

PRIMARY 6 NEWSLETTER, TERM 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year at Blackfriars Primary School. I hope you've had a great summer and are ready to get into new learning.

Gym Days

Children in PE are currently attending swimming lessons at the Gorbals Leisure Centre. This will continue for 10 sessions each Monday. Please remember to send your child to school with their swimming kit each week. Children will have an additional PE day on Thursdays, taught to them by Mrs Saeed. On these days, please send your child to school in appropriate trousers or leggings and trainers.

Please also leave earrings at home on those days as these could get caught and hurt the children quite badly.

Literacy

There are some exciting changes to our literacy programme ahead. At Blackfriars, we are now following the Active Literacy Programme, which places an emphasis on teaching children the reading strategies of prior knowledge, metalinguistics, visualisation, inference and summarising. These skills will be taught using a class novel. Whilst children in P6 will not take their class novel home, there may be some children for whom a reading book will be sent home. If this is the case for your child, please ensure that the book is looked after and returned to school each day. I can't recommend reading at home enough. It is such a useful and positive activity that will help your child's learning and development in incredible ways. We are lucky to have a well-stocked library in the Gorbals, and I am more than happy to assist with finding audio books for those families for whom reading at home may not be practical.

Numeracy

Although not as dramatic as is the case with literacy, numeracy is also seeing a bit of a change. Glasgow has released a new math framework that does not change the curriculum or learning outcomes, but does change the order in which we teach it. This term we will be covering a range of topics such as place value, rounding, addition and subtraction word problems, data handling and angles. All of these topics are revisited more than once throughout the year, so you'll find that your child will cover small parts of a range of topics, then return to those and cover more as the year goes on.

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

This year we are continuing a 'project based' approach to our IDL (topic), which means that children will work towards completing a goal by the end of a few weeks, all the while learning about a new topic through lots of different subjects. There will be two topics per term, and we will be starting ours with the Victorians.

Health and Wellbeing

There will be focussed Health and Wellbeing weeks this year, with the first full week having been a recap/review of the Zones of Regulation, which children learned about at the end of last year.

Regarding snacks, we still recommend that children bring in healthy snacks such as fruit, rather than crisps or chocolate.

IMPORTANT - We have a child in school with a severe nut allergy. Nuts are not allowed in the school under any circumstances; please double check snacks and lunches for traces of nuts.

Music

Towards the end of last academic year, we have some of our p5 and P6 pupils take part in guitar lessons. We are currently looking at bringing guitar tutors back for upper school students and I will have more info for you regarding this in the coming weeks.

Homework

Homework will continue to be sent out over Seesaw. All children will have a homework jotter sent home to them. If you also require hard copies of homework sent home then please let me know. If you want homework checked, I will be able to stamp the homework jotter to ensure I have looked through it.

Meet the Teacher

This Wednesday 26th August, there will be a meet the teacher session from 15:15 to 16:15. This will be done in three sessions to allow parents with more than one child at the school to meet all their teachers. The initial session will be 30 minutes long and this will contain whole school information as well as class information. The following two sessions will be 15 minutes long each and will contain only class information.

How can I help my child?

- Spelling practice - this will help your child to remember new spelling rules and unfamiliar words, which will be a huge help for their reading.

- Read as often as possible. Children become better readers only through practice and it's important that they can choose books themselves that they are interested in.
- Read books with your children - hearing an adult read will model good practice.
- Complete weekly Sumdog challenges to earn coins! Sumdog is a fantastic way for children to learn their maths skills.
- Select your child's lunch option each day. This saves us lots of valuable learning time in class.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated and I look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Mr Jones

Class Teacher