



St Mary's C E Primary School  
Southam Road  
BANBURY  
Oxfordshire  
OX16 2EG

Telephone: 01295 263026  
Email: [office@banburystmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:office@banburystmarysschool.co.uk)  
Web: [www.banburystmarysschool.co.uk](http://www.banburystmarysschool.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Woods

## Goldcrest Class Newsletter – Autumn Term 1 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our first term of the year. We had a wonderful start with lots of smiley faces and smart looking uniform and we are so proud of how brilliantly the children have returned after a well-deserved summer holiday. The children have settled in well to the hygiene routines and we are really seeing our vision in action.

### Curriculum – Trash to treasure

The main focus of our first topic this term is the world around us. In art, we will be creating sculptures using recycled materials. We will be creating a sculpture for the worship garden in school thinking about our vision: Learning, Transforming, Growing. During the project, we will think about what materials are malleable and rigid, different adhesives and methods of construction. When making our sculptures we will use a range of materials, all of which will have been recycled. We will also discuss our own work and other sculptors work.

In English, we are starting this year by looking at how a sentence is built and the elements needed to make a sentence. We will explore nouns, adjectives and verbs before organising them into sentences. They will do this with through examining the text, "Fantastically Great Women who Saved the Planet". Children will then apply this learning to help them write a non-chronological report about William Booth. Once they have completed and edited their work, they will use their learning in computing to present and share their writing.

To link in with our learning in English, we will be using Google Slides to present information about William Booth as part of our computing. We will learn how to add text, images and new slides, how to change the fonts and colours (including the background) and also investigate the transition between slides. We will be extending our knowledge by looking at how hyperlinks can aid the user experience and making it easier to find information.

To build a good foundation in maths for the rest of the year, we will begin by recapping number and place value for the first few weeks. This will include reading, writing and ordering numbers and understanding the value of a number. We will then move onto exploring both mental and written methods for addition and subtraction.

As part of our daily number knowledge sessions, we will be counting forwards and backwards in different amounts and learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

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In PE this term we are developing our athletic skills. This means we are working on good basic running, jumping and throwing techniques. We will be setting ourselves personal challenges for distance and time. For our second session, we will be developing our football skills. We will be focusing on developing dribbling, passing, receiving and shooting. We will then use these skills in competitive game situations where we will develop our team work.

### Writing Wrongs

For the second half of this term, we will be participating in a whole school topic that is focused on writing for different purposes. In year 3 and 4, we will be looking at how the lives of children have changed over time. We will take lots of inspiration from our visit to the Black Country Museum on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (please make sure you have given permission and paid the money as soon as possible) to help us write diary entries and letters. We will also be reading extracts from books such as 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens to help us write a setting description.

We do have some wonderful home learning tools that your children can explore;

TT Rockstars <https://trockstars.com/>

Purple Mash [www.purplemash.com](http://www.purplemash.com)

Each child has an individual account and has their own password. Please keep the password safe and if you do not remember them please ask your class teacher.

On our class pages, there is a list of useful links to support learning and a section called 'Remote Learning.' This is where we support children who are learning at home either because of a bubble, school, local or national lockdown. These resources are uploaded each week. If we go into lockdown, the children are expected to work at home and produce work for us to look at when we reopen.

### Class rewards

The children have already been working hard to earn house points and Goldcrest class have voted to choose their marble rewards;

150 marbles	300 marbles	450 marbles	600 marbles
15 minutes extra break	Hot drink and a biscuit with a short animation	1 hour of free play in the classroom	Non-uniform day

### Reading books

Children will have a reading book which they have selected themselves. 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. They should aim to read on at least four occasions in any one week for a minimum of 10-15 minutes at a time.

### Homework

Our Teaching and Learning policy states;

At St Mary's we recognise that children learn best when school and family work in partnership to promote a child's learning and progress. This partnership includes encouraging children to practise, develop and enrich the learning that takes place in school, outside of school. Homework should not be something which leads to arguments, tears or tantrums for either children or parents.

Our homework enables all pupils to make sure they have chance to practice and recall things like spellings and tables, to read regularly and also complete a weekly piece of work for Maths, English and their project.

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Our homework books will be sent home every Friday 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.

We think that it is extremely important that the children continue having the opportunity to use Google as a platform for learning so we will also be uploading the homework to Google Classroom every Friday. Children have been shown in school how to use this but please let us know if you are having any issues with this.

### **PE Kit**

All pupils 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.

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 have 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.

### **Outdoor Learning Sessions**

Each class will be having a regular outdoor learning session. It is vital that children have appropriate clothing available in school which may include trousers/tracksuit bottoms, waterproof coat and wellingtons. Please send appropriate clothing in a named plastic bag. Once again it is advisable that the children keep these clothes in school for the duration of the week so should we wish to spend further time outside we can do so.

### **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. In recent years, we have noticed that some children bring in squash and this attracts ants in the summer term. To avoid this, please help by only sending in 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.**
- 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.

Parentmail is also a convenient way to be kept up to date with school developments. You can download the app on most android and iPhones. Please speak to the office if you have any difficulty accessing Parentmail.

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## Contact

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

[t.smith@banburystmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:t.smith@banburystmarysschool.co.uk)

Please be aware that any messages sent may not be seen until later in the school day or after school as we may be busy doing classroom duties and teaching earlier in the day. In all cases we 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 continue to welcome opportunities of working with you this year and helping your children learn, transform and grow.

Kind Regards,

Teri Smith

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