



DATE

Dear Parents and Carers

Learning Japanese: Advice for Year 7 Parents

Now that year 7 students have settled into their Japanese classes, I am writing to offer some guidance on how you can support their progress in these initial months. I have outlined below our main aims for the year, and some tips on how you can help your child master the year 7 content, enabling them to thrive in Japanese lessons throughout Key Stage 3 (and hopefully beyond!).

In year 7, our main goal is to help students become confident in reading and writing **hiragana**, the basic Japanese script. There are **46 characters**, each representing a different sound. Mastering hiragana is essential for progress, so we regularly test students on this. They should aim to score **at least 15/20** in these tests.

How to Support Hiragana Learning

- Check the back of your child's Japanese resource book for tips
- Explore the **KS3 Language Learning Booklet** on our school website:
<https://klbschool.org.uk/curriculum/subjects/languages/>
- Encourage your child to practise **both reading and writing** using different methods
- Ask them to explain what they are doing and help by testing them
- Suggest **at least 30 minutes of practice**, split across multiple sessions

Useful Resources:

- Printable Hiragana Charts – <https://www.tofugu.com/japanese/hiragana-chart/>
- Kana Games – Dr Lingua & Kana Invaders: <https://drlingua.com/japanese/games/kana-bento/>
<https://learnjapanesepod.com/kana-invaders/>
- Rajakumar-sensei's Hiragana Videos - <https://www.youtube.com/@japanese4schools>

General Advice

- Many students enjoy using Duolingo for extra practice
- Once confident with hiragana, students should learn **additional vocabulary** (e.g., family members, adjectives) beyond the core words taught in lessons

- Ensure your child brings the right equipment - **pen and pencil, ruler, orange exercise book, green draft book and A4 Japanese resource book**
- Encourage cultural exploration through Japan Travel or travel programmes
- Watching short **anime clips in Japanese** helps students get used to the sound and rhythm of the language, even if they don't understand everything

If you would like further support with your child's study of Japanese, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Bufton
Head of Japanese