



St Mary's C E Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Woods

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the final term of year 1. The Kingfishers have made lots of progress throughout the year and are nearly ready for year 2. We've got just one more term that's jam packed full of learning to go.

Curriculum – 'All Around The World'

Our key text that we will be exploring this term is 'Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain' by Verna Aardema. This tale was discovered in Kenya, Africa more than seventy years ago and is written in a simple rhythmic style. The children in reception will have a dedicated English session looking at developing key skills such as writing words and phrases, writing labels, building up to writing short sentences using their phonics knowledge. Towards the end of the term the children will be writing a tourist information leaflet all about the animals on Kapiti Plain. There will also be lots of activities linked to our learning using a range of literacy resources throughout the day within both our indoor and outdoor provision.

As part of our project we will be learning all about the world around us and exploring maps to discover where different people and animals live. We will be exploring which parts of the world are hot and which are cold and learning about why different animals live in these places. We will also be comparing Kenya, Africa and the UK where we will begin to think about some differences and similarities.

In art this term the children will be creating African inspired prints using a range of materials around us. We will then create prints using polystyrene boards and block printing paint. Throughout the term there will also be a range of opportunities for the children to create artwork within our art workshop and adult led activities both indoors and outdoors.

In our music sessions, children will be exploring sound. They will use their voices and bodies to make sounds, experiment with tempo and dynamic when playing instruments, identify sounds in the environment and differentiate between them.

In Maths we will be developing our understanding of multiplication and division, before introducing the concepts of fractions, position and rotation. Once these ideas are secure we will move on to numbers up to 100 and then explore money through counting and adding coins together.

Class rewards

The class have voted to choose their stars in the jar rewards for this term;

First reward	Second reward	Third reward	Fourth reward
Afternoon snack	Extra busy time	15 mins outdoor play	TV treat

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We also have our whole school house point rewards. In Kingfishers, for every 25 house points we collect we are able to pick a prize from the lucky-dip box.

Children will be praised for demonstrating our vision in action and working hard on their learning journey.

Reading

We want to create a culture that values and supports reading for pleasure and we will commit to the following;

- adults reading aloud regularly
- informal book talk, including recommendations from peers and adults
- encouraging library use, including the local public library
- providing time to read
- sociable reading environments

Children will have a fully decodable reading book which is at a developmental appropriate level for them as well as a book which they have selected themselves. We recommend that the children regularly read at home as it is a great way to cover a wide range of authors and genres. It will also allow them to understand and use a wide range of vocabulary. They should aim to read on at least four occasions in any one week for a minimum of 10-15 minutes at a time. We ask for you to listen to your child read as much as possible during the week to support their reading progression. Please encourage your child to record their reading activity in their reading record. We guarantee it will make a difference to their progress across the curriculum.

Homework

Our homework enables all pupils to make sure they have a chance to practise and recall things like spellings and sounds, to practise their number facts and times tables (where appropriate), to read regularly and also complete a weekly piece linked to our project. Our homework books will be sent home every Thursday and should be returned to school on the following Tuesday. Good pieces of homework and great effort will be rewarded through the school reward systems.

PE Kit

All children should have indoor and outdoor kit e.g. shorts, house coloured t-shirt and plimsolls for indoors and trainers for outdoor sessions. **PE kits should be brought into school every Monday and taken home on a Friday to be washed for the following week.**

Please note pupils are not permitted to take part in PE lessons whilst wearing earrings (unless they have been pierced within the last six weeks in which case they are permitted to tape them up until six weeks has passed.) **Staff are not permitted to assist pupils with the removal or insertion of earrings.** If pupils are not able to manage earrings independently, they should not wear them to school on days when PE is timetabled to take place but remove them, with assistance, at home.

In addition to this, all PE kit should be labelled with your child's name and children should be able to change themselves independently. Please practise this at home if necessary.

Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

As you are aware, the staff and children have been developing their play through OPAL. As part of this, the children will be encouraged to have fun in our outside areas throughout the year and in all types of weather therefore it is important that the children have outdoor learning clothing in school every day. They will need a pair of welly boots to use so that their school shoes remain dry and clean. Please name your child's boots - as it can be hard to reunite lost

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clothing and equipment to the right child if it is not named. If you have any old welly boots that your child has grown out of, we would really appreciate you sending them in so we can pass them on to someone who needs them.

When the weather is particularly wet, children will need a waterproof coat and waterproof trousers. Again, please ensure these are named to avoid them going missing.

Birthday books

To support your child's dental hygiene we ask that you do **not** bring in sweet treats on your child's birthday. Instead, if you would like to, you are welcome to donate a book to the class. This could be a picture book, information book, a collection of poems or a loved story.

Reminders

- **Water Bottles** – please make sure children have a water bottle with them every day (separate from any drink in their lunch box) as this allows them to access water as and when they require it. To improve the oral health of children, only water is permitted in class. If your child brings in a bottle filled with something other than water, we will provide them with a cup so that they can access water during the day.
- **Snacks** – Children may bring in a **healthy snack** for mid-morning break. Suitable choices include fruit, cheese, yogurt and vegetable sticks. Do let us know if your child has any food allergies or intolerances.
- **Absence and sickness** – please let the office know if your child is not attending because they are ill. Also please note that Health Protection Agency guidance states that children should not return to school for 48 hours after the last episode of either sickness or diarrhea.

Contact

Should you need to contact me about any matters arising, you may email direct using the following address:

r.moreby@banburystmarysschool.co.uk

Please be aware that any messages sent may not be seen until later in the school day or after school as I may be busy with classroom duties and teaching earlier in the day. In all cases I will endeavour to reply to you within 2 working days. Obviously if the matter is more urgent, for example about attendance or changes to the routine of collecting your child then you should contact the school office.

I look forward to working with you and helping your children achieve our vision; Learning, Transforming and Growing.

Kind Regards,

Richard Moreby

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