



**PARK HILL PREPARATORY
SCHOOL & NURSERY**

For boys and girls aged 2 years and above

Prep School Year 4

Welcome Information



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Introduction

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 4. We hope the following information will be of assistance to you and your child and will help in ensuring a smooth transition from Year 3 to Year 4.

Expectations

There is an increased expectation in Year 4 that children are expected to be ambassadors for Park Hill which requires them to:

- be good role models in how they behave and support their younger peers
- work to the best of their abilities
- be polite and courteous
- support others in the environment



- become more independent in everyday activities
- gain confidence
- become more aware of their next step to learning

Your child's routines and daily activities will be similar to their experience in Year 3.

Showbie

The class Showbie code to join the new Year 4 class is: D38G3

The class Showbie code to join the new Year 4 Parent Group is: QHZ2B

If you need any assistance joining either of the Showbie rooms, please just let me know and I can send a QR code for you to scan. New families, we can set you up in the first day in school.

Routines

Morning Drop Off

The side gate will be open at 8:00am until 8.30am. Your child will be able to enter the classroom at 8:15am and once settled in the classroom they will be expected to independently hang up their coat, PE bag, unpack book bags and ensure their iPad and water bottle is on their desk ready for lessons. Once this is complete they will be given a short task, so please ensure they arrive on time. **Registration will be taken at 8:15am, with our first lesson beginning promptly at 8:30am.**

If you have any messages or notes please email me at Katherine.Forsyth@parkhillschool.com.

Afternoon Collection

Collection will be from the front of the school at the end of the day. Teachers will be present if you need to speak to them. If your child is going to be collected from school by somebody else at the end of the day please inform the Office or Mrs Forsyth. We will not allow your child to go home with another adult, unless we have your written permission.

Equipment

Please ensure your child has the following items for the beginning of the school year.

- Antibacterial wipes to keep in their desk, to keep iPads clean.
- A pair of wired/wireless headphones
- A quality stylus. We currently recommend the Metapen A11 as a good quality stylus. Park Hill has managed to arrange a discount through Amazon until 11.9.24. Please search on Amazon or use this link if you are interested. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0BCWGC7GJ>
- Water Bottle
- Named Park Hill Pencil Case
- **5 HB Pencils** (Staedtler or an equivalent brand as these are hard wearing)
- Sharpener (preferably self containing)
- Highlighters (x2)
- A rubber
- Coloured pencils
- **Glue stick** (Pritt Stick is preferred as it is long lasting)
- Suitable scissors
- Felt tips (Narrow point as they will be used for outlines, rather than colouring)
- **30 cm ruler** (cm and mm)
- A pair of compasses



- A protractor
- **Two dark blue Frixton pens (erasable ink)**

*The above items in bold, we use daily, so please check pencil cases every month and restock where needed.

Please ensure every item brought in is named to avoid any confusion.

Uniform

Prep School children should come to school on most days wearing their formal uniform. On Mondays, children will wear their sports kit for Adventurous Living and bring adventure school waterproof clothing in their back pack. Please ensure ALL their uniform is clearly labelled using name tapes. On Tuesdays, the children should come to school in their school sports kit in preparation for Games. On Wednesday, the children should come to school in uniform, but should wear their swimsuit/swim trunks under their uniform if possible. Please bring other parts of the swimming kit (all labelled) in a bag (swim cap, towel, goggles and vest/pants).

Homework

During the terms, we will set a weekly pack of homework. This will include Maths work, English work, and Spellings. If your child is struggling with the volume of homework or the level of difficulty, please email me and I can adjust.

Homework is given out on Showbie in the homework folder, All written work is to be completed in their homework book then scanned and uploaded onto Showbie for the teacher to mark. This means the HW book can stay at home to avoid any mishaps.

Children should be encouraged to read to an adult/older sibling for 10 minutes each day and focus on learning/consolidating their knowledge of the 2x, 5x,10x, 3x, 9x and 11x times tables.

Timetable

A copy of the Prep School timetable will be sent home, via your child, in the first week of term. The timetable will also be uploaded on Showbie.

Curriculum

To ensure the children receive the highest quality of teaching and learning, we have designed a challenging curriculum that extends the children well beyond the National Curriculum objectives using the Common Entrance Curriculum Syllabus (ISEB).

English

Comprehension

A Guide to help your child with reading

It is important that when reading, you also focus on the comprehension (understanding of what's happening in the story) aspect of the book as well as the sounding out of words. Some children may be able to easily read their book and to say all of the words, they also need to make sure they have a full understanding of what it is about, what the key words mean, and many other features of the text. Please encourage your child to read a variety of texts and genres.

This Year, English will be a very important part of your child's learning, being used in every area of the curriculum, whether it be writing investigations, developing presentations, or creating reports. We will cover a wide range of topics.



In Year 4, the children will learn about:

Narrative writing

Writing from other cultures

Adventures and myths

Poetry - Free-verse, creating pictures, narrative and Haiku poetry.

Play-scripts

Non fiction writing

Letters

Persuasive writing

Non-chronological Reports

Instructions

Grammar and punctuation will be important as we move higher up the school. This will be taught as both stand alone lessons (we call **SPaG** - Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar lessons) and within our topics. Children will also be encouraged to use their weekly SPAG objectives in their English writing to demonstrate their understanding.

Mathematics

In Maths, the children will be learning more advanced number and shape work. Along with addition and subtraction, there will be focus on division and multiplication through real life problems, and more formal and efficient methods. We shall delve in to recognising fractions and understanding their relationship with decimals. Data handling will feature heavily, with the focus being on creating their own graphs and tables to answer questions: both in Mathematics, and other subjects (Science in particular). Shape work will consist of understanding properties of a range of 2D and 3D shapes, looking at vertices, faces (and the 2D shapes they create), edges and nets. We shall also have a focus on angles too, where we shall measure, draw and be able to classify them appropriately.

The expectation is that children can create their own projects, including graphs, tables, multiple problem questions, and concluding statements: in both written and through computing. As well, the children will be expected to be able to use their mathematical skills to solve other problems in History, Geography, Science, Computing, DT, and Art.

Sciences

Our Science curriculum is split in to the traditional areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Within each, there are various topics that are outlined below.

Biology

The children will be given an in depth understanding of the body, including the digestive system, circulatory system, and respiratory system in Year 3 and 4, and the nervous system, puberty, human reproduction, and healthy living in Year 5 and 6. Within these topics, we will be discussing microbes and the role they play in our day to day lives, with a full topic in year 4.

Plants and other animals will also be covered, with topics including classification, plants around the world, vertebrates and invertebrates, and finishing with evolution and adaptation.

Physics

Physics will encompass many areas, including light and shadows, forces (including friction, magnetism, upthrust and gravity at Year 3, 4, and balancing forces at Year 6), sound and vibration, electricity and



circuits, and astronomy. Physics teaching will also include a basic understanding of waves, and energy at Year 5 and 6.

Chemistry

Chemistry topics include rocks, fossils, basic particle theory, and solutions (Year 3 and 4). When your child is in Years 5 and 6, they will develop their understanding of these areas, while also learning about states and phases of matter, chemical reactions, conductors and insulators, and the periodic table.

The goal in Science is to give the children ample opportunity to plan and carry out investigations, while giving them an excellent understanding of the world around them. Lessons are planned to be exciting and creative. In accordance with the National Curriculum.

Computing

In Year 4, the children will be moving on to more advanced coding, including java and HTML in later in Years 5 and 6. They will be experimenting with apps, cameras, and editing software to create videos. Utilising the power of the internet, the children will learn to use it safely, before learning how to research, fact check, and elicit information from the internet for use in reports and presentations. Children will also be taught how to use word processors, create presentations, create spread sheets and graphs, and create posters/newsletters.

While it is important to use computers, children can lack an understanding of the hardware. In Prep School, we will address this and be looking at the insides of computers and iPads. Children in Year 4 will have a one to one iPad provision.

Humanities

Humanities will include Geography and History, with 3 areas of each subject taught per year. These subjects will often compliment the topics covered in their English studies.

Geography

In Year 4 the children will discover features of rainforests across the world, and learn about rivers and the water cycle. Natural disasters will be our final focus as we learn about earthquakes, extreme weather conditions and other geological processes.

History

Delving deep in to History, the children will learn about some of the more fascinating civilisations. The Egyptians, Tudors and the Victorians.

Outdoor & Adventure School (OAS)

With such an abundance of open spaces available to us, whether it is the school grounds, Richmond park, or further beyond in to the Surrey Hills, and The Downs, we shall be introducing a unique subject to the curriculum. With an emphasis on developing self esteem, collaboration, and communication skills, the children will follow a carefully planned curriculum developing their practical outdoor and adventurous skills in a variety of environments.

For example:

Navigation skills (Compass, Map Reading, GPS, and Celestial Navigation)

First Aid training (Wilderness and Domestic)

Shelter building and Equipment (Bivi, Tarp, Canvas, appropriate clothing and footwear, and maintenance of equipment)



Nutrition (Flora and Fauna, Calorie Intake, Camping Stoves, Food preparation, and Cooking) Team Building (Communication, Leadership, Collaboration, Problem Solving, and Critical Thinking)
Adventure Planning (Using skills developed from the above topics)
develop the above skills in a series of Micro Adventures. This will include planning day trips in variety of environments, overnight trips, and extended trips as the children gain confidence.

Games and PE

We anticipate being able to use the impressive Kingston Grammar School Ditton Field. From Year 4 upwards there will be a structured competitive fixture list.

Autumn Term

Football, Rugby, and Netball

Spring Term

Hockey

Summer Term

Cricket, Rounders and Athletics

D&T and Art

In D&T and Art, we will be achieving our objectives through a cross curricular approach, by linking to Science, Humanities, English, and Maths topics.

In D&T, children can create more advanced pieces of art or technology, linked to the topics we are covering in other subjects - Electricity and machines will be covered, as well as structures and geographical features. They will be using a variety of materials to create their projects with wood, plastic, and card included. In addition, the children will be taught the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to design and create projects.

Art will feature a variety of different mediums, from paint to pencil to ink. We will be looking at artists, architects, and designers around the globe, as well as local artists. They will be developing their own ideas in a sketch book as well as improving their mastery of techniques.

11+

There will be a timetabled lesson each week to focus on verbal and non verbal reasoning, and critical thinking skills to help prepare them for the challenges ahead. Additionally, there will be extra opportunities to hone skills in writing and mathematics to further prepare for 11+ entrance exams.

Music and Performing Arts

Music will encompass appreciating and understanding a wide range of music from different traditions and cultures, as well as looking at music from great composers. They will build up an understanding of the History of music, along with improvising and composing their own pieces. Performing arts will focus on public speaking and presentations, as well as the traditional drama and dance.

French

French lesson will be extended to hour long session to accommodate the level of work that will be required. Children will be challenged here as we prepare them to move to secondary school. They will learn to speak to each other in French, developing simple conversations through role play.

Extra Curricular Activities

After School Club runs daily, from 3:30 - 6pm, at a cost of £16 per day. Your child may also stay for After School Club, following an After School Activity (from 5:00 - 6pm) for £8 per day. Breakfast Club runs daily from 7:30 - 8:15am, it includes breakfast and activities.



Medicines

Please advise the class teachers and school office of any medication or medical requirements for your child in writing. Office staff can administer medicine during the day as long as a form has been completed and signed by the parent. If your child needs medicine to be kept at school, including epi-pens, anti-histamines and inhalers, please ensure that they are in date for the entire term, clearly labelled with your child's name and with any additional equipment needed to administer it (for example, spacers to accompany inhalers). It is also useful to include a clear action plan for children who need emergency medicine. For children that have anti-histamines, please only provide medicine that has been prescribed for your child, with the prescription label clearly on the bottle or box. Please ask your GP to prescribe a non-drowsy anti-histamine, as, if this is given as part of an allergy treatment, it is essential that a medical team can tell whether a child is drowsy due to medicine, or unconscious.

