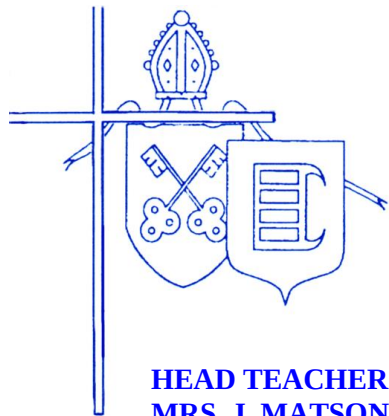




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September 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to the start of Year Six! I'm so pleased to be able to see the class through their final year at Barnwood- I know that it will be a wonderful one for them. I have many years of teaching Year Six behind me, so I know exactly what to expect- the joys, the stresses, the hormones (!) and the excitement and trepidation of the new start that is ahead of them. The class made such a lot of progress last year- both socially and academically- and I know that they have a fantastic year ahead of them!

We are very lucky to still have such a lot of adult support within the class this year: Mr Hetherington will be supporting the class each day, with Mrs Hurcum supporting the class each morning and Mrs Gisby joining us for Monday to Wednesday mornings. This will allow a high standard of regular intervention to support as many of the children in the class as possible.

As always, I believe that it is incredibly important to build a good relationship between school and home, so please do stay in touch- the sooner we can solve any issues or concerns, the better! I want to work alongside you to achieve the best for your children, and hope that we can build on the trust and relationship between us all in the past year. My door- and Dojo/email inbox- are always open!

Although you all know me by now, it would be great to see as many parents as possible at our Class Welcome meeting on Thursday 11th September at 8:30am. I will explain many of the below areas (including SATs) in more depth.

SATs:

You will be given more information about the SATs assessments that children undertake in Year Six during the parent meeting next Thursday. However, it is important to note that these statutory tests will take place on **Monday 11th- Thursday 14th May 2026**. All Year Six pupils will be required to be in school on these dates.

It's important for you to know that I do not subscribe to the opinion that everything that children do in Year Six should be to pass tests. However, I do believe that it is important for children to have the confidence in their own abilities and be given the skills and knowledge to be able to do their best. A positive attitude and resilience will get them much further than stress and anxiety!



Curriculum:

Our **theme** this term is 'Ape To Man', where the children will find out all about Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. We will discover more about the 19th century and about his expedition on HMS Beagle. We will learn about his 'Natural Selection' theory and explore how this applies to our understanding of inheritance and adaptation. We will also consider identity, what it means to be ourselves and what is special and unique about us all!

Through our **English** texts, the children will find out about Charles Darwin's expedition to the Galapagos Islands. We will be focusing on a variety of genres, using the texts on our knowledge organiser as inspiration – this will include writing narratives, reports, poems and diaries. As part of our daily English lessons, we will have a spelling, punctuation or grammar focus as well as developing our reading comprehension skills.

Reading will continue to be a key focus, as the key to a world of learning and knowledge. It is important that children continue to read at least three times each week (for at least 10 minutes each time)- although most children will be independent readers by Year Six, it is still important to record these reading experiences and to make sure that you are still listening to them at least once a week in order to encourage 'Book Talk' and ensure that children understand what they are reading. We will have different reading projects and challenges throughout the year to encourage our reading and range of books being read- so watch this space!

Our **Maths** this term will focus on developing children's understanding of numbers and the number system, counting and comparing, calculation strategies for addition and subtraction, multiplication and division and fractions. We will be working on the children's arithmetic skills in particular, ensuring that they are confident with everything they have come across up to this point.

In **Science**, we will be learning about the process of evolution and adaptation, particularly in relation to how animal and plant species have changed over time. We will also explore fossils and how these are formed, considering how they give us evidence of evolution over long periods of time.

In **RE** we are looking at two main questions; 'How and why do Christians follow the example of Jesus' and 'Creation and Science: conflicting or complimentary' which will obviously fit in brilliantly with our theme. We will also be focusing on the values of Thankfulness and Compassion. Please encourage your children to talk about these values and how they can demonstrate them in everyday life.

Our **PE** lessons will continue to be on a Friday. The children will continue to come to school dressed in their PE kits. As PE lessons will take place outside when possible during the first half term, 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, and that we do not have non-regulation kit creeping in like last year!

Things to remember:

Homework will be set on a Friday: as well as reading three times a week, we will be using EdShed to consolidate spelling rules and patterns, and Times Table Rockstars to consolidate children's multiplication and division facts. Sometimes, spelling may come in a different format, but we will inform you of this via Dojo. Some children may also have additional tasks to do if we have found an area that they need to work

on. 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.

Please can I remind you that the juniors 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 (no peanuts, due to allergies) and a bottle of water (no juice or squash).

With only one year until starting secondary school, it is important that children are starting to become as independent as possible. Please do use the 'Things to Remember' list being sent home to help your children organise themselves each day.

During the year, our class may wish to visit local sites on foot e.g. the church. You will have already provided permission for local walks when your child started school but I will of course keep you informed of any planned trips which may take place at various times throughout this year on unspecified dates, if our risk assessment deems it safe to do so.

Please keep an eye on Class Dojo for reminders throughout the year, as well as celebrations of the wonderful work that the children produce! As previously mentioned, 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, I look forward to our year ahead!

Best wishes,

Miss Thomas
Year 6 Class Teacher