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Year 6 Newsletter

Welcome to the start of a new academic year! We cannot wait for the adventures that this year has in store for us!

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.

**What are we fighting for?**

This half term we will be exploring the question: what are we fighting for? Y6 have already expressed an interest in learning about WW1 and we felt that this would be a relevant theme as this year marks the centenary. During our study, we will explore what life was like for soldiers, why WW1 started and the relevance of the poppies. We have lots of exciting things to look forward to linked to our topic.

**English**

Linking with our theme, this half terms focus book will be ‘Archie’s war’ by Marcia Williams. We will be exploring the scrapbook style book and responding to it in a variety of ways. Over the half term, we aim to cover a range of genres including; diary entries, poems, job advertisements, comic strips and persuasive speeches. During grammar lessons we will be focussing on punctuation, paragraphs, tenses and relative clauses. 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.

**Mathematics**

We will begin this term by applying our understanding of number and place value, before moving onto consolidating our understanding of measures, geometry and fractions, decimals and percentages. 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.

**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.

**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 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