

**BILTON GRANGE PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

BILTON LANE

HARROGATE

HG1 3BA

Tel: 01423 502375

Email: biltongrange@ycatschools.co.uk

Website:

www.biltongrangeharrogate.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Sian James



Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year in the Lower Juniors. We have been extremely impressed with how well the children have settled into their new class and routines this week and it has been wonderful to see our classrooms full of smiling faces, ready to learn! We would love to welcome you in to see our classrooms and meet us face to face. We would like this to be as soon as possible so that we can put faces to names for our parents. So, we invite you to join us straight after school in Hazel class on Wednesday 13th September. We know that some of you may not be able to attend then, however if you have any questions, please do get in touch and we hope to meet you soon.

The transition from Year 2 to Year 3 can be challenging for some children and we will do our best to support your children with their new routines and challenges. Year 3 and 4 requires children to take greater responsibility for their own learning. They have to begin to be more organised, resilient and independent. This can take time for some children who are new to Year 3 and your support in helping them prepare for the school day will be much appreciated.

It is very important that we have good communication between school and home, so that the needs of your child are best met. If there is anything that you think may be affecting your child, then please contact school using the email biltongrange@ycatschools.co.uk or phone the office on 01423 502375. Your child's teacher will respond as soon as they are available. The positive involvement of parents/carers in education is vital in order to give your child the best possible support throughout their time in school. You are the ones who know your child best and can help us bring out the best in them.

Rewards

This year we will be focusing on three simplified school rules - Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe. Children who follow these rules consistently will be awarded "Dojos". At the end of a week, dojo points will be collected and added to their individual record sheet. Once your child has collected 25 points they will be awarded a Gold Award Certificate in our assembly on a Friday. Should they receive 5 Gold Awards in the year, they will also be awarded a Headteacher's Award. Points collected will also be added to the class house point chart and the house with the most points across the school will be announced every Friday. Each term, the house with the most points will receive a prize.



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Reading

We ask that you continue to hear your child read at home on a regular basis, four times per week is the expectation. This only need be for 10 minutes per time. It is better to practise more regularly for a short time than to read for longer and make reading feel like a chore. Children who read four times per week will receive a ticket in our reading raffle. The reading raffle will be drawn half termly and the winners will receive a book as their prize.

Children who read four times a week will receive 1 dojo point towards their Gold awards and house points. More points will be awarded for reading more frequently up to a possible 3 points for reading to an adult every day in a week.

The demands of the junior curriculum mean that your child will be heard read by a teacher in school much less frequently than in KS1. Children will be heard read by an adult in school at least every fortnight, although some children will be heard more frequently. We place a great importance on reading and all children will take part in a lesson dedicated to reading and comprehension time during the school week. Children will be given the opportunity to read for pleasure, choosing a book appropriate to their ability that will not be from a reading scheme.

If you are able to come in to school to offer any regular support to hear readers, please let your child's teacher know. Any volunteers are very welcome to help us hear children read as regularly as possible.

Spelling and Times Tables

Once we have assessed your child, spellings will be sent home weekly at a level appropriate to their ability. These will be tested each week in class. Again a little practice each day is better than trying to 'cram' on the day of the test. We will also be teaching strategies of how to remember spellings in short sessions several times a week.

By the end of Y3/4, children should know their times tables up to 12 x 12. All children will spend 2 weeks practising the facts of one particular times table that they will be tested on. They will be expected to spend additional time learning these facts at home. If your child is confident with that particular times table, then their focus should be increasing the speed of their recall whilst not reducing their accuracy. After 2 weeks, the class will move on to another times table allowing children to have exposure to all times tables at least twice throughout the year. We will continue to use Times Tables Rockstars, an online programme to support the children with their learning. This will be individualised and will focus on children recalling facts at speed. The programme will assess the children's prior knowledge and then begin a training programme to include multiplication and division facts. The programme will focus on just a few facts at a time, to encourage speed and instant recall. It will then move the children on when they have achieved the required speed on those facts.



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Each class will have a timetabled slot to use this programme in school, but children will benefit from any additional practice at home as this will help them to move through the training quicker. All log in details will be stuck in your child's reading record when they have been introduced to the programme.

As well as times tables, it is important that children know other important recall facts such number bonds and conversion facts such as how many cm in a m. These will be worked on in daily deliberate practice sessions at school, but may also be included in homework tasks.

Children in all classes will be given spellings and times table facts to learn each week on a Friday. They will then be tested on those facts the following Friday.

Home work

Homework for children coming in to year 3 may look different to what you are used to, but for year 4 will be broadly the same as last year. Your child will bring home a homework book each Friday that will contain a task to be completed that week. On top of your child's weekly reading, spelling and times tables they will also have either a maths or English task to complete. This will be set at an appropriate level for your child and will be linked to recent learning. These homework tasks should be completed and returned to school to be marked and new work set. These tasks should not take more than about 20 minutes . If you find that they are taking longer than this, please speak to your child's teacher. If you have any issues with the homework or your child is stuck, they can bring the book in before Friday to receive support. We would like to see that they have made some attempt before they seek this support so they we can determine where the problem lies. This should ideally be on the Monday so that time can be put aside during the week. If it is left until Friday to ask for support then this may not be possible before the work is marked.

P.E. Kit

On PE days ask that children arrive in school in their PE kit and remain in kit all day. Please refer to the website for the PE uniform. Children with long hair should have it tied up on PE days and earrings must be removed in line with North Yorkshire safety guidance.

Swimming

Each class will be receiving swimming lessons throughout the course of the year. This will start with Hazel and Sycamore in the autumn term who have already received their consent forms. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum and all children must reach a required standard by the end of their time at Bilton Grange. Children will walk to the Hydro for lessons where they will be assessed and taught by the instructors at the pool. They will then return to school to continue with their lessons for the day.



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Packed Lunches and Snacks

Packed lunch boxes should be placed on the trolleys in the KS2 playground under the shelter. In KS2 fruit snacks are not provided. If you wish to provide your child with a healthy snack, this should be fruit or vegetables. This should be separate from their packed lunch as they will not be able to access this at break time. Snacks should be named and placed in a box in the classroom. Water bottles should also be provided, separate from the packed lunch, and should be brought into the classroom. In order to promote healthy habits, please only fill bottles with water. This also prevents mess if bottles leak or are tipped over.

School Trips

This term we will be studying life in Ancient Egypt during our history sessions and lessons in other subjects such as art and DT will also be linked to Ancient Egypt. As part of our study, we will be having an online session with the Egyptian experts from the Oriental Museum in Durham. A letter about this will follow in the next few weeks.

In year 4 we offer all children the opportunity to attend a 1 night's residential to Nell Bank in Ilkley. This year the visit will take place in the last week of January. This is always a very popular visit and again year 4 parents will shortly receive more information about this trip.

I know that this is a lot to take in. We hope to see many of you at our Meet the Teacher Evening next week, but if you can't make that please do feel free to contact any of the teaching team or myself with any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Baldini

On behalf of The Lower Junior Team



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

