



LOWER KEY STAGE TWO: YEARS 3 AND 4

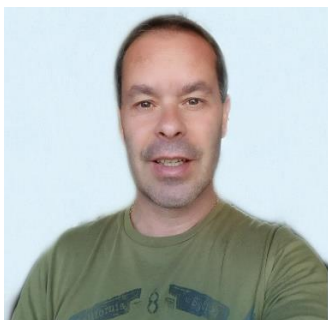
Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Years 3 & 4! Whether you are returning to school after the summer holidays or whether you are new to our school, we want to make sure that you have all the relevant information you need to know in order for your child to have a smooth and pleasant start to the academic year.

At Hyland House School, we prepare our children for their future. We do this by equipping them with tools for life. Our children will know a lot and will be able to do a lot. Our children will work hard and be kind to people. Our children will be inspired by others and by the world around them. Our children will be independent, resilient and able to live happily in modern British Society.

The Class Teacher...

Mr. Tencho - t.zapryanov@hylandhouseschool.org



I have been teaching for 21 years and have been at Hyland House School for 15 years. I want to see children enjoy learning and be challenged to achieve their very best. I want to see children enjoy learning and tackle challenges with enthusiasm and determination. Our core class value is all about respecting others while developing our own independence. As teachers we lead by example: We respect each other and always try our best. Children in Years 3 & 4 are given plenty of opportunities to shine and realise their God given gifts!

What to expect in Years 3 & 4?

Increasing independence and empathy

Now your child is in Years 3 & 4: The intensity of Year 2 and the focus on grammar, arithmetic, and spelling will seem like a distant memory as the new term starts.

This stage marks the end of Key Stage 1 as your child enters Key Stage 2 as a Junior. This is the time in which teachers nurture and encourage the feelings of independent thinking, learning and decision making. The children already know some routines for the Juniors; they have already realised that they have to do homework and in Years 3 & 4 it will be daily; they already understand that they are expected to learn a lot in a year.

What will your child do in Years 3 & 4?

1. The wider curriculum

In Years 3 & 4, there are some great science topics that children love, such as food chains, sound, electricity, gases, life processes, rocks, light, forces and magnets. Fun and engaging History and Geography topics are also taught in Years 3 & 4 - the Stone Age, the Romans, and the Anglo-Saxons at some point. These are the subjects that fire the imagination and that children remember.

2. Maths and English

In Maths and English, we will be aiming to ensure that your Year 3 & 4 child knows and understands particular key skills. Apostrophes, commas, times tables, and key spellings are just some of the things children in Years 3 & 4 are expected to use accurately. They will also cover fractions of quantities, equivalent fractions, angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, area, perimeter. In writing, we will focus on creativity and writing styles, looking at settings, language style, and character within the children's writing. Your child will also study different genres of writing such as poetry and play scripts.



How can you help your child in Years 3 & 4?

1. Practise weekly spellings

You can support your child at home by helping them to learn their all-important weekly spellings — these will be tested once a week, on Fridays.

2. Carry on reading together

For English, the single most important thing that you can do is to hear your child read. Good readers make good writers because they are exposed to a greater variety of vocabulary, syntax, grammar and style.

When you listen to your child read, there are several things to remember:

- Make it fun! Use silly voices and read to each other as well as just listening.
- Ask questions about the text, the characters, the plot, the setting, the style of writing, and the words. Anything to get them to think about what they are reading and to consider the deeper messages hidden in the subtext.
- Read a wide range of writing – from comics to newspapers, novels to recipes and even your child's own writing!
- Look up individual words in a dictionary or thesaurus together to find out what they mean.
- Stop if they or you are tired.
- Be a good role model for reading. This is the perfect excuse to curl up on the sofa, forget the chores, and read a good book yourself!

Of course, children in Years 3 & 4 are perfectly capable of reading to themselves as well, and independent reading (and writing) must also be encouraged. However, it is important that those comprehension skills are regularly checked and reading aloud is perfect for that.

3. Learn times tables

In Maths, there is an expectation that by the end of Year 4 all times tables are known and learnt fluently. Anything you can do to help that knowledge go in, and stay in, is fantastic.

- Practise regularly, making sure to go back and repeat tables you have practised before.
- Sing tables in the car; at mealtimes; before bed; walking the dog; at any spare moment!
- Put a poster at the end of their bed or give your child tapes to listen to in the car.
- Download an app to practise on a laptop or tablet.



4. Identify issues

If you have concerns about your child's reading or writing, talk to me first. It is at this age when difficulties such as dyslexia are more likely to be diagnosed. Keeping an open dialogue with us about your child and any concern you have is hugely important.

Years 3 & 4 can be a fun and rewarding time. Children develop and mature at this stage, becoming increasingly independent and more empathetic towards others. Enjoy watching your child grow and have a great year!

My aim is to work with you, so the children can be the best they can be.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Tencho

Year 3/4 Class Teacher