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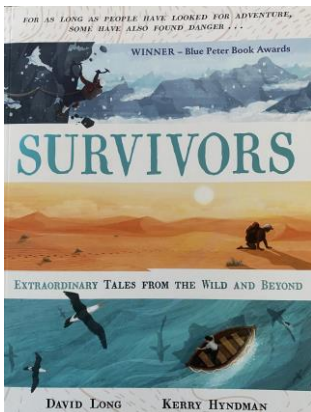
Headteacher: Mrs Victoria Woods

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We have such an exciting and fun-packed half term ahead and cannot wait to get started.

We will begin this term with our trip to Shri Swaminarayan Mandir on Thursday 9th January. This trip will allow us to consolidate our learning on the Hindu faith from Autumn term. Payment for this trip is £14 per child and can be made via MyChildAtSchool (MCAS).

Curriculum – Route 66



Our topic this term 'Route 66' will take children on the epic adventure around one of North America's most significant road trips-Route 66. This project encompasses Geography, Computing, Music, Art and English, allowing children to explore one of America's most distinguished highways right from their classroom.

As Geographers, children will explore North America. They will begin the term with the enquiry 'Where are we?' developing locational and map reading skills before exploring the typography of North America and its significance it has on the continent. Children will then travel along Route 66 and explore the destinations before discussing how this route symbolises North America. Finally, they will then explore what the impact Route 66 has on North America today.

Our English will take the children on an adventure with the greatest of survivors of North America. Using the story Survivors, written by David Long to inspire, children will write their own newspaper report of courageous adventurers who found themselves in danger and survived to tell the tale.

Year 4 and Year 5 children will be writing their own podcast script detailing their travels on route 66, before publishing it as part of their audio production project.

Year 6 children will use the heart felt story of The Matchbox Diary, by Paul Fleischman, to inspire writing their own matchbox-themed narrative, using dialogue effectively to move their story on.

For more details, please see the attached document to see how these subjects link together and the main themes of learning.

Class rewards

Learning, Transforming, Growing.

The class have voted to choose their marble rewards for this term;

Y4

150 marbles	300 marbles	450 marbles	600 marbles
15 minutes extra play	Bring in a toy and play	Pyjamas, pizza and film afternoon	Sports and picnic afternoon

Y5

150 marbles	300 marbles	450 marbles	600 marbles
15 minutes playtime	30 minutes of play time	Snacks and film afternoon	Picnic and Sports

Y6

150 marbles	300 marbles	450 marbles	600 marbles
20 minutes extra break time	Non-school uniform day	Sports afternoon and teddy bear picnic	Water play and games afternoon

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 – I have developed a book nook in the classroom and this will continue to develop over the course of the year.

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. 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.

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. Over the half term the work the children complete can then be combined into a final project piece. I can't wait to see what the children create and bring in to share with the class. 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.**

Y4 are swimming on Wednesday this term. Please ensure your child has their swimming kit in school.

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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.

Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

As you are aware, the staff and children have been developing their play through OPAL. As part of this, the children will be 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 will 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 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.

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.

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.

Contact

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

Year456@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 working with you and helping your children achieve our vision; Learning, Transforming and Growing.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Townson, Teri Smith, Rebecca Thomas and Ciara Higginbottom

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