

## Spruce, Sycamore and Walnut

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

### News and Reminders

We want to begin by saying a huge well done to all of the children! They have had an amazing first month back at school and have settled in really well. They have shown a positive attitude towards their learning and have been extremely supportive of one another.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

As the children move into Year 5 and 6, they are given opportunities to undertake more roles and responsibilities throughout the school. We are pleased to announce that this year's Head Boy and Head Girl are Dexter and Callie. The Year 5 children acting as Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) this year are: David, Dylan J, Emily, Emma, Jayden and Stanley M. They have already been busy supporting Mrs Moore with Bike to School Week - giving an assembly to the whole school and designing posters to promote the event! Each class has also appointed their Eco Council and School Council representatives. These will be announced within our next newsletter.

Over the next few weeks, the children in Year 6 will also be able to apply for the role of House Captain or Ambassador. They will undertake different application processes. These will also be announced in the next newsletter.



#### **Harvest**

The children are practising their harvest songs and will soon be learning their parts for this year's celebration. This year, we are hoping that we will be able to have a more 'normal' service at the church. The children are looking forward to performing to a live audience but we will monitor the situation carefully as we would have to cancel should the number of Covid cases rises. The date for the performance can be found in the 'Diary Dates' section and more information will be sent out closer to the time.

#### **Weather change**

As the weather is on the change, please could you ensure that the children are sent into school with a raincoat as rain showers are becoming more common. Also, please bear in mind that the classrooms are still well ventilated so jumpers and cardigans are useful when the children feel chilly.

### Logins for websites

Just to remind you, your child has a login for Seesaw (where homework is set and online learning takes place), Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots - a maths fluency website, Spelling Shed where spellings are set, Maths Shed (accessible on Spelling Shed login) and Accelerated Reader. We appreciate that this can take time to get your head around but if you need any logins for your child please contact us at [year56team@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:year56team@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk).

### Visitors

We are really looking forward to our Art and DT Day on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October. This will link to our current topic about World War II. Later in October, we will also be having a World War II Sparkle Day with visitors from 'History Off the Page' coming in for the day. Further details about this event will be sent out via ParentMail.

### Homework

The children will be set homework each week on Monday. This should be completed by the following Monday at the latest. Homework will include:

- A weekly Maths task which will be set on Seesaw.
- A weekly SPaG task which will be set on Seeaw.
- Daily reading. The children can quiz at home using this website: [ukhosted93.renlearn.co.uk/6703196](http://ukhosted93.renlearn.co.uk/6703196)
- A spelling activity which will be set on spelling shed. The spelling activity will link to the spelling ladder that your child is on. They need to complete at least 4 games to practise their words.
- Regular practise on Numbots and Timetables Rock Stars. This will help to develop your child's fluency of number facts which will increase their confidence in other areas of maths.

Homework club is available for any child who would like to complete some of their homework in school or feel that they need some support with it. Children will need to attend homework club the Friday before their homework is due in.

Please note: a spelling tests will take place in the last week of half term. Twenty spellings will be chosen from the list of 100 that have been sent out via Seesaw (and that are uploaded on Spelling Shed each week).

Please can you ensure that your child is completing their homework if you are having any problems with completing the homework please let us know on [year56team@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:year56team@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk)

## Our Learning



**Inclusion Week:** At the beginning of half term, we celebrated Inclusion Week and looked at different visible and hidden disabilities and difficulties. The children asked insightful questions and used their research skills to learn about a topic that interested them. We also had the privilege of having visitors come into school – sharing their experiences and answering lots of questions.



**Literacy:** In Literacy, we are studying 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll. From the first chapter, the children have been engrossed and they have already completed a n array of activities based on the text. These have included: drama, writing from the perspective of different characters, recording a diary entry and predicting and writing the next chapter of the book. In addition, in weekly reading sessions, they have been reading 'Rose Blanche' by Ian McEwan. It is so enlightening to see the children so passionate about the texts and their learning.



**Maths:** We began our Maths learning this half term by looking at place value: understanding the value of digits; ordering and comparing numbers and rounding. Year 5 are now learning about addition and subtraction, while Year 6 are learning about multiplication and division. The children learn a range of methods in school and use different representations. Their weekly arithmetic homework may include similar questions so they have opportunities to apply the methods they have learnt at home.

**Topic:** Our topic this half term is World War II and builds upon the children's learning about World War I in Year 3 and 4. They have started to learn about key people and events during the war and have also identified allies and axis powers. Linked to their Literacy learning, they have written a letter from the perspective of a child evacuee. Our Art and DT Day on Monday will give them the opportunity to bake some World War II ration recipes (they will bring their creations home to taste), as well as completing some Blitz themed silhouettes.



**Science:** This half term, we are learning about forces. The children can name and identify different sources and have also worked cooperatively when completing experiments investigating gravity and air resistance. This has involved using scientific equipment, such as newton meters. The children have been so enthused by the topic and would even love to visit the apple tree that inspired Isaac Newton to develop his theory about gravity!



**RE:** Our question for this half term is 'Do Muslims need the Qur'an?' The children have begun to learn about the Qur'an and its significance to Muslims. They have considered the messages included within the sacred book and compared it to other religious texts. They have also spoken thoughtfully about the respect shown to the Qur'an.

### Superstar Learners

**Christian Values Certificates:** Well done to those children who have been awarded a Christian Value certificate.

Spruce	Sycamore	Walnut
Alicia: Love Annabel: Responsibility Jasmine: Honesty Lily: Cooperation	Finch: Cooperation Iris: Responsibility Joseph: Cooperation Kyle: Respect	Grace: Responsibility Jacob A-D: Honesty Ilaria Rose: Cooperation Imran: Responsibility

### Diary Dates

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October:** World War II Art and DT Day.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October:** Individual photos

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October:** Year 6 Transition Test results sent out by county.

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October:** World War II Sparkle Day (more information to follow)

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October:** Harvest Performance (more details to follow)

**Reading:** Here is the leader board for class word count and number of quizzes passed over the past month:

Word Count (September)	Percentage of Quizzes Passed (September)
1 <sup>st</sup> : Walnut	1 <sup>st</sup> : Walnut (95%)
2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sycamore	2 <sup>nd</sup> : Spruce (93%)
3 <sup>rd</sup> : Spruce	3 <sup>rd</sup> : Sycamore (90%)

**Numbots and Times Table Rock Stars:** Well done to the following children who have earned the highest amount of coins over the past month.

	Spruce	Sycamore	Walnut
Numbots	Stanley B Dexter Alicia	Joseph Finch Harrison	Noorhanfa Amelia B Caoimhe
TTRS	Micah Karenza Gabbie	Joseph Finch Lyla	Amelia B Imran Sumaiyah

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October:** Children finish for half term (3:15pm)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October:** Inset Day

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November:** Autumn Term 2 begins

	Library	PE
<b>Spruce</b>	Thursday	Wednesday and Thursday
<b>Sycamore</b>	Wednesday	Monday and Thursday
<b>Walnut</b>	Tuesday	Monday and Wednesday