Friday 5th January, 2024

Dear Parent / Carer / Guardians,

We hope that you and your family had a lovely Christmas and New Year. Pupils are now entering their last two terms at Blakehill and will soon begin the process of transitioning to secondary school. We endeavour to prepare children for the expectations and responsibility that’s associated with next year.

Pupils also have their end of Key Stage 2 SAT tests, which take place in May. Throughout the remainder of this year, we ask for your continued support. If you do have any questions, worries or queries, please feel free to speak to a member of the Year 6 team. Please note that our Year 6 residential will be with the Bushcraft Company in Castle Howard, York. We will be holding a parent briefing on 17th January, which will provide all the details including cost, activities and travel arrangements.

**Curriculum**

| ***Subject*** | ***Unit*** |
| --- | --- |
| Mathematics | Decimals  Percentages  Ratio  Algebra  Area, perimeter and volume.  Statistics |
| English | **Narrative**  narrative including dialogue  flashback  **Non fiction**  Journalistic writing  formal/informal writing  report writing |
| Science | Electricity (circuits)  Adaptations |
| History | Ancient civilisation study: The Maya |
| Geography | Longitude and latitude, understanding grid references (linked to the Amazon)   * Why are rainforests important? |
| Music | Ukulele tuition   * How does music bring us together? * How does music connect us with the past? |
| Computing | Website creating and 3D modelling. |
| Art | Art inspired by Frida Kahlo- linked to rainforests |
| DT | Building fairground rides using mechanisms |
| PSHE | Keeping safe |
| MFL | Spanish |
| RE | Sacred Places- Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. |
| PE | Gymnastics- balance and coordination  Tag rugby |

**Dates for your diary**

Please keep a record of the key dates linked to Year 6 below. **We ask that no children are taken out of school during SATs week.**

| **Friday 5th January 2024** | 6P class assembly |
| --- | --- |
| **Friday 12th January 2024** | 6N class assembly |
| **Wednesday 17th January 2024** | Year 6 residential parent information evening |
| **Thursday 7th March 2024** | World Book Day |
| **Monday 18th March 2024** | Tropical World |
| **Monday 13th May- Thursday 16th May 2024** | SATs week |
| **Wednesday 5th June -Friday 7th June 2024** | Year 6 Residential |
| **Wednesday 5th July 2024** | Transition day |
| **Tuesday 16th July 2024** | Year 6 production |
| **Thursday 11th July 2024** | Year 6 Prom (provisional) |
| **Friday 19th July 2024** | Year 6 award ceremony |

**Attendance and punctuality**

We would like to emphasise the importance of excellent attendance and hope that you and your child will make every effort to make sure that you are on time and ready for the school day. The school doors open for 08:30am for pupils with younger siblings in school, however the school day starts at 8.50 am for pupils in Year 6. Children should be in school by 9 am at the latest.

**Mobile Phones**

We understand that some pupils have mobile phones and that they use these as they walk to and from school on their own. We must stress that mobile phones should be turned off once your child has entered the school grounds. Mobile phones should then be given to a member of staff so that they can be securely put away during the school day and returned at the end of the day.

**Homework**

Homework will typically be set on a Friday, to be returned the completed by the following Wednesday. **Please can you support your child with homework to ensure it is being completed on a weekly basis.** The homework provided is given to support and consolidate pupils’ learning from that week or a previous week. It is used to check understanding of topics covered and helps us identify areas of learning that need further development. In the run up to SATs, we must stress that homework is important in preparing your child. If your child needs extra support with their homework, please contact a member of the Year 6 team via the school office.

**Spellings**

Spellings will be handed out to pupils on a Tuesday and tested the following Tuesday. These spellings will cover the Year 6 spelling curriculum. It is important that pupils are learning their spellings and we ask that you support your child with this. Spelling is a big part of your child's SAT tests. 20 marks are dedicated to the spelling test within the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) tests and children’s spelling is also taken into account within the GPS paper. In addition to this, pupil’s spelling is taken into account when the overall judgement is given for writing.

**Home Reading**In Year 6, children are typically given daily opportunities to change their reading books and we expect them to be independent enough to identify when they need to do this.   
  
It is essential that your child reads as frequently as possible to build their stamina for reading and we are looking for children to read **at least** three times a week at home – this should be recorded in their home reading record and brought into school so that we can register this. At the end of each week, we count up the number of times our class reads collectively over the week. If we have read more times than every other class, we will receive a book token to choose a book for our reading corner! We understand that parents/carers live busy lives but any time you can spare to listen to your child really would be extremely beneficial.

* If your child has a book ‘on the go’ at home, they are welcome to bring it to school to read during independent reading time.

**PE  
Indoor PE**: this takes place on a **Tuesday**afternoon. It is important that children have the correct, named kit for this: a white or blue plain t-shirt; black or blue shorts (tracksuit bottoms are also permitted) and black pumps.

**Outdoor PE:** this takes place on a **Thursday**afternoon. It is important that children have the correct, named kit for this: a white or blue plain t-shirt; black or blue tracksuit bottoms; a plain black or blue sweatshirt and a pair of trainers.

* Mr Brook, our Sports Coach, will lead both PE sessions.
* PE kits should be brought into school either in your child’s daily school bag or in a named pump bag that can be left in their cloakroom.

**Water Bottles**

To enable your child to have a drink of water, we would encourage a named water bottle be brought into school. Try to ensure your child’s bottle is of the non-spill variety. Bottles should be taken home daily to be cleaned.

**Uniform**

Please ensure that your child has the correct uniform (named so that it can be easily returned if lost), including black school shoes. If your child does not have suitable black school shoes, they will be given black pumps to wear throughout the day inside. Children can wear trainers at play times and lunch times but these must be changed back to school shoes ready for returning to lessons. Pupils are also required to wear a school tie with a white shirt or polo shirt and children in Key Stage 2 should have a school cardigan or V-necked school jumper.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to any of us at the end of the school day.

Yours sincerely,

**The Year 6 Team**

Mr Nicklin, Mr Poole, Mr Rhodes (Teaching Staff)

Mrs. Bedell and Miss Power (Teaching Assistants)