

A decorative border of small globe icons surrounds the text. The globes are arranged in a rectangular frame, with one row at the top, one at the bottom, and vertical columns on the left and right sides.

Ramsey Newsletter – Autumn 1

Welcome to Ramsey! This will be a busy but, I hope, a great year, where you will have many more opportunities to show your strengths. With this comes greater responsibility and expectations but I know we will all rise to the challenge!

We start the year with a geography focus, learning about how minerals and fossil fuels are formed and mined, and the consequences of overexploitation. Our science topic this term is Electricity, where we will be learning how to construct circuits, use switches and create a working burglar alarm. In RE, we will be looking at what it means to be loving and holy. In art, we will be using watercolour techniques to produce pictures of agate slices. Our PSHE focus this term is about staying healthy, with a focus on mental health, and in PE, we will be learning the skills of netball and rugby.

Homework

Homework will be given out on a Friday and will be due in the following Wednesday. It will compose of one piece of English (usually a grammar focus) and one piece of maths. It is expected that each piece should take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. If you don't understand the homework or are finding it difficult, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can help you. If homework is not handed in on time, it will need to be completed during a lunchtime.

In addition, there will be weekly spellings, which will be tested on Fridays. Spellings will need to be learned throughout the week so that they are retained. We recommend the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method at least 3 (but preferably 5) times each week. You also need to know the meaning of the words you are learning so that you can then use them in your writing.

Reading

Please use the reading diaries for any reading completed at home. When completing 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 a **minimum** of 15 pages is recommended as the amount required for children to make maximum progress in their reading). The expectation we will be setting in Year 6 is that the children read a minimum of **50 pages** over the week. Remember, this does not need to be reading with an adult every time (although it would be great if you did!) and it can be spread over the week. 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 at the top end of their book band to make the best progress and be able to understand what they are reading. Extra dojos will also be awarded for each book quiz successfully completed, so it is important that you understand what you are reading.



PE

PE lessons will take place on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. 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 13th (verbal reasoning) and 20th (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. Mrs Hutchinson will be running lunchtime revision/support sessions on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays until the day of the tests.

Class Dojo

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. If, however, you need to pick your child up early for any reason or if you send the message after lunchtime, please also phone the school office as it is not always possible for me to read messages while I am teaching. 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,
Mrs Chitty
Mrs Abercrombie