill) is dated to ensure you focus on the correct skill for that week. Some children could challenge themselves with the 'chili challenge'!

Spelling: On Monday 18th September, your child will bring home a list of words year two children are expected to be able to spell by the **end** of the year. We will have assessed them throughout the week so you can see which words they know and which words they need to learn. More information about these spellings will be sent out with the words.

Second Half of the Autumn Term

Maths Arithmetic Booklet: We will be sending out a booklet with simple calculations for your child to answer each week. Detail regarding this home learning will be contained in the booklet.

Spelling: Your child will bring home a 'Spelling Booklet' that contains the spelling rule/phonics rule and words your child should learn for the following week. The booklet also contains some suggested games and activities that you could use or play, as well as Purple Mash 2dos, to help practise these spellings in a fun/meaningful way.

Communication

We welcome communication with you face to face at the door, so if you have any messages or information you think we need to know, please speak to us in the morning. If you prefer to email us, please use the school office address info@horley.surrey.sch.uk and it will be forwarded to your child's class teacher. School will continue to use StudyBugs as a one way communication to you. Where possible, please avoid using StudyBugs to communicate with your class and teachers. It should be used to communicate with the office regarding appointments and absence. Please also make sure your contact details are up to date as occasionally we may need to call you during the day, therefore it is important you are contactable or provide us with alternative contact numbers.

Year Two Friday 'Club'

On Friday afternoon, your child will participate in a different activity, which this term includes: Recorders, Athletics, Cross country and Art. Friday Club has become a very popular addition to our timetable and enriches the children's learning in a variety of subjects. We want the children to have the opportunity to experience a variety of activities and maybe inspire the next Banksy, Katarina Johnson-Thompson, Beth Mead or Ed Sheeran 😊.

Class Mascots

Each class has two mascots. Each weekend, two children will take home the mascots. We encourage the children to write about their weekend and draw or include photographs. They will then be able to share this information with their class the following week. We ask that the mascot is returned to school every Monday.

Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer and help in your child's class, please speak to their class teacher; we are always extremely happy to welcome you 😊, so please let us know.

Many parents who have come into school to support children in the class, listen to readers and help with filing etc, have found it to be an extremely valuable experience for both themselves and their child. You could volunteer on a regular basis or a more ad-hoc basis when you have a spare morning, afternoon or hour. We are very friendly and are happy to accommodate you with whatever you feel comfortable in doing. All volunteers must complete a simple application which can be found on our school website – please speak to a member of our office team if you can't find it.

Jewellery

Please remember that at Horley Infant School, children are not permitted to wear jewellery, which includes earrings. If their ears are pierced they **must** remove the earrings before coming to school. We have plastic spacers that can be worn in place of their metal earrings. Please ask at the school office for the spacers. Children are able to wear a basic analogue (not digital) watch to help them learn to tell the time.

Independence

We would appreciate it if your child could take responsibility for taking letters, envelopes, money etc. that needs to go to the office out of their bookbag and give to their teachers. This would help prepare them for Junior School and develop their independence. If there is something important or urgent that needs to go to the office that day, you could give it to us or your child directly as they come in so it is sure to make its way to the office. In order to make this simpler for your child, please only keep Year Two books in their bookbags. Anything they had or used in Reception or Year One, such as sound cards should be taken out. The following are the only books that currently need to be in their bookbags: Reading Record book and colour coded reading book. Their Mathematics Skills Booklet and Spelling sheet could either remain in their bookbags or be kept at home to refer to. Please also check their bag every day so that letters do not build up, resulting in important communication being missed.

Junior Schools

While your child may have just started in Year Two, it is important that you begin to think about next year as **there is no automatic transition to a Junior School.** Even if you have older children at your choice of Junior School, you will still need to apply. The deadline is 15th January 2024 but **PLEASE** don't wait that long.

And finally, please remember our door is always open and we really do want to hear from you. There is no such thing as a silly question. If you have any concerns or worries, we would much rather hear them as soon as possible.

Thank you

The Year Two Team



Katharine Staples, Sue Barnes
& Karen Keighley
Octopus Class

Emily Henty, Jenni Lomas
& Nicole Crowley
Turtle Class

Charlotte Cox & Vicky Church
Stingray Class