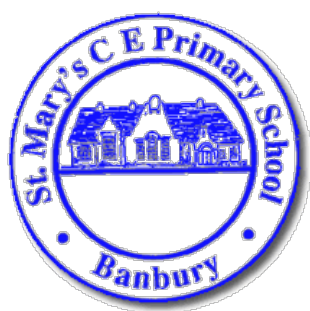




St Mary's C E Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Woods

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely break and are ready for an exciting final half term in Year 1. Our new topic is Castles, Knights and Dragons, and we have lots of fun learning planned.

We will be reading Dragon Post by Emma Yarlett in English and using it to inspire our own writing, including letters, advice and instructions. In Maths, we will continue with Mastering Number and will learn about numbers to 100, measuring, money, time, and position and direction. Towards the end of Week 1, we will also enjoy an exciting Maths Numeracy Day focused on fractions. Our History lessons will help us learn about castles, knights and monarchs, including Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III. The children will continue this theme in DT by exploring sliders and levers before making their own moving pictures linked to The Knight and the Dragon text. During Religion and World Views, we will think about rules and how people know how to behave, including learning about Moses, the Ten Commandments, Shabbat and the Golden Rule. We will also develop our digital writing skills in Computing and explore pitch and tempo through a Superheroes unit in Music. PE will focus on ball skills, attacking, defending and team games. Through Commando Joe, we will continue our Steve Backshall Explorer missions, building teamwork, resilience and problem-solving skills.

For our WOW Day, children are invited to come dressed as kings, queens, knights, princesses or dragons, and our classroom will be transformed into a castle for the day!

I am really looking forward to the term ahead and all the exciting learning we have planned for Kingfishers.

Class rewards

Our 'stars in the ten frames' 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.

Kingfishers have selected their first 'stars in the ten frames' rewards for this term:

First reward	Second reward	Third reward
extra OPAL play (30 minutes) and ice lollies	Pizza party	make fruit kebabs and watch a film

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.

House points reward

Children are rewarded points for showing our school values and going above and beyond within our school community. The house points are collected every Friday, totalled up by our house captains and

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announced in celebration worship. One house is rewarded an extra special treat for earning the most points over the course of the whole term.

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

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 or words 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

Our homework is designed to help all pupils regularly practise key skills such as spellings, maths, and reading, while also engaging in a weekly task linked to our current project. I am really looking forward to seeing their creativity shine!

Homework books will go home every Thursday and should be returned by the following Tuesday. ***As an extra incentive, the children who produce work and show great effort will earn house points for their team!***

PE Kit Reminder

To help us stay active and ready for all our exciting PE lessons, we kindly ask that all children bring both an indoor and outdoor PE kit to school each week. Kits should include shorts, a house-coloured t-shirt, and plimsolls for indoor activities, as well as trainers for outdoor sessions.

PE kits should be brought in on Monday and kept in school throughout the week. They will be sent home on Friday to be washed and ready for the following week. **As an added incentive, children who remember their full PE kit each week will earn house points. Thank you for helping us stay prepared, active, and ready to score points for our teams!**

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, PE kit should be labelled with your child's name.

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.

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, and a collection of poems or a loved story.

Naming items

Please make sure EVERYTHING you send to school is named. This includes all uniforms, 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 diarrhoea.

My Child at School (MCAS)

We are now using the My Child at School App to send information to you and to allow you to easily make online payments. If you have not done so already, please sign up by visiting the following website:

<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>

School code: 15144

Contact

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

a.duff@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,

Antonette Duff

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