

A decorative border of small globe icons surrounds the text. The top row consists of 18 globes. The left and right sides each have a vertical column of 18 globes. The bottom row consists of 18 globes.

Kelso Newsletter

Welcome to Kelso and the new academic year! I hope you all had a good holiday and are full of beans, ready for the new challenges ahead. I am really looking forward to the year ahead and know it will be great!

In our learning for this term, we have a geography focus, looking at minerals and mining in the UK and abroad. We will study what minerals and metals are mined in the UK, as well as looking at the Gold Rush in the US and mining in Africa. We will look at how mines have changed over the years and the role of child labour in the mines. In science, our topic will be electricity and we will be studying the development of electricity and the role played by scientists and inventors, Tesla, Edison and Watt, as well as learning how to change circuits and add different types of switch for different purposes. For art, we will be learning some techniques used in watercolour painting and applying these to our paintings of agate slices and real-life studies. We will also be looking at the work of Georgia O'Keeffe. We will also be learning the skills of netball and tag rugby in our PE sessions. For those that may want to read our English text with us, we will be reading 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and using this as the stimulus for our writing this term.

Homework

Homework - English (usually a grammar or reading comprehension focus) and maths - will be given out weekly each **Thursday** and should be handed in the following **Wednesday**, either by class dojo or placed in the homework tray. If you are having trouble with access, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can help – there will be a lunchtime (Wednesdays) set aside for anyone struggling to complete the homework. Spellings will also be given out on Wednesdays and should be practiced every day using the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check strategy. Each list should be practiced each day, not left until the day before the spelling test (the following Wednesday) as this does not create long-term memory so the children will not be able to recall the spellings in their daily writing. Dojos will be given out for all homework completed on time and for extra effort and independent learning.

Reading

Please use the reading diaries for any reading completed at home. When completing either the dojo portfolio or the reading journal, please make sure you include the page numbers so that we can see whether the children are reading for the appropriate amount of time (20-30 minutes each day or at least 10 pages is recommended as the amount required for children to make maximum progress in their reading). Remember, this does not need to be reading with an adult every time (although it would be great if you did!) Children can write down the pages they have read to save time but it must be signed by an adult. Dojos will be given each time a child reads at home and the more they read, the more progress they will make in their reading. Remember, you can check whether the books you have at home fit in your child's Accelerated Reader band by checking on the AR website – please ask if you need help to do this. Children must read books in their book band to make the best progress and be able to understand what they are reading.



PE

PE lessons will take place on **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays**. You will need a full PE kit, consisting of white t-shirt, black/navy shorts and trainers (these are better for outdoor PE as they offer more grip and sessions will mainly be on the field so the shoes will inevitably get wet and muddy). Please note, earrings cannot be worn for any PE. If you struggle to remove your earrings by yourself, you will need to take them out in the morning and then put them back in again when you get home. It is fine for anyone who has had their ears pierced for more than 6 weeks to remove the earrings for short periods without the hole closing up. Children with long hair must have it tied back for PE lessons so please bring hair ties or similar with you; thick plastic headbands and hairclips are not appropriate for tying hair back for PE.

11+ Tests

These will take place on Friday 16th (verbal reasoning) and 23rd (non-verbal reasoning) September in the hall. Only those registered with Boston High School or Boston Grammar School will be taking the test. Any children registered with Spalding Grammar School should have been sent information about the times and location of their tests. We will be setting aside some time for practice tests in the next few weeks of term so that the children are familiar with being in the hall and the timings of the test.

The class is set up on Class Dojo and I would prefer all messages to go via this format wherever possible although the reading diaries can be used for those times where this is not possible. We will be checking both regularly and will endeavour to reply to any messages promptly. Anything sent in the evenings (after 6pm) or at the weekend will be responded to the next working day.

We are all looking forward to the new academic year and the challenges and experiences ahead and we hope you are too. We will be working hard but we will hopefully be having fun at the same time!

Kind regards,

Miss Ratcliff
Miss Rogers,
Mrs Slater