

28.04.17

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of the Summer 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 'Land Use'. We will be learning about budgeting, designing and building a show garden that the children will have to fully construct and maintain over the summer term. The children will be keeping track of everything they do by completing a journal to review and evaluate their work. The topic will be very hands on allowing the children to develop lots of real life skills and will also allow the children to use theory learnt in the classroom in a real world environment. 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.



### 'Land use' Topic Overview:

Art – Garden design, annotated sketching.

D&T – Constructing gardens including both hard and soft landscaping. Using tools.

Geography – Scales, map reading.

Computing – Design and research.

### Science – Animals including humans

This term we will be learning about the structure and function of the circulatory system, the transportation of water and nutrients around the body, healthy lifestyles including: exercise and the impact of drugs and alcohol. 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.

### 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. Please can we remind you that the children should only bring water in their water bottles, thank you.

We do ask that children **do not** bring nuts into school for break or lunchtime as we have a number of children who have severe nut allergies and as such, we are a nut free school.

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 speak to Mrs Bolland. 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 having ‘Power Hour’ at the end of the term to reward children for their good behaviour, however pupils who have broken the Howes “Golden Rules” during the week will miss some or all of the time from this session. 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.

### **PE Kits and Uniform:**

This term Year 6 pupils will have PE lessons on a Monday and Tuesday 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.

Please also ensure that your child attends school wearing the correct school uniform. For information about this please visit: <http://howesprimary.co.uk/Uniform/>

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

Please can we remind you that children who wear earrings should only wear studs or sleepers and that nail varnish should not be worn at school.

### **Indoor/Outdoor Shoes:**



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.

### **Homework:**

We ask you to encourage your child to complete and return their homework on time each week. Please ensure that you sign your child’s home school diary at home each week. The children have worked extremely hard in preparation for their SATs tests and have completed a lot of extra homework, so towards the end of the summer term, homework will be reduced.

**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** – Before SATs, pupils will complete their revision booklets. After SATs, pupils will complete online activities linked to the class blog.

**English** – This term, pupils will be given a short paragraph of writing or writing plan to complete each week or play script lines to learn for our end of year production.

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

**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 this. 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.

**Important Events for Year 6 Pupils:**

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs tests for Year 6 pupils
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	RNLI water safety – Year 5 and 6
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 height and weight checks
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of Half Term
29 <sup>th</sup> May – 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Half Term and INSET week
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Non-uniform day/FOH disco
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Greenpower race event - Stafford
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 5/6 performance dress rehearsal
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5/6 performances
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 transition day
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Non-uniform day (50p donation to summer fayre)
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole school sports morning and family picnic
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year reports
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 6 celebration day
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 leavers assembly and last day of Summer Term

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

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Townsend and Mrs Liley