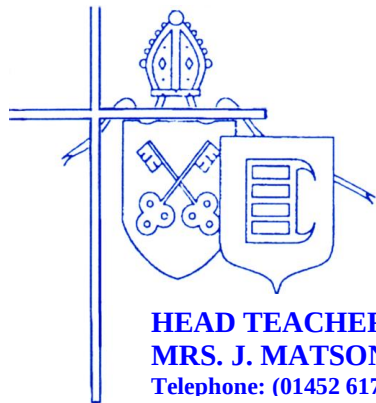




HEAD TEACHER:
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**BARNWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break, and I wish you a very happy New Year. We have a very exciting term ahead of us with our theme 'Electrify!'.

This term, our science topic will focus on electricity and light, helping children develop a clear understanding of how electricity is used in everyday life. Using scientific enquiry skills, children will investigate simple circuits, conduct experiments using switches, conductors and insulators and learn how to use electricity safely. Along the way, we will consider the impact of energy use on our environment and explore more sustainable ways of generating electricity to power our homes. In addition, this topic will link closely to our learning in history and geography. In history, we will explore significant individuals such as Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla and how their discoveries shaped the modern world. In geography, children will develop their understanding of time zones, lines of longitude and latitude and explore how sustainable sources of electricity work. Full details about coverage are available through our knowledge organisers, which are on the school website, alongside other key information.

In English, we will focus on a variety of genres, using various high-quality texts as support – this will include writing diaries, narratives, letters, newspapers and character descriptions. As part of our daily English lessons, we will concentrate on spelling, punctuation and grammar. Reading will continue to be crucial; it is essential you hear your child read, encouraging them to broaden their vocabulary will improve reading and writing skills. This is equally important for the more independent readers. Book club continues to be every Friday. Children are welcome to bring along anything they have enjoyed reading to share with others and inspire a love of reading different texts.

Mathematically, we will be studying multiplication and division, length and perimeter, fractions and decimals. We will continue to utilise White Rose as a resource for Year 4 National Curriculum objectives, and a range of manipulatives and hands-on practical work will be used to embed



understanding. As you know, during the Summer Term, children will be taking the statutory Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). This year, the multiplication tables check will take place from **Monday 1st June 2026**. As this quickly approaches, please continue to practise times tables at home daily and use the TTRS resources. Data shows that children who practise in short, daily bursts of around 3 minutes achieve the best results - every little helps!

Homework will continue to be reading, EdShed and Times Table Rockstars and is encouraged to be returned every Friday. Logins remain the same, but please contact me if you would like another copy. Thank you for your support and encouragement with this!

Our PE sessions will continue to be on a Tuesday afternoon. Children will need to come into school in PE uniform (trainers/team-coloured t-shirts/dark shorts, joggers or leggings). This term we will focus on improving our tag-rugby skills, so children are welcome to wear gloves, hats and jumpers to stay warm.

From time to time, children may also participate in local off-site visits on foot. You will have provided permission for these trips in your admission pack, so no further action is required. We have an exciting 'In The Net' Internet Safety trip (more information to follow) booked for the 11th March 2026. If you are available to help us walk to a nearby school on this date, please let me know, we'd greatly appreciate your support.

The lovely Mrs Corley and Mrs Gisby will continue to cover my PPA (planning, preparation, and assessment time) on Wednesdays.

Please be aware that KS2 children need to bring their own snacks for the morning break time. Their snack should be healthy, for example, fresh fruit or raisins (**no nuts**, due to allergies) and school water bottles only, please.

Photos and messages will continue to be uploaded regularly onto Class Dojo. If, at any time, you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via Class Dojo, email or phone. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,
Miss Byard
Year 4 class teacher