

Welcome to Year 6

We very much hope your child will have an enjoyable year with us.

Margo Rodrigo, Scott Griffin and Alex Woods are the Year 6 class teachers.

Hannah Childs, Bec Pass, Maria O'Neill, Helen Newman, Rachel Aris, Elizabeth Whelan and Genevieve Conway-Hughes are all part of the Year 6 support staff team.

Welcome back Year 6 families and new families who are joining us at Barnes! We are delighted to be back and are very much looking forward to a successful year.

This letter aims to give you a summary of what to expect in the curriculum this year, with a particular focus on the autumn term. Our aim, as always, is to ensure that every child's needs are met both academically, as well as socially and emotionally.

We will be hosting a Y6 curriculum evening on Monday 11th October in the KS2 hall at 9am. This will take place as part of the school journey meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, don't worry, as we will record it and you will be able to view it on the Y6 area of the school website.

The Year 6 Curriculum

The cross-curricular themes in Year 6 are: Dangerous Earth (autumn term); Maya History (spring term) and the Ancient Egyptians (summer term).

This term's theme, all about the fascinating world of natural disasters, will include

- Geography: using maps to locate natural disaster hotspots, learning about the structure of the Earth, plate tectonics and the formation of mountains, and a geographical enquiry focusing on San Francisco.
- Design and Technology: using cams to make reciprocal motion toys.
- History: historical enquiry focusing on the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD.
- Art: oil pastel work linked to a class text. Additional art work within this term is linked to our science topic on evolution and classification.

Further details about the Year 6 curriculum, including information about the books we will be studying and the maths topics we will be covering, are included on the Barnes Primary website [Year 6 curriculum map](#). We suggest looking at this document at the beginning of each term to see what your child will be learning about.

For more details about many of these topics, we have created [knowledge maps](#). This can help you understand what your child is learning in class and use it to discuss the topic with them. You could even create quizzes with them or ask them to present what they know.

There are many more pages on the [school website](#) which will help you understand our curriculum. These pages in particular are very helpful.

- The Year 6 page has lots of useful information. (Please note that we are in the process of updating this page from last year so we haven't made the link live.)
- The [mathematics page](#) discusses how we teach maths, has the mathematics knowledge maps, and some top tips for supporting at home
- The [reading page](#) discusses our philosophy on the teaching of reading, phonics information, suggestions for supporting at home and book lists.

Home Learning

Home learning will be given out on a Friday and collected on a Wednesday. Information about the task set will be posted on Teams. Please access your child's account in order to see the home learning for yourself. If you cannot access your account, please inform your class teacher. The login details, once we have them, will be located on the inside cover of your child's reading journal.

Home learning should take about 60 – 90 minutes. If your child is finding the work difficult (and you are unable to support or if it is creating problems) please encourage them to ask for our support at school and drop us a quick email to let us know. Over the year, the home learning activities will cover a range of subjects across the curriculum with an emphasis on reading comprehension, grammar, punctuation and spelling, mental maths and mathematical reasoning. To help us with this, we will be asking you to purchase two resources that we will be using to set homework:

- a Schofield and Sims mental maths book. The tasks set are to be completed directly into this book.
- a login to an online resource called SPaG.com. This will support their understanding of the grammar and punctuation curriculum. We will show the children how to use this resource in class before setting it as homework and the login details will be stored in your child's reading journals once we have been sent them.

Presentation and effort put into Home Learning are to be of the same standards as expected in the class. For further information on how we teach handwriting, please see the [handwriting page](#). It has videos of how we teach the children to form each letter and a workshop about how you can help at home.

Spelling

Children are given new spellings each Friday and they are tested the following week. In order to do this, children will need their spelling folder in school to be able to do this. We recommend that the folder is brought into school every day in your child's school bag in order to ensure it's there on the day they're

tested. We focus on the Year 6 spelling patterns (as prescribed in the National Curriculum) as well as the statutory lists of key words. These key words can be found in the UKS2 area of the website [here](#).

Reading Journals

Your child will be expected to maintain a reading journal. More details about their use can be found in the journals themselves. We ask children to have their reading journal and reading book with them **every day**. Children have been given set days to hand in their journal. For book recommendations, there is a long list of books in the journal and we encourage you to have a look at the recommended reading lists on the school website [here](#).

Labelling belongings

It is important that children take responsibility for organising their belongings. Please could all of your child's belongings – including shoes and PE kit – be labelled with your child's name.

Water bottles and healthy snacks

Every child needs a labelled **water bottle (please avoid glass bottles)**. Water bottles will go home every day for washing and refilling. Children can bring a **healthy snack** for break time. These should be fruit, dried fruit, vegetables, plain rice cakes, savory biscuits, yoghurt, cheese or a sandwich – no crisps, chocolate or sweet biscuits please. Please remember that we are a **nut free school**. Children's snacks and packed lunches should be nut product free.

Physical Education (PE)

PE for Year 6 will take place on **Monday and Thursday afternoons**. Therefore, children will need their PE kits on those days. This year, as PE is after lunch on both days, please can children wear their school uniform to school and bring their PE kits with them to change into. They will then wear their PE kits home and bring their uniforms home in their bags. No PE kits will be stored at school.

PE kit includes: a black branded t-shirt; plain black shorts; a long-sleeved top and black leggings to wear under the shorts and t-shirt on colder days; and the red, school sweatshirt.

All PE lessons with Miss Kwee will be outside. When it's cold children should wear black skins/leggings to go underneath black shorts.

Thursday PE takes place on alternate weeks. Week 1 – the first week back – will be 6RW and week 2 – the week before school journey – will be 6GW. Classes will then alternate after that.

Teams and enrichment

If your child was invited to either an English or maths teams, or an English or maths extension class, here are the times and location each:

- Maths team: Monday, 3:15-4:15 in the training room
- English team: Wednesday, 3:15-4:15 in 6GW
- Maths extension: Thursday, 8-8:45 in 6RW
- English extension: Wednesday, 3:15-4:30 in 6RW

These sessions will start after the school journey, so the week beginning 11th September. Please note that English extension will start after school journey week.

Arrival and dismissal

Children will enter the premises each morning by walking up the ramp and entering the building via the door by Mrs Wilson's classroom. They will then be dismissed via the double doors into the climbers playground and will leave the premises via the ramp.

Thank you to all those parents who have already emailed your child's class teacher to give permission for your child to walk home alone from school. Following parental feedback, a form has been produced for you to complete. Please can all parents who wish their children to travel to or from school alone fill in the form sent out via the KS2 office.

For children wishing to bring a mobile phone into school, you are also required to fill in a form. This has also been sent to you via the KS2 office.

Safeguarding

The [safeguarding page](#) has lots of information and links to support with any safeguarding needs. It also has an online **safeguarding presentation for parents and carers** of children of ages 3-13 that helps you keep children safe online at home.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this. We're all looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year with your children.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do email us – mrodrigo@barnes.richmond.sch.uk, sgriffin@barnes.richmond.sch.uk or awoods@barnes.richmond.sch.uk but please be mindful of the school's email guidelines.

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