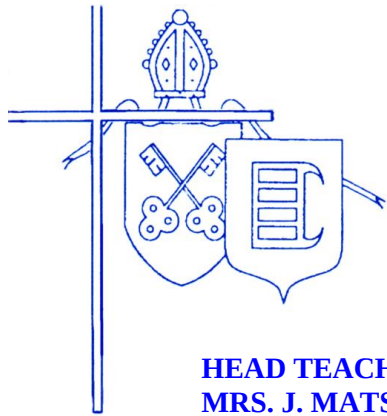




**BARNWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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**HEAD TEACHER:
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January 2026

Dear Year Six families,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the new school term. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and that you're all ready for the new year ahead!

It's a really important term, as it is the final few months before our SATs examinations which take place in May. I know how eager the children are to do their absolute best and we will be supporting them this term to be the best that they can be! There will be details further down this letter about how you should be supporting your children at home with this.

Whilst this obviously a very important time, this does not mean that we only focus on Maths and English- we have a jam-packed term ahead across the whole curriculum with lots of fun and engaging learning opportunities in store!

Glorious Glevum

Our theme this term is 'Glorious Glevum'. In this topic, we will use historical skills to explore the transition between Celtic and Roman times in Britain, the Roman invasions led by Julius Caesar, Boudicca's revolt, and Roman Gloucester (previously known as Glevum). We have an exciting term ahead including a trip to the Roman Fortress at Caerleon near Newport as well as our performance at the Three Choirs Festival at Tewkesbury Abbey in March!

Through the book 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit, we will learn about life in Pompeii and the impact the eruption of Mount Vesuvius had on Pompeii and the Romans living there. By exploring Mount Vesuvius, we will also understand plate tectonics, how volcanoes are formed, the types of volcanoes and where they are located in the world. This will reinforce our learning of fossils as we have touched on the idea of plate tectonics and how they bring fossils to the surface. We will also be reading the book 'So You Think You've Got It Bad- A Kid's Life in Ancient Rome' to find out more about what life was like compared to the modern day!

In English, we will be focusing on a variety of genres, using different texts as support – this will include writing poetry, a historical story, a newspaper report and a discussion text. As part of our daily English lessons, we will have a spelling, punctuation or grammar focus. Reading will continue to be a key focus and it is still really important to hear your child read even if they are more



independent readers. Encouraging your child to broaden their vocabulary will also help their reading and writing develop further.

Our Maths this term will focus on developing children's understanding of ratio, decimals and percentages, algebra, perimeter and area. We will continue to recap key mathematical concepts during our number sense sessions and encourage children to complete their Times Tables Rock Stars work each week at home.

In RE we are looking at two main questions: 'Why might Hindus want to be good?' and 'How do Muslims decide what is right and wrong?'. We will also be focusing on the values of Courage and Justice.

Our PE lessons will continue to be on Friday afternoons, and this term will involve Gymnastics and Netball. 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.

Supporting your children at home

This term, we will be introducing weekly homework which will be handed out on a Friday. As well as supporting children's understanding to help them revise for their upcoming SATs, this is also designed to prepare them for secondary school where they will inevitably receive homework on a daily basis. There will be an expectation that this is completed on time, and children will have to stay in to complete it over their lunch break if they choose not to complete this at home.

This will consist of three tasks- maths, reading and grammar. Each should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete- it is likely that it will take them less than this. Children can either choose to complete these all in one go, or can decide to manage their time to space these throughout the week- learning to manage their time and priorities is an important learning experience for them!

The homework will be explained fully to them each Friday, and we will also be marking their completed homework together the following Friday. If your child finds it too difficult, please stop after 15 minutes and write me a note on the homework sheet, and we can go through it with them (although all learning will be revisiting areas that we will already have covered in school, so should be within their abilities).

I'm well aware that this may be a battle of wills for some of you initially, as children aren't used to such regular homework- this is why there will be a consequence of staying in to complete it if they refuse to do it at home. Please do feel free to remind them of this and to defer to me if needed rather than an argument ensuing- from experience, children do not need to stay in during their lunchbreak too many times before they realise that they are much better off getting on with it at home! It is easier for children to learn this important lesson during primary school than in their first few weeks at secondary school- I hope you understand and support the thought process behind this.

I will also send home some optional fun homework tasks linked to our topic later in the term, as I know how many of the children enjoy these!

Communication with school

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or worries. Keep an eye on Class Dojo to stay up to date with everything going on in Year Six, our brilliant work and any upcoming events!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Miss Thomas
Year Six Class teacher