

Year 6 Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

Would you like to live in the desert?



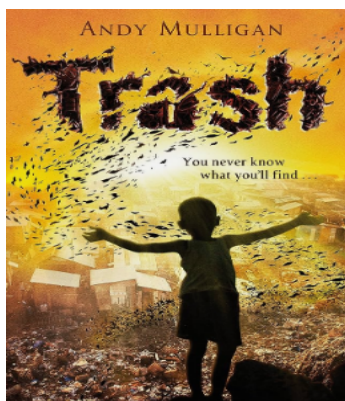
Welcome to Year 6!

We have an exciting term ahead of us, packed with creative learning opportunities to help support the progress of every child. We understand that your child's interest is likely to extend beyond the classroom, therefore, please find below an outline of the learning we hope to be covering during this term in Year 6.

The staff working in year 6 are Mrs Gull, Mrs Irfan, Mr Hussain. We are all dedicated to providing your children a rich and safe learning environment. If you have any queries, please feel free to speak to either one of us at any time.

Reading

Our class reader for this topic will be **'Trash' by Andy Mulligan.**



Year 6 will use their VIPERS skills to learn about the adventures of three dumpsite boys, Raphael, Gardo and Rat, who live on the trash heaps of Behala and sort through it, hoping to find anything they can sell or recycle. Pupils will use their inference skills to investigate how the boys' lives change when they find something interesting in the trash. Using prediction and retrieval, Year 6 will learn how the boys decide to evade the authorities to figure things out for themselves. The children will use this book to help them gain a deeper understanding of life in Brazil.

Promoting British Values – Statutory Requirement

Bankfoot Primary School will promote British Values, defined by the government as the following: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. We will be challenging pupils in debates where they will have the opportunity to express their opinions on the fundamental British Values below.

Tolerance – children will discuss how famous/influential people of different backgrounds have influenced and shaped our history during October – Black History month.

Mutual respect – children will be taught the importance of respecting their own religion as well as others.

Rule of Law – we will explore the importance of following rules and laws within institutions and societies. We will make comparisons, whilst studying our class reader 'Trash' set in South America, Brazil.

Individual Liberty – This term, we will be promoting raising self-esteem and confidence by managing our own emotions and mental wellbeing.

Democracy – this term, we will be discussing many social issues such as: recycling, funding and child poverty.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

We aim to offer a curriculum focused on promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and suitably preparing them for life in this school, their next school and beyond.

The climate and ethos enables pupils to grow and flourish, become confident individuals, and appreciate their worth and that of others.

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Religious Education

This term, we will be focusing on the topic: Beliefs and Authority. We will investigate the beliefs and practices of religions and other world views. This unit further develops the knowledge and understanding of Sikhism including worship practices and invites pupils to reflect on areas of faith in action in Sikhism. The content of the unit supports pupils to understand and evaluate concepts such as values (and how they inform religious practice), symbols, commitment and service within Sikhism. In so doing, the unit also enables pupils to reflect on the significance of these concepts in their own lives.



PSHE

This term, we will be looking at how we can make healthy choices today to shape our future health. Year 6 will start this topic by learning about brushing, flossing and limiting

typical values	100ml	250ml	contains	%GDA*	typical adult
Energy	199kJ	497kJ	120kcal	6%	2000kcal
Protein	0.5g	10.5g	1.3g	2%	55g
Carbohydrate	10.5g	26.3g	29%		
of which sugars	trace	trace			
Fat	trace	trace			
of which saturates	trace	trace			
Fibre	trace	trace			
Sodium	trace	trace			
Salt equivalent	trace	trace			
Vitamins/Minerals	100ml	contains			
	100ml	contains			

sugar over time to protect teeth. We will also consider how to interpret traffic light food labels and select healthier swaps for a balanced diet. Then explain how past

experiences can influence strong and complex feelings and choose helpful ways to regulate strong feelings. Additionally, we will explain the difference between a growth mindset and a fixed mindset and suggest positive ways to respond to challenges and setbacks. Finally, we will explain how unkind behaviour, including bullying, can affect self-esteem and how to support others.

Geographers

As Geographers, we will learn about the Mojave Desert. Pupils will use maps and atlases to research where the desert is located. Next, they will investigate the physical and human features of deserts. After, the children will research the threats deserts face. Finally, to help make the learning meaningful to the children of Bankfoot, they will compare their local area to the Mojave Desert and use their learning from the topic to expand upon whether they would like to live there.



Writing

This term, the children will have the opportunity to recap their prior learning of spelling, punctuation and grammar using a range of resources both online and in test formats. Afterwards, they will use the concept of 'talk for writing' by Pie Corbett to internalise and understand the text of Robin Hood. They will discuss and develop their vocabulary, literary features and use this to retell the story by writing a letter in the role of Sir Guy of Gisborne.

Artists and Design Technologists

As artists, the children will focus on crafts and design this term, exploring the topic of photography. We will be exploring and applying our understanding of concepts and skills such as: photomontage, macro photography, digital media and photorealistic self. By the end of the unit, pupils will demonstrate observation and proportion to create art in a photorealistic style.

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Musicians

In the first term of Year 6 music, children will explore the ukulele by learning fundamental playing techniques, experimenting with chord progressions, and creating their own musical patterns using the instrument.



Scientists

As scientists, we will be exploring Living Things and their Habitat. In this unit, pupils will identify the kingdoms of life and classify living things within those kingdoms. They will be introduced to the Linnaean system of classification and will be able to develop their practical scientific skills through investigating mould growth on bread and mushroom spore dispersal.



Physical Development and Movement

The children will continue to develop their fitness this term through a range of physical activities such as Hockey and Tag Rugby. In Year 6, PE will take place every **Tuesday** and **Friday**. Please ensure your child wears the correct PE uniform on these days.



Linguists

As linguists, in French, we will be starting a new unit called French sport and the Olympics. The children will learn to express an opinion about sports and say which sports they play. Next, they will learn the words in French for countries around the world. After, they will conjugate the verb 'to go' and say they or someone else is going to a country. Throughout the unit, the children will orally rehearse new vocabulary. They will also learn about the French game of pétanque. Finally, the unit will end with the children writing an interview article about the Olympic Games.



501 Books

To increase our love of reading and exposure to a variety of text, we will be taking home 501 novels as well as our reading levelled book this term. We will be writing comments in our reading records that reflect VIPERS questioning techniques (**V**ocabulary, **I**nfERENCE, **P**rediction, **E**xplanation, **R**etrieval and **S**ummarise).

Mathematics

This term in maths pupils will recap their prior learning of topics such as number and place value; read and write numbers up to 10 million and order numbers including decimals. Next, the children will explore the four operation methods (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Throughout the term, pupils will carry out many arithmetic tests to help increase and improve their fluency and understanding of mathematics.

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My Happy Mind



Meet your brain

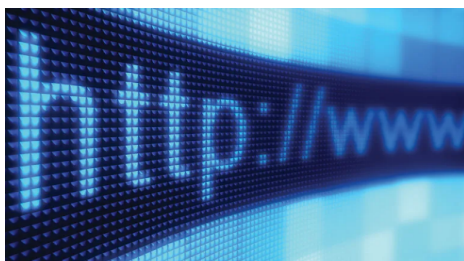
During this module, children will learn all about how their brain works and how it affects their thoughts and emotions.

Key learning points include:

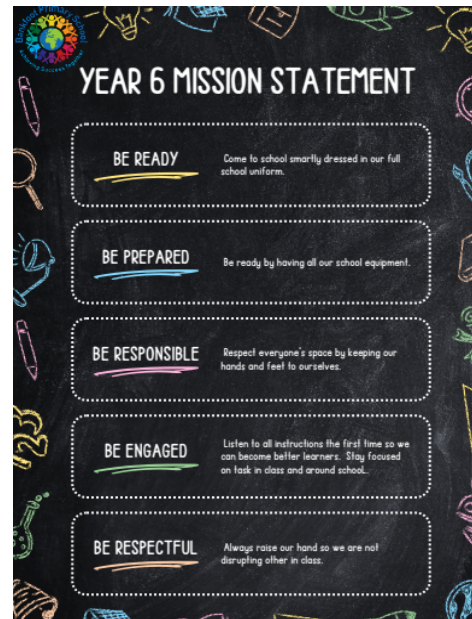
- Brain Anatomy: Understanding the basic parts of the brain and what they do.
- Neuroplasticity: Learning that the brain can grow and change through new experiences.
- Emotional Regulation: Discovering how to manage emotions and handle stress.

Computing

In this unit, children will explore how data is transferred over the internet. Learners initially focus on addressing, before they move on to the makeup and structure of data packets. Learners then look at how the internet facilitates online communication and collaboration; they complete shared projects online and evaluate different methods of communication. Finally, they learn how to communicate responsibly by considering what should and should not be shared on the internet.



Year 6's mission statement:



Safeguarding – Speak Out Stay Safe – Tell, Tell, Tell

At Bankfoot, we encourage every child to tell, tell, tell. We want children to speak out and stay safe. In Year 6, the children are taught this and are regularly reminded to speak to a trusted adult about any of their concerns. We also have a worry box which allows children to express their feelings in a more discreet way, should they feel the need to do so.

Key dates

Teachers' Training Day: Tuesday 1 September and Friday 2 October

Break up for half term: Friday 23 October

Return back to school: Monday 2 November



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Behaviour

Children are encouraged to always behave their very best at school and in the wider community. They know that this contributes to their learning and creates a positive school ethos. Additionally, they are taught to be considerate and supportive of each other.



Homework

Homework will be given out on Fridays to be handed back in on Monday.

Your child will bring home two reading books each week. Please encourage them to read at home and complete a VIPERs comment in their reading record.

Finally

We very much acknowledge, appreciate and value the support you give your child. The school/home partnership plays an extremely important role in your child's progress and their learning journey. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 6 team.

Thank you.

Bankfoot's Star Writer Competition – The Mysterious Bag

This half term, pupils will be taking part in our exciting Star Writer Competition, inspired by *The Mysterious Bag*. Children will explore a range of intriguing objects found inside a mysterious bag left outside our school playground and use their detective skills to piece together the clues and solve the mystery of how the bag has ended up at our school. They will plan and create their own piece of writing, choosing a genre that best suits their ideas. This competition aims to inspire creativity, imagination and curiosity, while encouraging pupils to develop their writing skills and produce high-quality work. We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful ideas our talented young writers come up with and celebrating their achievements at the end of the term.

