



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year in Fledglings Class! We hope you all had a fantastic summer and managed to enjoy some sunshine through the showers as a family. We have very much enjoyed getting to know you more this week and have loved hearing all about your summer adventures. We have lots of very exciting projects and events this year as well new and improved outdoor and indoor provision opportunities for you to explore.

We began the year by thinking out ourselves and our families. We have shared our 'all about me' bags of special items, memories and information about us and have created some wonderful self-portraits using mirrors and careful observational skills.

Curriculum – 'Ride a Cock Horse'

The children will be exploring a range of different nursery rhymes this term. Children in reception will listen and respond to nursery rhymes through questions, role play, drawing and writing. They will explore rhyming words, create new verses to rhymes and finally perform a nursery rhyme in front of their peers. The children in reception will have a dedicated English session looking at developing key skills such as writing words and phrases, writing labels and writing simple sentences. There will also be lots of activities linked to our learning using a range of literacy resources throughout the day within both our indoor and outdoor provision.

To develop children's understanding of the world, they will explore the history of the local area, focusing on the school, St Mary's Church and the nursery rhyme, 'Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross'. They will also learn about the features of the local area, including the school grounds by taking photos and drawing pictures. They will begin to learn new vocabulary linked to their learning. All children will have the opportunity to explore non-fiction texts which are part of our everyday classroom

In art and design this term we will look at still life images and create our own still life scenes inspired by the artist Cezanne. Towards the end of term children will have the opportunity to create autumnal pieces of artwork as we explore signs of autumn. Throughout the term children will also be able to create artwork within our creative area have the opportunity to participate in adult led activities both indoors and outdoors.

In our music sessions, children will be exploring sound. They will use their voices and bodies to make sounds, experiment with tempo and dynamic when playing instruments, identify sounds in the environment and differentiate between them.

In our daily maths sessions, reception will start the term by exploring subitising, counting, ordinality, cardinality, composition of numbers and comparing numbers. Towards the end of the term they will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes.

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Class rewards

Our 'stars in the jar' 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.

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

First reward	Second reward	Third reward	Fourth reward
mini class party	forest school treat	decorating biscuits	movie

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.

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

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. We ask for you to listen to your child read as much as possible during the week to support their reading progression.

Homework

This term children in reception will have a homework book which will be sent home on a Thursday and returned on a Tuesday. Our homework enables all pupils to make sure they have a chance to practise and recall things like spellings and sounds, to practise their number facts and times tables (where appropriate), to read regularly and also complete a weekly piece linked to our project. Good pieces of homework and great effort will be rewarded through the school reward systems.

PE Kit

Children in reception will need to have an 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.**

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, all PE kit should be labelled with your child's name and children should be able to change themselves independently. Please practise this at home if necessary.

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Spare clothes

All children need a bag of spare clothes, all of which are named, 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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Contact

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

k.bullard@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,

Kelly Bullard

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