

15.01.18

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of the Spring Term. We are very much looking forward to the term ahead and we hope that the following information proves useful to you, however please feel free to come and discuss with us any other questions you may have.

Curriculum:

We will be continuing to work with children from other year groups, primarily Year 5, which will help the children share ideas and extend their learning collaboratively.

Our topic this term is 'Ancient Egypt'. We will be learning about the life and empire of the Egyptians between the years 3100 BC - 332 BC, by completing many hands on and practical investigations and projects. We are very excited about this topic and the children will be responsible for choosing some of their own learning from an exciting range of activities and tasks linked with the topic. We will be teaching this topic through a variety of workshop style sessions, where children will work with teachers, in groups and independently to develop a range of skills and abilities.



'Ancient Egypt' Topic Overview:

Art – Developing a number of art skills to create a frieze and creating our own Egyptian jewellery.
D&T – Into the kitchen to prepare Ancient Egyptian cake and using problem solving skills to build a giant pyramid.

History – Learning about daily Egyptian life; contrasts between now and then; sequencing historical events; The Nile food and farming; and the impact of this civilization on the world today.

Geography – The River Nile map work and charting rainfall.

Computing – Bringing the Pharaoh to life using picture editing software and coding.

Science – Light and Animals including humans

This term our science topics are 'light' and 'Animals including Humans'. Linked to our F.I.N.D Erasmus project, the pupils will be working on a variety of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) questions that they will generate and investigate. We will be using our new 'Future Classroom Lab' to enhance this work and to enable the pupils to develop their skills.

Interventions:

During Year 6, most children will be selected to take part in intervention sessions and booster groups. These will take place at different times during the day across the course of the week. These extra sessions are designed to give targeted support to the children and to support them in preparation for the SATs tests which will take place in May 2018.

Playtime:

In Key Stage 2 we are keen that children think carefully about making healthy choices for their playtime snacks. Please can children in Key Stage 2 bring in a fruit snack for playtimes rather than eating alternative snacks. Children should also remember to bring in a **water** bottle each day, which can be kept in the classroom. Please can all children make sure that they name their water bottle and remember to take their water bottles home at the end of the day, thank you. Please can we remind you that the children should only bring water in their water bottle, thank you.



Please can we remind all parents that children should **not** bring nuts to school either as a snack or part of their packed lunch, thank you.

Parent Helpers:

At Howes we recognise the valuable contribution that all members of our community make to our school. We are always happy to welcome helpers into the classroom, so if you would like to volunteer to help in any way please do come and speak to us. Here are some of the ways you may like to offer support:

- By joining the Friends of Howes team
- By hearing children read
- By supporting us on school trips
- By helping to organise Accelerated Reader or other resources



Behaviour Expectations

Howes is a friendly and caring community and we are keen for our children to take on these and other values. We will continue to follow our “Golden Rules” to ensure that there are clear expectations for pupils at Howes. We would very much like parents and carers to help us in reinforcing these values with your children.

To encourage pupils to make the right choices, we will be working towards collecting minutes each week to achieve enough minutes for a POWER HOUR at the end of the term. However children who break the Howes “Golden Rules” will miss some or all of the time from this activity. Alternatively, in some circumstances they may be asked to spend time reflecting on their behaviour during playtime or lunchtime.

Celebration Assemblies

Our Friday Celebration Assemblies will be continuing this term at 9.00am. Two children from each class will be nominated to receive an award for an aspect of outstanding work, achievement or behaviour. Parents will be invited to come into school for the assembly when their child is awarded their certificate. You will receive a letter on a Wednesday to inform you that your child has been nominated.

We will also be continuing to promote excellent handwriting and presentation in all work across the curriculum. During the term there will be some children selected from each class who will be presented with ‘Presentation’ certificates.

In Key Stage 2 we will be continuing to celebrating achievements in Accelerated Reader. Every month the children from each class who have read the most words, read the most books and achieved the highest overall percentage in reading will have their photograph displayed in school. We will also either Tweet this information or share it via our school newsletter.

PE:

This term Year 6 pupils will have PE lessons on a Monday and on a Friday afternoon. Please ensure that your child has a **clearly named** PE kit which should consist of a T-shirt, shorts and pumps; they

should also bring suitable kit for outdoor lessons. PE kits should be brought into school in a named, drawstring bag please. If for any reason your child is unable to take part in PE lessons we require a note of explanation. Please can you remind your children that earrings should be removed before PE lessons, thank you.

Uniform:

In our first assembly this year Miss Cooke spoke to the children about taking great pride in their appearance and wearing the correct school uniform. Staff will be continuing to remind children about the uniform expectations at school regularly. Please support us in ensuring that your child wears the correct uniform, thank you.

Recommended Clothing

- Royal blue sweatshirts/cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore dress
- Blue checked dress in summer if preferred
- Plain shoes (not trainers)
- Reversible waterproof fleece jacket.



At Howes we ask the children to wear a pair of outdoor shoes to and from school and whilst outside at playtime/lunchtime as this enables them to make the most of the school grounds during the wetter weather. Once they arrive at school we ask the children to change into indoor shoes. Please could we ask you to encourage your child to bring a pair of named indoor shoes to keep at school, such as slippers, school shoes or pumps. Thank you.

Children with long hair should come to school with their hair tied back please.



For safety reasons children should not wear jewellery to school. We ask that children with pierced ears should only wear stud earrings. Please can we remind you that nail varnish should not be worn at school, thank you.

Homework:

We ask you to encourage your child to complete and return their homework on time each week.

Accelerated Reader – Children in Key Stage 2 will have the opportunity to read for 30 minutes in school on most days. An important part of the Accelerated Reading (AR) programme is that children read for a sustained period on a daily basis. Children should aim to spend at least 30 minutes **each day** reading their books as part of their homework.

Maths – Pupils will be given a booklet of Maths homework for the term, containing a piece of homework per week. Children should complete their homework in their Maths homework book return it each week on a Friday.

English – Every Friday your child will receive a piece of English homework (linked to an aspect of grammar, punctuation or comprehension and writing) and/or a set of spellings to learn, linked to a spelling pattern or common words list. They should complete their homework in their English homework book and return it by the following Friday. **We will go through the homework together during the English lesson every Friday and spellings will also be tested so please ensure that homework is completed on time.**

Topic – Children may be asked to complete extra tasks as part of our current topic work.

Please do contact us if you would like more ideas about supporting your child in the run up to SATs.

Absences and Medical Needs:

We would like to remind you that if your child is going to be absent please telephone the school office at the number above as soon as possible. Any medication that your child requires during the day should be given to the Office, for a First Aider, in the original container and a medical administration consent form needs to be completed. Inhalers must be named and be handed in to your child's class teacher to be stored safely in the classroom.

Timings of the day:

Attendance at Howes is improving, however this term we need to work together to maintain and further improve school attendance. It is essential that all pupils arrive promptly in order to start the school day at 8.55am. So that children are ready to come into school at this time, we would ask that all children are present on the playground at least 5 minutes before the school bell sounds.

The end of the school day for pupils in Key Stage 2 is at 3.20pm. Please note that this is 5 minutes later than Key Stage 1 pupils.

To ensure the safety of all children the school gates are locked at 9am and again at 3:30pm.

Children walking home:

If you give permission for your child to walk home on their own at the end of the day please could you send a signed letter to school for our records, thank you.

Important Events for Year 6 Pupils:

Thursday 18 th January	Science Museum Workshops
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day
Monday 12 th February	Parent Consultation Meetings
Friday 16 th February	Last day of half term
19 th – 23 th February	Half Term
Monday 26 th February – Friday 2 nd March	Scholastic Bookfair
Thursday 1 st March	World Book Day
Thursday 30 th March	End of Spring Term – Break up for Easter Holiday

We are looking forward to continuing to working with you and your children this term.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Townsend
Mrs Liley

