

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

Summer 1 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Sparrows have returned to school refreshed and ready for the start of the new term, quickly settling back into our routines and showing great enthusiasm for the weeks ahead. Our new topic, *Road Trip UK*, has already sparked lots of excitement. The children are looking forward to exploring different parts of the United Kingdom, learning about its varied landscapes and cities, and discovering famous landmarks along the way. It promises to be an engaging and enjoyable half term, with plenty of opportunities for the children to build their knowledge, skills and confidence. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Curriculum – 'Road Trip UK'

This term, our Year 3 topic is Road Trip UK. In Geography we will be learning about the different countries of the UK, locating them on maps and finding out about how they are different and the same. In English, we will use *The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali. to develop our grammar skills, write diary entries and write our own letters to send to someone important to us. In Maths, we will finish our fractions topic before revisiting length with a focus on mass and capacity and then begin our topic of money. Throughout the term there will also be a continued focus on our times table recall. In Art, we will be focusing on being an architect and building our own 3D landmarks. Through our Religion and Worldviews learning, we will be focusing on the question: What is the Qur'an and why do many Muslims try to learn it by heart? In Music, we will be exploring pentatonic melodies using untuned percussion and writing our own compositions. Through Computing, we will be investigating how digital devices work and help us alongside how computers are connected. Finally in PE, we will be learning how to play tennis and looking at game sense invasion focusing on our defending, passing and movement skills in a variety of games, while in PSHE we will focus on being our best selves.

Please see the attached cog document for further information and details about each subject area.



Learning, Transforming, Growing.

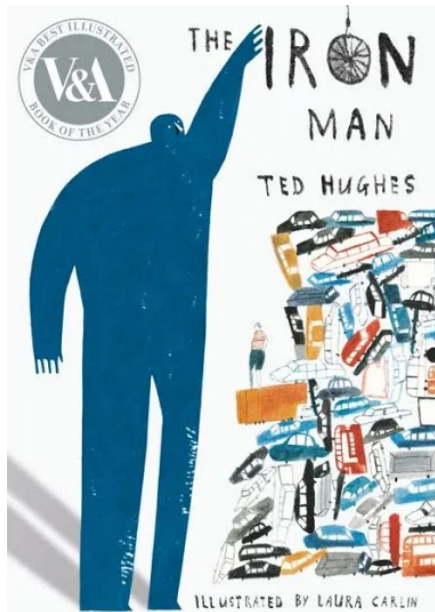
Class rewards

The class have voted to choose their stars rewards and are working towards these:

| 150 stars | 300 stars | 450 stars | 600 stars |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| An afternoon of busy time | Biscuit decorating | Extra OPAL playtime | Pyjama party |

Reading

We love story time in Year 3!



We will be continuing to read 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes.

There is an expectation children read as much as possible. It will allow them to understand and use a wide range of vocabulary, which will support them in every aspect of their day. 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. I guarantee it will make a difference to their progress across the curriculum.

If you are unsure of texts for your child, please speak to myself about recommendations. I am more than happy to help.

Children must bring their reading record in school everyday.

A new recommended reading list has just been published by Books for Topics. I would recommend looking through it to discover age-appropriate reading books for your child. <https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/recommended-reads/year-3/>

Homework

Our homework enables all pupils to make sure they have chance to practise and recall things like spellings and their times tables, 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.** PE is a valuable part of their education and the curriculum, therefore please ensure all pupils have their PE kits as they will not be allowed to participate in the lesson without them. You are able to purchase the uniform from here: <https://myclothing.com/collections/st-marys-church-of-england-primary-school-banbury-pupil-29271>

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

Learning, Transforming, Growing.

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.

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.

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:

e.nijhuis@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.

We look forward to continuing to working with and helping your children achieve our vision; Learning, Transforming and Growing.

Kind Regards,

Miss Nijhuis

Learning, Transforming, Growing.