



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

A warm welcome back to school and into an exciting year of learning in Year 5/6.

The curriculum in Terms 1 and 2 - Maafa

Our driver topic for Terms 1 and 2 is Maafa - a detailed exploration of Africa, past and present, with a particular focus on Benin. Children will trace the origins of the slave trade and consider Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade, the causes and consequences of the European colonisation of Africa and the worldwide communities that make up the African diaspora. Alongside the main history unit, we will be exploring the circulatory system in science; honing our geographical skills through the study of OS maps and atlases; exploring colour theory and the work of significant black artists in art; and understanding processed food and healthy food choices in DT. All this is interwoven into our rich and varied weekly teaching timetable.

Supporting knowledge organisers will be available on our class pages of the school website shortly. We will be using these regularly in school to help guide our learning and they are an excellent way for you to share in this and discuss it with your children.

Our unit will end with a Fabulous Finish parent pizza party, where you will be able to come and share a fun meal created by your children, using the skills and knowledge learned in their DT unit this term.

Parental involvement: supporting your child's learning at home

We will send home a list of the words all children are expected to spell correctly by the end of Years 5 and 6. Regular practice of small groups of words at home will help children to retain their knowledge of the key spellings and will reinforce our spelling lessons at school.

Reading at home

Children should be reading daily at home, for at least 20 minutes. Reading aloud to an adult is a vital skill and builds their confidence, fluency and extends their vocabulary – it also improves their writing. We are continuing to use Accelerated Reader, which gives your child the opportunity to read books at an appropriate level. Children then complete a quiz on that book (at home or in school) before they can choose a new one from our library.

Just a gentle reminder that parents can still be reading to their children at this age as well – many children will enjoy the quality time together sharing a book, and it is hugely beneficial for their own reading skills and enthusiasm for reading.

Times tables at home

Regular practice on TTRockstars is important to continue to secure, reinforce and consolidate your child's knowledge of the times tables, which will in turn assist them in many other areas of maths. To encourage this, there are regular online battles between the Year 5/6 classes as well as between the houses across the school.

Homework

A short survey will be coming out in the first few weeks of term to ascertain parental feedback and views on homework expectations for years 5 and 6. This will be used, in combination with curriculum requirements, to shape homework for the coming academic year.

Year 5 and 6 Jobs

All children in Year 6 now hold an important school-wide role of responsibility - these include House Captains, Eco Council, School Librarians, Digital Leaders and School AV Assistants. All Year 5 and 6 students will also support the younger students at lunchtime play.

There are also many opportunities for the children in Years 5 to develop their sense of responsibility as a role model and member of the school and class community. A range of jobs will be discussed in class during the first few weeks of term 1.

School Council and Eco Reps

We are delighted that the school has recently achieved the Eco Schools Green Flag Award through the dedication and hard work of the school council and eco council. These are a vital part of BGPS, as the pupils' voice is important to both us as a school as well as our local community and planet! Child representatives will be elected in each class to take part in these groups. They will make key decisions on the things they feel are important to their school experience. Teachers will discuss these roles with their classes over the next few weeks.

Arrival at school, equipment and uniform

All children in Year 5/6 should enter by the door on the middle playground. An adult will be on duty to welcome them in, between 8.40 and 8.50 each day, when the register will be taken and lessons begin. In the afternoon, children in Year 5/6 will leave from the same door at 3.15.

All children should bring their current reading book into school each day, as well as home again for their evening reading.

Children should bring in a reusable (not single use plastic) water bottle – this can be refilled at school during the day as needed.

All other equipment that your child needs is provided by the school, which means that pencil cases are not needed. Children will be allocated their own peg so any bag must fit into this space. Large backpacks are not appropriate.

Please note that children should not bring anything in from home unless with prior agreement is obtained from our Inclusion Team and your child's class teacher.

Uniform

Uniform promotes a sense of belonging and equality. We expect our children to demonstrate pride in their appearance and respect for the school uniform. **Please ensure your child is in correct uniform at all times.**

We expect our children to demonstrate pride in their appearance and respect for the school uniform. Year 5 and 6 are the role models for the rest of the school and so it is particularly important that they set a good example.

Grey tailored trousers or shorts

Grey skirt, pinafore dress

White shirt/polo shirt

White short-sleeved shirt/blouse

School bottle green round neck/V-neck sweatshirt or sweatshirt fabric cardigan

School tie (optional)

Black tights

Grey socks (white socks can be worn with dresses)

Green checked dress

Black shoes

Children should be well-presented and their white shirt/polo shirt must be tucked in at all times. Girls' skirts or dresses should be a suitable length to allow them to run and play comfortably. Children must wear sensible black shoes to school, NOT TRAINERS or BOOTS.

Pupils with hair long enough to be tied back, should have their hair tied back at all times. Makeup and nail varnish (including false/acrylic/biab/gel nails and lashes) are not permitted. Excessive hair accessories, extreme hair styles, or dyed or coloured hair are not permitted. No jewellery except for one, small, stud earring is allowed in each ear. Analogue watches are encouraged but SMART watches are not allowed.

Many items are available from the school office. To order uniform please click on the link <https://www.brigade.uk.com/parents/> or visit the uniform section on our website.

The Parent and Teachers' Association also runs an excellent second-hand uniform shop on site.

PE

This term, we have **PE on a Monday**. Please ensure that your child comes into school wearing their PE kit on this day. If a child is unable to join in with the P.E lessons due to injury they should still come in their full P.E. kit as they will contribute to the learning and assessment of skills covered. Pupils with hair long enough to be tied back should have their hair tied back at all times and earrings must be taken out before all P.E. lessons. Teachers are not allowed to take earrings out for children so please ensure it is done before they arrive at school that morning.

PE kit:

Trainers

House colour T-shirt

Black PE shorts

Green track suit bottoms or black skins underneath the black shorts may be worn for outdoor games in cold weather. Skins must not be worn without black shorts over the top.

All items of uniform need to be clearly marked with your child's name

Swimming

We are pleased to let you know that Year 5/6 will be swimming in Term 1. Swimming sessions start in Week 2:

Maple - Tuesday

Oak - Wednesday

Your child will need their swimming kit, swimming hat, towel and goggles (if they use them) on their allocated day.

Swimming will be in Term 1 only. Parents will be advised of our additional PE day in due course.

Outdoor Learning and Forest School

We hope to have lots of opportunities for outdoor learning so please make sure your children have suitable footwear and waterproof jackets in school every day. This really is essential as we move into the winter months.

Extra-Curricular Activities

At BGPS we are very lucky to have so many clubs during lunchtimes, before and after school and which are run voluntarily. The timetables will be issued shortly for these. Please remember if your child signs up to a club they must tell the adult in charge if they cannot attend for an important reason.

End of the Day

As you know safeguarding your children is paramount at BGPS and it is essential for all that this continues at the end of the school day. We ask for your support to help ensure that we are sending your children off the school site in the manner that you expect us to.

- If children are not leaving school with a parent and carer that we have on record, then you must advise the school office of this as otherwise we have to ensure that a phone call is made to confirm that you are happy for this to happen.
- If you have a child in **Year 6** who you are happy to walk home from school on their own, please inform us in writing (email) so we are aware of this.

If your **Year 6** child walks home from school alone, and you wish them to carry a mobile phone for safety, these must be turned off and handed in to the class teacher when they arrive at school. They will be kept in the office during the school day and returned to them at the end of the day. Year 5 children are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school.

Please see the school calendar for other information and **key dates**

Finally, if you have any concerns that you would like to raise with us then please do so: we are always happy to discuss any issues with you and deal with them as soon as possible.

Best wishes,
Mrs Gordon and Mrs Quantick

Pack your child a
HEALTHY LUNCH BOX

Choose a variety of foods from each food group



Fruit	
+	
Vegetables	
+	
Dairy	
+	
Wholegrains	
+	
Lean meat & alternatives	
=	A Healthy Lunch Box



MAKE WATER YOUR DRINK

PACK ICE BRICKS TO KEEP FOOD COOL

USE A THERMOS TO KEEP FOOD WARM

NSW Health

This resource was developed and designed by the Health Promotion Service, Western Sydney Local Health District, with consultation by South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District.