



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an exciting start to the term. The children have used drama to re-tell our English text 'Beowulf', we have made Anglo-Saxon shields and we have toured Anglo-Saxon sites in Oxford where the children represented the school exceptionally well.

Remember to keep an eye out on our school blog and social media account for all the exciting and inspiring learning that we will get up to this term.

Curriculum – 'Anglo-Saxons'

This term our project is called 'Anglo-Saxons'. This project combines our history, art and religion and world views learning. We have started the term by having explored and acted out different scenes from the Usborne adapted story of 'Beowulf'. We chose 'Beowulf' as our English focus story as it will allow us to explore Anglo-Saxon myths of mystical creatures and gruesome monsters, which we will use for our own character description and poetry writing. The illustrated narrative does not only link to our history topic by exploring the world of Anglo-Saxon life, but will allow us to explore leaders and heroes in our religion and world views lessons where we will be focusing on the question 'What are the best reasons for following a leader?'.

We will also let the story of 'Beowulf' inspire us for when we will be modelling, sculpting and painting our own dragon eye. Finally, we will learn how to create digital music using Chrome Music lab as well as challenge ourselves to think about being the best version of myself in our PSHE lessons.

For more details about our curriculum for this term, please see the attached cog document.

Class rewards

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

First reward	Second reward	Third reward	Fourth reward
Ten minutes extra playtime	Short class film	Bonus drama lesson	Football tournament

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

Reading

Learning, Transforming, Growing.



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.

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 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.

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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:

a.field@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,

Alex Field

Learning, Transforming, Growing.