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

3rd November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely and restful half term, and we are excited to welcome the children back for another busy and exciting term in Kingfishers.

This term, we will be exploring Lizzy and the Cloud, using the story to inspire lots of different writing, including descriptions, instructions, advice and our own guidebook about how to care for a cloud. In Maths, we will continue to build confidence with addition and subtraction within 10, explore number bonds and fact families, and investigate 2D and 3D shapes.

As part of our Weather Watchers topic, we will become weather detectives, observing and recording the weather, spotting seasonal changes and exploring temperature, rainfall and wind. We will learn about the four seasons and investigate hot and cold places around the world, discovering why some places are warmer or colder than others. We will also turn our attention to habitats and microhabitats, exploring the different places where animals live. We will become nature detectives as we investigate the habitats around our school grounds, discovering which animals live there and why these environments are suitable for them. Across the wider curriculum, we will create digital artwork, explore music through tempo, dynamics and timbre, learn about the Nativity story in Religion and World Views, and continue our work on keeping safe in PSHE. In PE and Commando Joes, the children will continue to develop their coordination, teamwork, confidence and resilience through lots of practical activities and challenges.

We are also very excited to begin preparing for our school performance, which will be a lovely way to finish the term and celebrate all the children's hard work.

Class rewards
We will continue to work towards our class rewards by filling our 'stars in the ten frames'. The children will help choose our rewards, which may include extra playtime on the field, time on the bikes and scooters, a classroom disco or a tea party, movie afternoon, etc.

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 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.

Yours Sincerely,

Antonette Duff