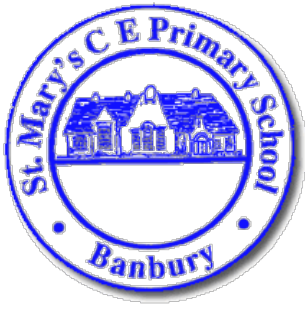




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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Woods

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all have had a wonderful and restful holiday! We are excited for our Spring Term 1 which is filled with lots of exciting learning and special opportunities all about inventions, exploring materials, and a special visit from Science Oxford "Inventing with Isobel" for EYFS and Year 1.

This term our WOW Day tied in with our Sustainability Day, inspired by the book *How to Catch a Rainbow* by Naomi Jones and Ana Gomez. We will collect and use recycled materials to make our own class rainbow.

Curriculum – 'Colour Magic!'

Our focus this term will be in science, art, design and technology and computing. We will learn about materials and their properties, thinking about why different materials are used for different jobs. We will also be creating digital painting in computing using Chromebooks and iPads.

Through religion and world views, the children will explore the question 'What is the church and who goes there?' The children will learn about the importance of worship in church for Christians. They will also begin to learn about Christian symbols and what they mean when used in church.

Our key text this term is 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt which is linked to our learning about colour. The children will think about characters in the story, write labels, learn about letters and write a letter.

For further information and details about our learning this term, please read our COG document which is also available on our class page on the website.

PE

Our PE sessions will usually be on a Monday and Thursday afternoon, and we will be focusing on gymnastics and ball skills using our feet. All children in reception need to have an indoor and outdoor PE kit e.g. shorts, house coloured t-shirt and plimsolls for indoors and trainers for outdoor sessions. We will have PE lessons outside so please can children have appropriate, warm PE clothes for these 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.

Learning, Transforming, Growing.

Reading

It has been great to see continued progress in children's sounds and blending over the autumn term. All children are now coming home with either sound sheets, sound blending books, photocopy ditty's, reading books and QR codes to access online sessions. We recommend that children read at home a minimum of 4 times a week. Please record your child's reading activity in their reading record and make sure their whole reading folder comes into school every day. We check reading records every morning and reward children who have read each day with house points.

Homework

We will continue to give our homework tasks in homework books. There will be a selection of activities linked to our project learning and reading.

Homework is usually given out on a Thursday with the expectation it is brought back on a Tuesday. Children are rewarded for fantastic homework with gold star stickers in their homework books, which mean they can put a star in the jar towards our class reward.

Class rewards

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

First reward	Second reward	Third reward	Fourth reward
Extra time on the field	Mini dance party	Favourite clothes day	Making cakes

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.

We will inform you nearer the end of the term which house has won and what day their treat will take place. Good luck to each house.

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.
- **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.
- **Shoes** – All school shoes should be black and children should be able to independently take off and put on their school shoes.
- **Spare clothes** – All children should have a bag of spare clothes which can be kept 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.
- **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 can fall off.

Let's reuse and recycle!

Clothes – our stock of spare clothes is now running particularly low, especially underwear and socks. Please can we remind you that if your child comes home in spare clothes that these are returned. If you have any old clothes at home which could include old uniform or normal clothes, we would very much appreciate any donations.

Toys – If you have any old puzzles (preferable with all the pieces still), games, cars, other vehicles, animals, role play, small world, bikes, trikes etc. please come and speak to one of the team about donating. We are always looking to add to our provision and to our OPAL lunchtimes. Thank you to those of you who have made donations, our school team really do appreciate it.

Contact

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

k.bullard@banburystmarysschool.co.uk

r.perkins@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.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to continuing working with you and helping your children achieve our vision; Learning, Transforming and Growing.

Kind Regards,

Kelly Bullard and Rachel Perkins