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Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Woods

## **Fledgling (Reception and Nursery), Kingfisher (Year1) and Kookaburra (Year2) Class Newsletter – Autumn Term 1 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is lovely to have the whole school reunited and learning back at school. The children have settled in well to their new classes and we are really seeing our vision in action. The children are collaborating with each other and being polite and respectful to staff and their friends.

Please look at the St Marys Twitter Feed @BanburStMarys or at the blog on our website to see some pictures of all the things we have been doing already.

**Curriculum** – Our project this term is 'Writing Wrongs'.

We will be thinking about how our actions affect planet Earth. We will discover lots of shocking facts about the waste we produce and where it goes when we have finished with it. We will be asking the question 'What are we wasting and where does it go?'

This project will focus predominantly on the areas of Design Technology (DT) and Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE)

More details about our curriculum can be found on the Cog document displayed on the website. We do have some wonderful home learning tools that your children can explore. Please look at your child's class page on the website for more curriculum links to support learning, homework, story time ideas, phonics support.

You can also access the school blog to see what the children have been learning at school. Children have access to the learning tool Purple Mash [www.purplemash.com](http://www.purplemash.com).

If you would like a reminder of your Purple Mash details please contact the class teacher.

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## **Class rewards**

The children have already been working hard to earn house points. We talk to the children about what it means to be a member of our school community and support these young children to see how they can live out the school values in their day to day class participation, and beyond.

In Fledglings and Kingfishers the children have begun to fill their star charts, once they have filled in their chart they will receive a surprise from the box. To receive a dot for their chart children have to WOW adults by demonstrating 'Fantastic Fledgling' or 'Kind Kingfisher' 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.

In Kookaburra Kingfishers the children have already started collecting house points and the children are keen to hear which house collects the most points, across the school, during worship on Monday. Children who earn additional rewards will place a marble in the class jar until enough marbles have been collected to earn a whole class treat.

## **Reading books**

Children will be given a reading book which is matched to their current reading level by the teachers. 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.

Please fill in your child's reading diary EVERY TIME you read with your child.

Please make sure that your child brings their reading book and reading record to school EVERY DAY even if you and your child have not yet read their current book.

## **Book Bags**

Please provide your child with a book bag suitable to carry A4 sized paper, letters, homework and school communication go home frequently. It is much easier for your child to have it all in one place rather than having to worry about items being lost in the wind or dropped. Book bags can be purchased through our school website.

## **Home Learning**

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. Home Learning should not be something which leads to arguments, tears or tantrums for either children or parents.

Our Home Learning enables all pupils to make sure that they have the 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 Home Learning 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.

### **PE Kit**

Children in Kingfishers (Year 1) and Kookaburra's (Year 2) 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.

### **Spare Clothes**

Children in Fledglings class 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.

### **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.

### **Birthday books**

To support our dental program we have moved away from sweets to celebrate birthdays and instead, if you would like to, ask if you could donate a book that can be read by members of the class. This could be a picture book, information book, a collection of poems or a much loved story. If you need an idea for a book, please don't hesitate to ask.

### **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. 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.
- 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

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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 diarrhoea.

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.

## Contact

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

- Fledglings Class,

Helen Prud'homme: [h.prudhomme@banburystmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:h.prudhomme@banburystmarysschool.co.uk)

- Kingfishers Class

Karen Lee: [k.lee@banburystmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:k.lee@banburystmarysschool.co.uk) (Teacher Monday and Tuesday)

Kirsty Agbo: [k.agbo@banburystmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:k.agbo@banburystmarysschool.co.uk) (Teacher Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)

- Kookaburra Class

Lindy Gascoigne: [l.gascoigne@banburystmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:l.gascoigne@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 with 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 look forward to working with you this year and helping your children learn, transform and grow.  
Kind Regards,

Helen Prud'homme – Assistant Headteacher, Early Years and KS1 Leader, EY Class Teacher

Karen Lee – Year 1 Teacher

Kirsty Agbo – Year 1 Teacher

Lindy Gascoigne – Year 2 Teacher

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