



St Mary's C E Primary School
 Southam Road
 BANBURY
 Oxfordshire
 OX16 2EG

Telephone: 01295 263026
 Email: office@banburystmarysschool.co.uk
 Web: www.banburystmarysschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Woods

Summer 2 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I wanted to take the opportunity to say how proud I am of the children for all their hard work and endurance last term, especially during SATs week. It is not an easy time and they handled it with strength and they all still made time for laughter.

We have a lot going on this term: 5iver challenge, year 6 production and of course preparing for other leavers services. Here are some key dates for your diary:

- **Tuesday 18th June:** Sports Day
- **Thursday 4th July:** some children will be attending the Leavers service at Christ Church Cathedral
- **Tuesday 9th July:** Year 6 production (there will be an afternoon performance and an after school performance)
- **Friday 12th July:** Art exhibition
- **Tuesday 23rd July:** Leavers worship at St Mary's Church
- **Wednesday 24th July:** Leavers worship at St Mary's school

Curriculum – 'Life Explorers'

This term we will continue to take inspiration from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet for our learning in English. We will be writing a diary entry before considering who was responsible for the deaths of the main characters.

In maths, the children are completing the 5iver challenge. They are working in groups to come up with a business model to turn £5 into enough money for a trip to the cinema towards the end of term. Fingers crossed they achieve it.

In science, the children will be learning about how humans change throughout their lives. They will also look at the life cycles of a range of animals. Linking to these topics, the children will also be completing lessons around puberty. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please come and speak to me.

Please see the attached cog document for further information and details about each subject area.

Class rewards

The class have voted to choose their marble rewards and are working towards these:

150 marbles	300 marbles	450 marbles	600 marbles
30 minutes playtime	1 hour busy time	Snacks and film afternoon	Non-school uniform day

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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 – I have developed a book nook in the classroom and this will continue to develop over the course of the year.

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. I guarantee it will make a difference to their progress across the curriculum.

Homework

Our homework enables all pupils to make sure they have chance to practise and recall things like spellings and their times tables, to read regularly and also complete a weekly piece linked to our project. Over the half term the work the children complete can then be combined into a final project piece. I can't wait to see what the children create and bring in to share with the class. 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.

Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

As you are aware, the staff and children are continuing to develop their play through OPAL. As part of this, the children are 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 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 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.

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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:

t.smith@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 continuing to working with and helping your children achieve our vision; Learning, Transforming and Growing.

Kind Regards,

Teri Smith

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