



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 us.

Thank you – Miss Womersley.

Autumn Term 2026

English

This year, our English lessons will continue to follow the Grammarsaurus programme. Each unit will run across a three-week cycle, with spellings taken directly from the focus text. Children will be given a spelling bookmark at the start of each unit to practise at home. All grammar and punctuation teaching will be rooted in the class text for that unit. At the end of each three-week cycle, the children will complete a longer piece of writing which will be assessed.

Autumn 1

We will begin by creating a persuasive advert encouraging people to support Fairtrade, which links to our geography theme *Trade and Economics*. Our next unit will focus on poetry, where the children will explore different forms, including Ottava Rima, Iambic Pentameter, and Free Verse.

Autumn 2

After the half-term break, we will move on to diary writing, taking inspiration from *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

To end the term, the children will write an explanation text titled *How did Britons survive the Blitz?*—both of these units connect with our World War II history topic.

Each three-week cycle will conclude with a spelling test on the final Friday. The two Fridays beforehand will be dedicated to spelling practice and revision. In addition to our main English units, Year 6 will also be learning to perform the poem *The Lion and Albert*, developing their fluency and confidence as readers.



Other things to note...

Miss Womersley will teach Class 6 throughout the week, except on Tuesday afternoons when she has time allocated for planning, preparation, and assessment (PPA). During this time, Mrs Stott will teach the class, delivering PSHE and Art/DT. Miss Grady will be in Class 6 on Tuesday and Friday mornings until 1:30pm.

Maths

At Barkisland, we use the White Rose Maths scheme. This scheme is designed to support a mastery approach to teaching and learning while also meeting the aims of the National Curriculum. In Y6, during the autumn term it is vital that children develop strong arithmetic skills to later apply their knowledge to more complex problems as we move through the year. Number is at the core of the White Rose approach, with plenty of time dedicated to strengthening children's understanding and fluency. Each lesson also builds in opportunities for reasoning and problem-solving. Where needed, children are supported through the *concrete-pictorial-abstract* (CPA) approach:

- **Concrete:** using practical resources and manipulatives to explore and explain their ideas.
- **Pictorial:** moving on to visual representations, which help children to deepen understanding and apply reasoning.
- **Abstract:** with secure foundations, children progress to using numbers and symbols with confidence.

Alongside this newsletter, you will find a copy of our long-term plan and a breakdown of the small steps of learning we will be covering during the Autumn Term.



Homework

During the Autumn Term, there will be no formal weekly homework, allowing children to focus on the expectations of Year 6 and ensuring that their workload remains manageable.

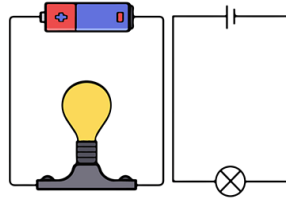


Talking Homework will still be shared via ClassDojo, providing opportunities to discuss your child's learning at home. We also ask that reading at home is prioritised, as regular reading continues to be incredibly important in Year 6.

Science

Our topic for science this first half term is Animals including humans. To start the topic, we will be focussing on the circulatory system and the specific functions of the heart. We will then explore the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on our bodies. The learning in this topic is built on from Year 4 when the children studied the digestive system.

For Autumn 2, Year 6 will be focussing on electricity. We will design and build successful circuits and begin to compare and give reason for variations. We will look at representing circuits with recognised symbols. This will build on previous knowledge gained throughout KS2.



Reading

Three times a week, we have a dedicated reading lesson where we focus on developing key skills such as understanding, comprehension, and vocabulary. The children read a mixture of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry texts, answering questions that may involve vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval, or summarising. These lessons follow the *Plazoom* scheme, which the children are already familiar with from Year 5. In addition, every day the children have time to read independently, as well as the opportunity to be read to by Miss Womersley. Once a week, we also hold a *social reading* session, where children are invited to bring in their own reading material to share with others. This can be in many forms, such as non-fiction texts, magazines, or annuals.

Reading regularly is vital. Exploring a wide range of books not only supports learning but also sparks imagination and broadens children's understanding of the world. We ask that you encourage your child to read at home every day, even if it is just for 10 minutes.

PSHE

Autumn 1 - Managing Money and Online Spending - This unit explores economic wellbeing and online financial harms – including targeted advertising and other influences on online spending

Autumn 2 - Mental Health and Wellbeing - This unit revisits and builds on prior learning about mental health, helping pupils to explore strategies that support wellbeing – including in the context of the transition to secondary school.

Mrs Stott will teach PSHE throughout Year 6, on Tuesday afternoon.



Religious Education

In Autumn 1 we will be looking at 'What will make Barkisland a more respectful place?'. We will be exploring diversity of faith within our community and how people with differing beliefs live in harmony.

In Autumn 2, we will be exploring the question 'What would Jesus do?' a topic based on the understanding of the Christian faith and how teachings guide Christians throughout life.

Computing

Autumn 1 is dedicated to iSafe. We begin the year by looking at our acceptable use agreement, how to stay safe online and effective online communication. This is particularly important for Y6 as lots of the children have their own devices at home and communicate with peers.

After half term we will start the iProgram topic where we develop computational thinking and animations with Scratch.

History/Geography

Our first block will focus on Geography, where we will explore Trade and Economics with a particular emphasis on its impact in the United Kingdom. We will also look at Fairtrade farming and consider how trade creates global connections.

In Autumn 2, our topic will be World War II. The children will learn when and why the war began, as well as the key individuals and countries involved. We will also investigate what life was like for those on the Home Front, including evacuation, food rationing, and the vital role women played in the war effort. In addition, we will cover significant events such as the Holocaust, the Battle of Britain, and the German invasion of Russia, examining how these shaped the course of the war.



Art/Design & Technology

In Autumn 1 we will start with drawing – Expressing my ideas through art work. The street art topic focusses on developing pupils' skills in using different art styles, exploring effects with scale, texture, tone and depth. Whilst understanding and creating symbolic and expressive drawings.



Children will be encouraged to form their own opinions about art, understand the impact of techniques, and convey messages through their artwork.

In Autumn 2 we will turn our hand to textile work and design then make our own product. We will learn about pattern design, cutting fabric, using a running stitch neatly and adding decoration. We will consider the client and theme of our design to ensure it is attractive and fit for purpose.

Mrs Stott will teach art and DT throughout Year 6, on Tuesday afternoon.

PE

In Autumn 1, our PE lessons will focus on Volleyball and Tag Rugby. The children will develop key skills such as teamwork, communication, and tactical awareness, while also improving their coordination, agility, and overall fitness.

In Autumn 2, we will move on to Badminton and Outdoor and Adventurous Activities (OAA). These units will give the children the opportunity to build their racket skills, accuracy, and control, as well as to challenge themselves through problem-solving and team-based activities in an outdoor setting.

Our PE days are Monday and Wednesday, the children need to come to school in their PE kit on these days and jewellery must be removed.

Music

In Autumn 1, the children will build on their ukulele skills from Year 5 with Miss Reynolds, developing their confidence in performing, composing and playing together.

In Autumn 2, we will begin our Grime topic using Yumu Studio, where the children will explore the genre and learn from a real Grime artist before creating music of their own.

French

In Autumn 1, we will be looking at the topic 'Welcome to School' where we will learn vocabulary based around being at school. This includes general conversation, questions and commands.

In Autumn 2, our topic will be My Town, Your Town. The children will learn to describe places in their local area and beyond, use simple sentences to give directions, and talk about what can be found in different towns.