



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It is lovely to be back at school after a slightly longer than usual break. We hope you feel rested and ready for a fabulous term of learning. We have a lot to pack into a relatively short term and are jumping straight into our new topic, 'Once Upon a Time'.

As always, please note that in Fledglings we learn across both an indoor and outdoor classroom. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for this – with mittens/gloves they can put on independently, a warm hat and a suitable coat for the weather of the day. Please ensure **every** item is named.

Change of routine to end of day

We have made the decision to dismiss Fledglings from the Early Years classroom instead of the gate. Please make your way through the garden to the area in front of the ramp at collection time. This will enable us to speak to parents as necessary with more ease and we will be closer to the cloakroom if any items have been forgotten!

Curriculum – 'Once Upon a Time'

We are using this term to explore Fairy Tales and Traditional Stories. This will include Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella and Three Little Pigs. We will start to explore story structure and use Tales Toolkit to write our own stories. You can support our learning at home by reading lots of books with your child, discussing the beginning, middle and end, and looking out for characters and settings.

Class rewards

In Fledglings, children work to fill in star charts. Once they have filled in their chart, they can choose an item from our surprise box. To receive a sticker for their chart, children have to WOW adults by demonstrating the 'Fantastic Fledgling' expected behaviours which tie into the school values. This may include keeping going when they find an activity difficult (endurance), supporting another child with shoes or coats without being asked by an adult (Koinonia), solving their own disputes or helping other children to solve a dispute without adult intervention. We also always keep an eye out for Kind Hands, Kind Feet and Kind Words and children who look after our lovely resources by keeping the classroom tidy.

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

Learning, Transforming, Growing.

When Fledglings children begin learning sounds in Phonics sessions, they will be sent home with practise sound cards, red word cards, a fully decodable reading book which is at a developmental appropriate level for them, as well as a 'Free Choice' book which they have selected themselves. The 'Free Choice' book will not be a book your child can read independently – this is for you to share with them, reading it together. 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 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.

PE Kit/ Spare clothes

Children in Fledglings do not need to bring a PE kit to school. However, they do need a bag of spare clothes, all of which are named, on their peg. This should include underwear, socks, tights if applicable, trousers or skirt and a jumper. We will change the children's clothes if they have become excessively wet or muddy during outdoor learning, or if they have had a toileting accident. If your child is sent home wearing spare school clothes, please wash and return these to school as soon as possible.

Because so much of our curriculum takes place outdoors, it is essential that your child has appropriate waterproof wear in school. An all-in-one puddle suit is ideal, or a waterproof coat and separate waterproof trousers. These should stay in school so they are always available. We encourage independent dressing and undressing so please support this at home by supporting your child to practise putting on and taking off their clothing and outerwear independently as much as possible. Please make sure any waterproof items are **actually** waterproof as the children can appear to be completely wrapped up and then end up covered in wet patches when they change!

If you have any waterproofs / puddle suits that your child has outgrown and you would like to donate them to school, we would be very grateful.

Shoes

School shoes should be black, comfortable and easy for your child to put on and take off themselves (please practise at home!). We always wear wellies outdoors (for outdoor learning, Forest School and OPAL – Outdoor Play and Learning at lunchtimes) and so the children change between shoes and wellies a number of times each day. Velcro is ideal, but if your child's shoes have laces or buckles, please practise how these work at home so your child can be independent when changing. Your child should have a pair of **named** wellies in school at all times. Children sometimes struggle to identify when their wellies are too small, so please keep in mind that if your child's feet are getting bigger when you buy other shoes, they may need new wellies in school too.

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 be peeled off by little fingers. It is very difficult to reunite items with children when they are not named.

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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.

Items from home

Please do not let your child bring in any items from home, such as toys or jewellery, unless they are for a specific occasion and have been requested by letter or email.

Reminders

- **Water Bottles** – please make sure children have a named 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. Please do **not** send in squash or flavoured water. If your child has a medical need that requires them to have a different drink, please include the details on your parental contact form and we follow this up with a Health Care Plan.
- **Snack** - we provide a daily snack for the children. Children receive free fruit and vegetables through the Government's Free Fruit and Vegetables Scheme (SFVS) which aims to help children achieve their 5 A Day. The children in Fledglings like to try and be adventurous foods and we often have other healthy options, not provided by the scheme, available for children to try, such as peppers, melon, pineapple, raspberries, blueberries and pomegranates.
- **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 me directly using the following address:

t.battle@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. 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 I look forward to a fantastic term with your children.

Kind Regards,

Tami Battle

Fledglings Class Teacher

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