



Siskin Newsletter



Welcome to a new academic year!

I can't wait to begin my adventure with the Super Siskins. We have an exciting year in store, we will be diving into lots of new learning. It is, therefore essential that your child attends school and arrives promptly at the start of the day.

Topic: Why do people prefer urban living?

This term we will be comparing life in a rural, urban and coastal area. We will be exploring the geographical features of Warsop, London and Whitby, as well as practising our map-reading skills. Throughout our journey, we will collate a scrapbook of images, postcards, maps, souvenirs and information about each place. As part of this, we will explore 3D form in art by creating our own clay Big Ben Clock Towers as a souvenir from our 'virtual trip to London'.



We will use our knowledge from this topic to create a promotional travel video for Warsop in our computing lessons.

English

Our learning in English will be centred around books that link to our topic. We will read about Pippa's countryside adventures in 'Where the Wellies Take Me' and use this to create a setting description. We will also create our own acrostic poems about city life inspired by poetry in the book 'Overheard in a Tower Block'.

In grammar, we will focus on fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and the use of conjunctions to add detail to our writing. We will also have daily handwriting and spelling lessons to help pupils develop reading and writing skills.

Mathematics

In maths, Siskins will be learning about place value for the first five weeks. Having a secure understanding of place value is essential to develop in maths. We will focus on counting in hundreds, ordering and comparing numbers and identifying the value of digits by hundreds, tens and ones. We will also be focusing on addition and subtraction this half term in which we will explore different strategies, such as the column method, to add and subtract 3-digit numbers.

It is vital that pupils have a secure knowledge of number facts, we therefore strongly encourage children to practise their times tables at home. This can be done on 'Times Table Rockstars' (log in details are in reading diaries).

PE

This term pupils will have PE sessions on a **Thursday and Friday**. Please ensure pupils arrive in their PE kit on these days, this includes: a white t-shirt, black bottoms and trainers.

We will focus on developing our fitness, agility and co-ordination skills through circuit based activities and ball games.

Homework

Maths, English or topic homework will be **sent out every Thursday** and should be **handed in by the following Tuesday**. Homework will link to our learning each week so it is important that children return their homework on time to ensure they are prepared for new learning.

Weekly spellings will be stuck in reading diaries at the start of the week to allow children to practise these before the spelling quiz on Friday. To help embed the statutory spellings by the end of year 4, I will add two mystery words from A-D on the Y3/4 spelling list (found in reading diaries) each week.

Reading

It is essential that pupils are encouraged to read at home to develop their vocabulary, fluency skills and writing. It is expected that pupils read at home at least four times a week. Pupils are given a banded book, which is pitched to their reading ability. Pupils will progress through these bands as their fluency progresses. When your child reads at home to an adult, please sign their reading diary. Pupils should bring their reading diaries into school each day.

We want to foster a love of reading in our school. To help achieve this, pupils will also bring home a book from our **'100 books to read by the end of Y4'** initiative. The books have been carefully selected to represent an exciting range of authors, genres and time periods. Once a book has been read, pupils will be asked to write a recommendation for their peers, summarising the text and explaining what they as a reader enjoyed about it. For every five books that pupils read, they will be awarded a certificate.



*"The more that you read, the more you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."*

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to give us a phone call to either discuss there and then or make an appointment to meet with me on the playground.

I also like to keep you updated with our amazing learning via the school twitter, so please keep your eyes out for our wonderful work this year!



@birklandsschool

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to catching up with you throughout this year.

Miss. Goodwin