



St Barnabas Primary School • Hart Street • Oxford • OX2 6BN
Tel: 01865 557178 • Web: www.st-barnabas.oxon.sch.uk
Fax: 01865 516955 • Email: office.3832@st-barnabas.oxon.sch.uk

January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring term of what we all hope will be a very positive year! I hope you had a wonderful break

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for your thoughtful messages, cards, kind words and amazing gifts; I was very touched and so grateful, thank you very much.

This letter provides some useful information for year six along with the attached timetable and curriculum map for the Spring term. This term, our topic is The Stone Ages, followed by Raging Rivers after half term.

Just a reminder that:-

Drop-off/Pick-up & Registers

- The children arrive and depart via the pedestrian gate, which opens onto the main playground. Mrs Donaghey will be at the pedestrian gate in the mornings and the teachers will walk the children to the gate to release them at the end of the school day.
- School opens for year six at 8:45am and we take the register promptly by 9:00am. The pedestrian gate will be locked at 9:05am.
- School finishes for year six at 3pm. If you are collecting, please be prompt so we can clear the gate/exit before Year 5 leave school. If you are still collecting, it is a good idea to arrange a meeting place near school so the children start to gain a bit more independence, particularly as they will be going to secondary school in September.
- If your child will be walking to and from school without an adult, the school requires a signed letter from the parents/carer stating that their child is allowed to do so. This is to ensure the safety of the child, for example, if we are aware that a child walks alone to school and they are not present at register, we would alert the parents immediately.

Communication

- We welcome you to contact us with any queries or concerns through email. Please do feel free to talk to us this way. We may not be able to answer immediately, but will get back to you. For anything urgent or for something that needs to be shared immediately, you can either call the office, speak to Mrs Donaghey on the gate, who will pass on the message or send your child in with a note. You can also make an appointment with us at a mutually convenient time, by calling or emailing the office.
- School office email: office.3832@st-barnabas.oxon.sch.uk
- School office number: 01865 557178
- Mrs Pettitt's email: lpet9027@st-barnabas.oxon.sch.uk

Absence

- Please let the office know in advance if your child has a medical or similar appointment and will need to be taken out of school or to arrive late.

- If your child is ill, please ring or email the office as soon as possible on each day of absence.

Keeping Safe

- The children will continue in the same way as we were working at the end of last term. Lunches will be in the classroom at 12.10pm and then children will be sent out to play. KS1 and KS2 will be separated on different playground. Year 5 and Year 6 will have one class assembly with Mrs Donaghey each week either outside, or in the hall, and there will be a KS2 singing assembly on Monday (the children will be socially distanced in the hall).
- Please make sure your child has a named water bottle -fresh each day and a fruit snack (NO NUTS OR SEEDS please)
- Everyone will wash their hands frequently including: on arrival, before and after eating, playtimes, using the toilet and then again before going home. Classes will have labelled allocated toilets.
- There will be extra cleaning of classrooms, touch points, tables and toilets.

Equipment and clothing

- Children will have their own school equipment in a labelled pencil case provided by school. (Please do not send in pencil cases from home)
- PE lessons are on Wednesdays and Thursdays but children should come to school in clothes that are suitable for PE every day. We will not have PE kits in school. We will be using our outdoor spaces as much as possible, so layers of warm clothes are needed every day and can be left on the back of their chairs if the children get too warm. The guidance means keeping windows and doors open as much as possible for ventilation so warm clothes are essential. Please tie long hair back.

Reading

Reading is a wonderful life skill and we want children to love books. The more the children read, the more words they are exposed to and these words gradually and inevitably make their way into the children's vocabulary. This assists with all areas of the children's learning, helps their confidence in speaking aloud and especially helps with ideas for their writing.

There will be a big focus on reading throughout the school this year. We would love the children to recommend good books that they have read, to help inspire others. Current research confirms that the most effective form of homework is reading. Children who read regularly at home will have greater success in other subjects at school. This year for homework we are expecting children to read every day. We have a class book and will make regular visit to the school library each Wednesday to choose a book which may be taken home and returned when finished. Please encourage your child to read at home daily.

Other Homework

Homework will mainly be set online but can be printed for any children who cannot easily access online learning on any particular week. Learning homework set may be in the form of spellings, maths, grammar and so on. We will continue to use Big Maths (Powerpoints and work are set online most days in class and can be accessed through your child's Google Classroom account). Homework will be set on a Wednesday via Google Classroom and should be completed by the following Monday.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Lesley Pettitt