



Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School
WE BELIEVE, WE NURTURE, WE SUCCEED!

Year 6 Curriculum Newsletter

- This newsletter will give you an overview of the learning for your child this term.
- If you have any further questions or would like to discuss anything in more detail, please make an appointment to speak or meet with me.

Thank you - Miss Womersley

Spring Term 2024

English

Throughout spring, we will solely be focusing on 1 text in each half term, due to the shorter half terms. The spelling bookmarks will be sent home at the beginning of the topic to be practiced at home; they will also be available to view on seesaw.

In each English topic, all punctuation and grammar will be linked directly to the focus text. At the end of the half term, the children will write an extended piece of work using the taught skills, which will be assessed.

Spring 1

We will be exploring a newspaper article about a recent discovery made on the Galapagos islands. This links nicely with our Geography topic for this term, 'My Region and the USA'. As well as our science topic 'Animals and their habitats'. The children will have the opportunity to independently research the island and a new species ready to write their own newspaper report.

Spring 2

After half term, we will be writing a narrative based on a fictional horror character. The children will watch a short, animated film about the character and will interpret the storyline into their own story. This is certainly a firm favourite for Year 6!

The spelling test will be delivered on the final Friday of the half term. The other Friday lessons leading up to the test will be dedicated to practicing spelling and careful application into writing.



Homework

Each week, we will set talking homework, English and Maths on Wednesday to be complete by the following Monday. The talking homework and English will be uploaded onto Seesaw and Maths via MyMaths (unless stated otherwise). If your child has forgotten their login details, please let us know either by emailing the office or getting your child to ask us.

In order to prepare the children for Secondary School, the children will need to complete their homework during playtime if they do not complete it at home and within the time scale agreed.



Other things to note...

Miss Womersley will be teaching in class 6 all week, except Thursday afternoons when she will have her out of class time for planning, preparation and assessment. On Thursday afternoons Mrs Bromley will be with class 6 and she will teach PSHE and RE. Mrs Bromley will also be in class every morning, throughout this half term. Miss Grady will be working in Year 5 and Year 6 during the morning. She will spend some of Wednesday morning in Year 6 and all morning on Thursday.

Mathematics

The White Rose schemes of learning are designed to support a mastery approach to teaching and learning, as well as support the aims and objectives of the National Curriculum. The White Rose scheme provides opportunities to build reasoning and problem solving into each lesson. The children will be able to build on their abilities by following a concrete-pictorial-abstract approach where necessary (CPA).

Concrete: using concrete (real) objects and manipulatives to help them understand and explain what they are doing.

Pictorial: building upon the concrete approach by using pictorial representations, which can then be used to reason and solve problems.

Abstract: with the foundations firmly laid, children can move to an abstract approach using numbers and key concepts with confidence.

With this newsletter is a copy of our long term plan and a break down of the learning we will be covering this Spring Term in small steps.

The children will also have the opportunity to apply their knowledge to SATs style questions, using past papers as well as Learning by Questions.



PSHE

In spring 1 we will focus on living in the wider world—we will discuss media literacy and digital resilience, influences and decision-making and online safety. The children will learn to recognise risks and how they can keep themselves safe. This will also be covered in depth during keeping safe week.

In spring 2 the focus will be around health and wellbeing. The children will be exploring growing up, becoming independent, taking more responsibility for their health and generally just looking after themselves. They will talk about how they can independently look after themselves and how to recognise when they need support from others to sustain a healthy lifestyle.



Reading

Each day we have a dedicated reading lesson, where we focus on the skills for reading, understanding and comprehension. We read a mixture of non-fiction, fiction and poetry texts and answer text based questions. These questions may be to support vocabulary, infer, prediction, explanations, retrieval or summary.

Every day there's opportunity for the child to read their books independently as well as being read to by Miss Womersley.

It is of vital importance for children to read every day. Reading a wide range of different books stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. Please encourage your children to read at home every day, even if it is just for 10 minutes.

Social reading will take place once a week and the children can bring in their own reading material to share with others. The reading material can take many forms e.g. non-fiction texts, magazines, annuals etc.



Science

Our topic for Science this half term is Living things and their habitats. During this topic we explore classification of all living things. We use classification keys to identify living things based on their features and characteristics and also why they are grouped in specific ways. We will learn about microorganisms and the 5 groups. We will finish the topic by learning about Carolus Linnaeus, a scientist who developed taxonomy (a detailed way to classify).

We will then explore our new topic of Evolution. We will look at how living things can be recognised even though they have changed over time. We will look at living things and how they produce offspring of the same kind but can vary. Finally, we will discuss adaptation and how it can lead to evolution.



Religious Education

In Spring 1 we will be continuing in our 'Understanding Christianity' unit. The focus will be Creation and science: conflicting or complementary? The children will discuss theories and beliefs surrounding how the world was created and why people think differently about this period.

In Spring 2 the children will discuss 'What difference does the Resurrection make for Christians?'



Computing

The first part of the term we will be continuing to look at spreadsheets in more detail. We will then move onto coding: scratch.

Although specific skills will be taught during our computing lessons, the children will have opportunities to use these skills cross-curricular. This gives children the chance to put their learning into action and allows them to complete tasks like independent research.

Geography

Our geography topic in Spring 1 and 2 is 'My Region and the USA'. The children will learn about geographical location, weather, climate, rivers, biomes as well as human and physical geography. They will use the skills learnt to compare locations to our region. The children will have opportunities to research and complete project style work independently and in groups.



Art /Design Technology

During spring 1 the children will be focusing on photography. They will be creating photo montages, recreating famous paintings, digital album covers and macro photographs.

During spring 2, the children will be creating their own playground rides. They will need to be a structure (with a moving element) using specific requirements, suitable for an inclusive playground.



Physical Education

Indoor PE is Monday and outdoor PE is on Wednesday. Your child should come to school in their PE kit on these days. Please make sure your child has the correct kit in school: shorts, t-shirt and pumps for indoor & long trousers, a long sleeved top and trainers for outdoors. PE is a statutory requirement. If your child is unable to do PE for any reason, please come and speak to us. Jewellery must be removed for PE.

In Spring 1 our outdoor PE topic is fitness and our indoor Topic is Dance.

In Spring 2 we will move on to netball as our outdoor slot and gymnastics for indoor PE.

During the school week, we will be participating in the Daily Mile, with the aim of running a mile a day around our running track.

Music

Year 6 will be building on their composition skills by learning to play different genres of music. The children will need to create lyrics as well as manipulate chords in order to compose and improvise.

French

During the spring term, the children will be learning how to say information about family members as well as parts of the face. The children will be able to make links between sounds and spelling and understanding of sentence structure.