



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

Telephone: 01295 263026  
Email: [office@banburystmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:office@banburystmarysschool.co.uk)  
Web: [www.banburystmarysschool.co.uk](http://www.banburystmarysschool.co.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Woods

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a lovely Easter break and managed to spend some time, at least the last weekend, enjoying the sunshine. We have had a fantastic first week back and start the summer term with lots of exciting learning and activities including an art day! The children have settled back into school life well and have enjoyed explored some new resources and areas in their classroom.

### **Curriculum – ‘Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside!’**

This term the main text we will be exploring is ‘The Lighthouse Keeper’s Lunch’ by Rhonda and David Armitage. In this classic tale, the lighthouse keeper, Mr Grinling and his wife have to devise ways to stop the greedy seagulls from stealing the lighthouse keeper’s delicious lunch that Mrs Grinling sends across the rope from their white cottage to his lighthouse each day. 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. 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.

We will be exploring the question, “Which are the best materials to use for a lunch box?” as part of our understanding the world and science learning. We will look at a range of materials, identify some simple properties and sort them into groups. To conclude we will identify the pros and cons of different lunch box materials. To build on our learning in science, after deciding which material is the best material for Mrs Grinling’s basket, we will be thinking of ways to transport the basket between the lighthouse and Mr and Mrs Grinling’s cottage.

In art we will begin our term with an art day which is part of our WOW starter to introduce our project. We will be drawing and making 3D birds using a range of materials including soft pencils, graphite, pastels and pens. We will also do some observational drawings of feathers and using images of birds to support our drawing. We will then be using collage to create 3D birds. 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 daily maths sessions, reception we will start the term by looking at doubles and exploring how some numbers can be made with 2 equal parts. We will then move on to look at sorting odd and even numbers and counting larger sets of objects and things that cannot be seen. Towards the end of term will revisit subitising to 6 before moving on to the composition of numbers looking at ‘5 and a bit’.

***Learning, Transforming, Growing.***



## Class rewards

Our 'stars in the jar' rewards are decided by the children and may include treats such as extra playtime on the field, time on the bikes and scooters, a classroom disco or a tea party.

Fledglings have voted to choose their first stars in the jar rewards for this term;

First reward	Second reward	Third reward	Fourth reward
Extra time on the field	A TV treat	Biscuits and a drink	Class disco

We also have our whole school house point rewards.

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

When Fledglings children begin learning sounds in Phonics sessions, they will be sent home with practise sound cards, red word cards, a fully decodable reading book which is at a developmental appropriate level for them, as well as a 'Free Choice' book which they have selected themselves. The 'Free Choice' book will not be a book your child can read independently – this is for you to share with them, reading it together. 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. We ask for you to listen to your child read as much as possible during the week to support their reading progression. Practising your child's sound cards every day will really help them consolidate their learning and be able to blend words more quickly. Please record your child's reading activity in their reading record and make sure their whole reading folder comes into school every day. We ask for you to listen to your child read as much as possible during the week to support their reading progression.

## Homework

This term children in reception will have a homework book which will be sent home on a Thursday and returned on a Tuesday. 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. Good pieces of homework and great effort will be rewarded through the school reward systems.

## PE Kit

Children in reception will need to have an 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.

## Learning, Transforming, Growing.

## Spare clothes

All children need a bag of spare clothes, all of which are named, on their peg. This should include underwear, socks, tights if appropriate, trousers or skirt and a jumper. We will change their clothes if they have become excessively wet or muddy during outdoor learning or if they have a toileting accident. If your child is sent home wearing spare school clothes, please wash and return these to school as soon as possible.

Because so much of our curriculum takes place outdoors, it is essential that your child has appropriate waterproof wear in school. An all-in-one puddle suit is ideal, or a waterproof coat and separate waterproof trousers. These should stay in school so they are always available. We encourage independent dressing and undressing so please support this at home by supporting your child to practise putting on and taking off their clothing and outerwear independently as much as possible. Please make sure any waterproof items are actually waterproof as the children can appear to be completely wrapped up and then end up covered in wet patches when they change!

If you have any waterproofs / puddle suits that your child has outgrown and you would like to donate them to school, we would be very grateful.

## Shoes

School shoes should be black, comfortable and easy for your child to put on and take off themselves (please practise at home!). We always wear wellies outdoors (for outdoor learning, Forest School and OPAL – Outdoor Play and Learning at lunchtimes) and so the children change between shoes and wellies a number of times each day. Velcro is ideal, but if your child's shoes have laces or buckles, please practise how these work at home so your child can be independent when changing. Your child should have a pair of named wellies in school at all times. Children sometimes struggle to identify when their wellies are too small, so please keep in mind that if your child's feet are getting bigger when you buy other shoes, they may need new wellies in school too.

## 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.

## Naming items

Please make sure EVERYTHING you send to school is named. This includes all uniform, hats, shoes, gloves, water bottles, rucksacks and scarves. Please check these items are still named every week as handwritten names can wear off and labels

## 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.

*Learning, Transforming, Growing.*

**Contact**

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

[k.bullard@banburystmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:k.bullard@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,

Kelly Bullard

***Learning, Transforming, Growing.***

