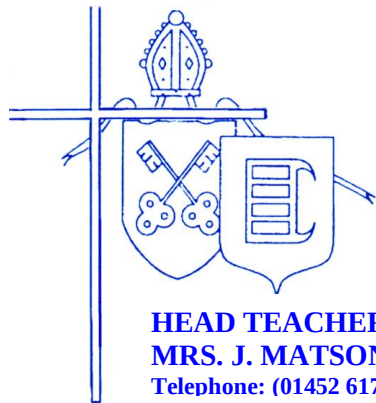




HEAD TEACHER:
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September 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you and your child to Year 5. The children have settled back in to the new school year brilliantly. I hope that this will continue to be an enjoyable and productive year providing the children with many new exciting experiences and helping them to continue to achieve their full potential.

Our theme for this term is 'Ape to Man', where we explore the scientific topic of evolution, studying Charles Darwin's life, as we travel back to the 19th century and the chaos his discoveries created. We will also investigate inheritance; discussing characteristics passed from parents to offspring and the theory that natural selection means animals evolve to suit their environments.

After half term, the children will explore fossils and their method of formation and evolutionary significance. Through a scientific-based topic, we will make cross-curricular links with History, Geography, Art and DT.

In English, we will be focusing on a variety of genres, including writing biographies, instructions, recounts and descriptive settings. As part of our daily English lessons, we will continue to have a spelling, punctuation or grammar focus and reinforce handwriting skills.

In Reading, we will be immersing ourselves in our class text, 'Darwin's Dragons' by Lindsay Galvin. Reading will continue to be a key focus, as the key to a world of learning and knowledge. You may well have seen that we will no longer have reading records in Years 5 and 6- this doesn't mean that reading isn't still important at Barnwood! However, we will instead be focusing on growing children's love of reading through book talk, sharing books with each other and other key reading experiences that we hope will work to build on a life-long love of reading. Please do still encourage your children to read at home (independently and out loud) as often as possible.

Our Maths this term will be exploring place value within numbers, calculation strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions. We will continue to utilise our number sense sessions to revisit and develop fluency with a range of calculation strategies and ensuring they know their times tables up to 12 x 12 securely- we will continue to work on these this term, as knowing them will make children far more fluent in their learning this year.

In RE we are looking at two main questions; 'What influence does believing in the Trinity have on Christian worldviews?' and 'How does Hajj show what matters to Muslims in Britain?'. We will also be focusing on



the values of Thankfulness and Compassion, and how we demonstrate our school vision. Please encourage your children to talk about these values and how they can demonstrate them in everyday life. Our Class Worship will be on **Wednesday 26th November at 9am** and you are warmly welcomed to join us.

In PE, for the first two weeks, the children will be swimming and the details of the dates and times have been emailed to you. After that, we will be looking at invasion games and the various skills required for these games. Our PE lessons will be on a Monday afternoon. The children will continue to come to school dressed in their PE kits. Children should wear their school PE top, navy or black tracksuit (hoodie and tracksuit bottoms) and trainers. Please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled.

Homework will be set on a Friday: as well as reading, we will be using EdShed to consolidate spelling rules and patterns, and Times Table Rockstars to consolidate children's multiplication and division facts. Logins will be sent out for these shortly. In addition, we will occasionally send home work to consolidate our class learning. Each term, the children will be set one project piece for them to work on and create a piece of work they are proud of and can share with the class; further information about this will follow.

Our learning partner will be the lovely Mrs Clarke who will be supporting the class every morning. Mrs Clarke will be covering my PPA on a Tuesday afternoon teaching French and Music.

Please can I remind you that KS2 pupils need to bring their own snacks into school for morning break, especially as it can seem a very long time before they have their lunch. Their snack should be healthy for example, fresh fruit or raisins only, no peanuts (due to allergies) and a bottle of water, no juice or squash.

Our 'Welcome to Year 5' meeting will be on **Wednesday 10th September at 3pm** and I am looking forward to seeing you there.

We are looking forward to a successful year with Year 5. Please keep an eye out for reminders on Class Dojo, as well as celebrations of the wonderful work the children produce. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or worries, or if you are interested in helping in class in any way. Thank you for your continuing support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bennett
Year 5 Class Teacher