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 Year 6 Newsletter

Welcome back, can you believe that we are already in the spring term? I look forward to the rest of this academic year and continuing to watch your children grow and become ready for the next step of their educational journey.

Y6 is a very important year. During the summer term, children will sit their SATs tests. These tests not only give secondary schools an indication of children’s understanding but also impact upon their expected GCSE grades. It is therefore vital that children attend school every day, as every missed day has a negative impact on your child’s progress. Also please ensure that your child is punctual so they do not miss any key learning at the start of the day. If your child has been asked to attend boosters, please ensure that they regularly attend these in order to ensure they make good progress.

**Conservation: Whose responsibility is it anyway?**

This term, we are going to be involved in a very exciting whole school topic. During this theme, we are going to be exploring the concepts of air pollution and global warming. As a school, we feel that it is important that our children understand that they play a huge role in the conservation of our planet. During this term, this idea will be explored by the children.

**Living things and their habitats.**

In Science we will be exploring living things and their habitats during our science focus. During this topic, we will be exploring how living things are classified and tools that can be used to do this effectively. Children will have the chance to develop their understanding of ecosystems and food webs. We will also be exploring microorganisms and how these can be both harmful and helpful.

**English**

Over the term, we aim to cover a range of genres including; a balanced argument, performance poetry, a narrative and a debate. During our lessons, we will be developing our use of grammar, punctuation and vocabulary and how using these effectively can positively impact upon our writing. In addition to this, we will have daily handwriting and spelling lessons where we aim to develop children’s understanding and add to their prior knowledge.

During reading sessions, we will be looking at various texts linked to our theme. This term, we are focussing on inferring information from the text and exploring vocabulary. Reading is a priority for Y6. It is important that children are reading at home, as well as at school.

**Mathematics**

This term, we will be covering a range of maths units; statistics, FDP, ratio and proportion, geometry and place value. In addition to these daily morning sessions we are have mental arithmetic lessons for 20 minutes each afternoon to ensure fluency in each child’s number facts and times tables. It is vital that all children are secure in their knowledge of these number facts. We therefore strongly encourage children to continue to practise their times tables at home using Timestable Rockstars.

**PE**

This year, Year 6 will be receiving PE lessons on a Thursday. We are very lucky to have a PE coach at Birklands, who will being teaching the children a range of skills. In order to take part, children need to be wearing their PE kit, which includes a white t shirt, black shorts and trainers. Please ensure these are in school at the start of each week to enable your child to participate in sessions. If your child does not bring their PE kit on more than three occasions during a term, they will receive a lunch time detention.

**Homework**

It is expected that children read at home at least four times each week. Reading is such an essential skill, particularly in year six. The more your child reads, the better their reading, comprehension, spelling and writing will become. Whenever your child reads at home, please sign their reading diary. These reading diaries need to be brought to school each day. Maths, English or topic homework is set each Thursday and should be handed in no later than the following Tuesday. Homework will always link to the work in class that week. Therefore, it is essential that your child brings their homework in on time so that they are prepared for their new learning.

**Booster classes**

We are committed to ensuring that each child makes excellent progress at Birklands. If your child is selected to attend any booster classes either before or after school, we ask that they do attend regularly. These sessions are fun and interactive and will give your child the skills to access the learning and the SATS papers! They build on the pupil’s knowledge, in preparation for SATs and their journey towards being secondary school ready.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to come and see us or give us a phone call!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Henderson