In the current climate of infection transmission and control, we are currently considering our approach to varying aspects of school life, such as school trips and uniform policy. Further clarity and updates will be provided throughout the year.

BARNARD CASTLE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

WELCOME TO YEAR 6
GUIDE FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS
2020-2021

Introduction

Welcome to Year 6 at Barnard Castle Prep School. A new year offers new opportunities and I hope you are looking forward to a busy and enjoyable year.

There will be plenty to do both in and out of the classroom as well as new trips to go on and new friends to make.

In this booklet there is some information to help guide you along the way. However, don't hesitate to ask any of the teachers for any help that you may need.

Have a great time.

Laura Turner
Headmistress

Class Teacher

The Year 6 Class Teachers are Mr Ayres and Mrs Robertson and they will be there to help you with everything you do in Year 6. You will have lots of different teachers for your lessons each week and will be given your timetable at the start of the term. If there is anything you are not sure about or if you have any questions or problems, please talk to your class teacher who will be able to help you. You will see your class teacher each morning for registration and also for class time at the end of each day. Any children who are new to the school will be assigned a 'buddy' for the first few days to help them find their way around and get to know people.

Year 6 represents the pinnacle of Prep School and is filled with amazing opportunities. Among these is the Year 6 Achievement Award which covers the whole year and takes in topics as wide ranging as your own autobiography to planning and manning a trade stall for a country in our Tourism Fair; all aspects of Year 6 are covered including effort grades and exam marks.

In Year 6 you get the chance to return to Robinwood and France, and we spend four incredible days in London. Being in Year 6 gives you the chance to play an important role in the Prep School production as well as in House competitions. Your time in Year 6 will allow you to build the perfect platform in preparation for Senior School.

Year 6 is not about counting the days until the end of Prep School, it's about making the days count, doing your best to be your best and, most of all, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Mrs Turner
Headmistress

Mrs Bale
Deputy Head of Prep School
Yr 1 Teacher
clb@barneyschool.org.uk

Mr Ayres
Deputy Head (Academic)
Prep School
Yr 6 Class Teacher
sta@barneyschool.org.uk

Mrs Robertson
Deputy Head (Pastoral)
Prep School
Yr 6 Class Teacher
rar@barneyschool.org.uk

Mrs Bainbridge
Teaching Assistant

ab@barneyschool.org.uk

Mr Burgess
Yr 5 Class Teacher
Head of PE & Games
mab@barneyschool.org.uk

Dr Harrison
Director of Music

rgh@barneyschool.org.uk

Mr Joy
Academic Support &
Yr 3 Teacher
njj@barneyschool.org.uk

Mrs Killeen
Yr 4 Class Teacher

fm@barneyschool.org.uk

Mr Killeen
Teaching Assistant

mk@barneyschool.org.uk

Miss Laverick
Teaching Assistant

lrl@barneyschool.org.uk

Miss Penny
Teaching Assistant

nmp@barneyschool.org.uk

Mrs Raper
Teaching Assistant

kjr@barneyschool.org.uk

Mrs Rowlandson
Humanities &
Yr 2 Teacher
ler@barneyschool.org.uk

Mrs Shearn
Yr 3 Class Teacher &
Forest School Leader
kjs@barneyschool.org.uk

Mrs Small
Yr 4 Class Teacher

ejs@barneyschool.org.uk

Miss Strachan
Yr 2 Class Teacher

jds@barneyschool.org.uk

Mrs Summerson-Brown
Yr 5 Class Teacher

nsb@barneyschool.org.uk

Mrs Thompson
Yr 1 Teacher

rt@barneyschool.org.uk

Miss White
Reception Class
Teacher
aaw@barneyschool.org.uk

Mrs Morse
Secretary

prep@barneyschool.org.uk

Mrs Thirling
School Counsellor

dt@barneyschool.org.uk

Homework

In Year 6 pupils get four set homework tasks each week. On the fifth day pupils have the opportunity to complete outstanding tasks and to extend their own learning, with such an extensive extra curricular programme our pupils have found it hugely beneficial to have the option to either tackle tasks over two nights or complete a task from earlier in the week they may have missed due to other commitments.

These tasks will either be a specific, directed task (usually in Maths and English), or a 'Takeaway' tasks— designed to give pupils the freedom and independence to chose from a range of options (make a video, build an artefact, design a...) and apply the concepts and ideas being covered in the subject that sets the homework. Takeaway tasks are most often given on a rotation basis in French, Science and Humanities, although you will also encounter them in Maths and English from time to time. Homework is designed to help you to remember work covered in class and also extend your learning. You should be able to complete the homework set in 30 minutes. We also expect everyone to read at home regularly – ideally at least 20 minutes every day.

If you find a task difficult, please do as much as you can and leave the rest. Talk to your teachers about it the next day and ask your parent or house parent to put a note in your Prep Diary. Do not worry if this happens; sometimes tasks that seem easy in class may appear more difficult when you get home!

Merits

You will already know which House you belong to. There are four Houses:

Drake
Gilbert
Grenville
Raleigh

You earn merits (points) for your House through hard work and by following The Barney Way. The points are added up at the end of each term and the Merit Shield is awarded to the House with the most points.

A demerit may be given for thoughtless behaviour, which means that one point is taken away from your House's points. You can earn Bronze, Silver and Gold Merit Certificates by gaining merits each term.

Something on your mind?

If you are worried or upset, you can talk to:-

- **Any of your teachers**
- **Mrs Morse, the School Nurse or the School Counsellor, Mrs Thirling**
- **Your parents or your friends**
- **School's Independent Listener, call 07817 484818**
- **ChildLine, call 0800 11 11**

To make a complaint, speak to your class teacher, the Deputy Head or the Headmistress or any member of the Junior Boarding staff for boarders.

Activities

Activities take place in the school day at break time, lunch time and after school. These are delivered by staff during the school day and after school, as well as external teachers and coaches. A booklet which contains all the information about activities will be emailed to your parents before the start of each term. You should chat to your parents about which clubs you would like to sign up for, and your parents will then complete the online form for you before the start of term.

Once you have started an activity, you are expected to attend every week until the end of term and to give your apologies to the member of staff running the club if you cannot attend.

Prep Diaries

These are really important for organising your busy Year 6 life. Each day you should write any homework tasks, special events or music lessons in your diary. Your teachers may also write notes in there for you and your parents, and your parents can write their own questions or comments in too. Don't forget to show your class teacher if your parents have written a note in your diary.

Prep Diaries should be signed every weekend and then handed in to your class teacher every Monday morning. A well-kept Prep Diary is a really easy way to earn merits for your House.

Trips and Residentials

In Year 6, we visit London. This forms the cornerstone for the majority of our academic work, from Art to English. You will spend four incredible days in the capital visiting, among others, Shakespeare's Globe, The Science Museum and No. 10 Downing Street. We have the French trip (open to all Year 5 & 6 pupils), which is a brilliant opportunity to experience another culture and visit some incredible sights. Finally, there is the Robinwood outdoor adventure trip, an immensely popular three days where getting muddy is the main order of business! We also celebrate the end of the year in style, with a leavers' disco.

Fixtures

In Year 6 you will continue to play in competitions with other schools, representing Prep School and improving your skills in tournaments and workshops. If you are selected to play in a team, your name will appear on a team sheet, displayed on the sports noticeboard outside the Atkinson Hall, with all the details of the match and the kit you will need. These details can also be found on the SchoolSports website. You will need to write all the details in your Prep Diary for your parents and remember to be organised on the day.

Uniform

Your appearance is important. Prep School pupils should be smartly dressed in the correct school uniform and sports kit. Girls must wear their hair tied back if it is shoulder length or longer and boys should have short hair. School shoes should be black and regularly polished. Jewellery should not be worn, with the exception that girls may wear a single small plain stud in the lobe of each ear. You may be required to remove these for safety reasons during games, etc.

On occasion, items of uniform can get mixed up or misplaced, therefore please could you ***ensure that all items are clearly labelled.*** The lost property basket is located outside Mrs Morse's office should any items of clothing be misplaced.

Equipment for Year 6

Everyday items

You will need a named pencil case containing the following equipment: a pencil, ruler, a highlighter pen, rubber and pencil sharpener, coloured pencils, Pritt stick.

Swimming

Towel, navy swimming costume or navy swimming trunks, white swimming cap (girls), goggles (optional).

PE

School crested PE shorts (for boys), school crested Games skort or lycras (for girls), House T-shirt, short white socks, indoor and outdoor trainers, school tracksuit.

Games

Towel, school rugby/hockey shirt, navy rugby shorts/skort, school Games socks, school tracksuit, cricket whites (for boys), football/ rugby boots (for boys - kite marked studs), outdoor trainers (for girls), indoor trainers for wet weather, mouthguard, shin pads.

You need to bring your PE and swimming kit to school every Monday and Friday.

The Year 6 Achievement Award

What is the Year 6 Achievement Award?

Simply put, the Year 6 Achievement Award summarises your child's learning at Barnard Castle Prep School. It is designed to foster and develop new skills as well as allowing pupils to expand existing talents and pursue their own areas of interest. By opting out of end of Key Stage tests (whilst still conducting national comparison assessments) we freed ourselves from the prioritising of facts over fun and the constant testing and anxiety that accompanied it.

We replaced months of endless test preparation with a year round, unit-based curriculum designed to challenge, extend and engage our children in dynamic, independent tasks. These allow them to experience a real range of activities and projects, all the while developing indispensable skills such as time management, public speaking, self-organisation, and to strengthen their grip of the many aspects of a Growth Mindset which we are so keen to promote. Barnard Castle Prep School takes pride in developing the 'whole child'. The Year 6 Achievement Award is our way of allowing our oldest children to take responsibility for their own learning and, in doing so, take their learning further.

How does the Achievement Award work?

Split over both academic and non academic units, the aim is for all pupils to be given the opportunity to excel - be it in our spectacular end of year drama production, talking to adults as a guide at open day, designing and playing a 'fair game' in Maths, espousing 'The Barney Way' whilst helping with the Pre-Prep, or any number of other tasks laid out along their Year 6 journey.

Pupils are graded across each curriculum area, as well as units such as 'School and the wider community' or 'Achievement' and then, upon successful completion, awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction at Speech Day. The Achievement Award marks the end of their time in Prep School whilst perfectly preparing them for the start of their life in Senior School.

Each unit is scored out of 40, with scores acknowledging the potential of each pupil and assessing their involvement in a task and how it compares to the rest of the cohort.

Since the inception of the Year 6 Achievement Award we have continued to refine and develop its contents. We have seen a huge improvement in the confidence, engagement and performance of our pupils, we are sure that you will too.

BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

Skills developed through non-curricular units include:

- Public speaking
- Initiative
- A sense of charity and duty
- Leadership
- Resilience / perseverance
- Self-confidence
- Adaptability
- Critical thinking
- Determination

Non-curricular units assess your contribution to Prep School and the wider community over the year. How well do pupils represent 'The Barney Way'? How good are you at taking the lead in a situation or identifying a task before being asked?

Both sections of the Achievement Award are designed to encourage you to find your own way through a challenge or task rather than favouring just academic ability.

Skills developed through curricular units include:

- Time management and personal organisation
- Goal setting
- Confidence and fluency when speaking with others
- Aspects of a growth mindset
- Creativity when presenting information
- Practical / hands-on skills
- Research techniques

Curricular units reflect many of the key subjects and topics throughout the year. Each unit is designed to not only promote key academic concepts but to foster a range of other transferable skills and go beyond just the curriculum targets.

Curricular units are structured to be varied so that you are able to achieve your potential.

BARNARD CASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Barney Way

Be kind
Be polite
Be smart
Be organised
Be respectful

WESTWICK ROAD | BARNARD CASTLE | COUNTY DURHAM | DL12 8UW