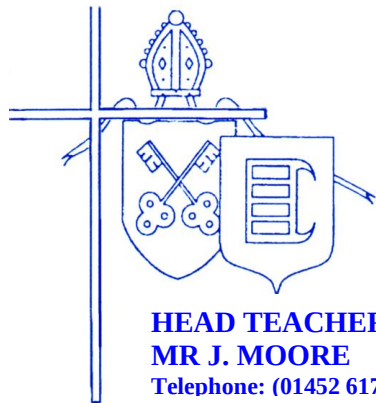




HEAD TEACHER:
MR J. MOORE
Telephone: (01452 617135)

**BARNWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
COLIN ROAD
BARNWOOD
GLOUCESTER
GL4 3JP**

admin@barnwood.gloucs.sch.uk
<https://barnwoodprimary.co.uk/>

20 April 2026

Dear Year Six Families

Welcome to your child's final term at Barnwood! I'm sure you thought this term would never come, but here we are- and what a term we have ahead. Having taught Year Six for most of my eighteen years of teaching, I can tell you that this is truly a memory-making term to give the children some wonderful final moments to look back on. It's also a term to get them ready for their transition to secondary school- a big step for all of you!

There are plenty of exciting things coming up which you'll be given more information on in the coming months- including secondary school induction, sports day, leavers' services and the greatest production this school has ever seen (I promise!) as well as the residential and SATs.

Of course, we also still have a full term of learning left in front of us, and this term our topic is The Tale of Gloucester. We will be looking at the story of Gloucester through the ages, and celebrating the diverse and thriving place it is today! We will look more closely at how the settlement of Gloucester (and specifically Barnwood) developed through time, as well as the role that Gloucester Docks has played in the importance of the city. We will take some local area walks to carry out fieldwork and collect data about the area and the people who live there.

In our English lessons, we will be writing our own fables based on the Beatrix Potter stories as well as producing some writing based on Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone- both of which have special ties to Gloucester!

During Maths, we will be completing work on shape and statistics before revising everything we've covered in primary school! Post-SATs, we will be carrying out some maths projects including presenting the data discovered from our fieldwork.

In RE, we will explore 'How might someone's worldview affect how they view and treat the natural world?'. Our Art will focus on the watercolour work of Beatrix Potter, while our DT will develop our embroidery skills!

For PE during this first half term, we will have a tag rugby session **each Tuesday** with Gloucester Rugby, so children will need appropriate outdoor kit on this day. PE will return to a Friday after half term.



The rest of this letter covers the two most imminent events- SATs and the residential. I have tried to cover as much as possible, but if you have any concerns or queries at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch or ask me at parents evening this week.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,
Miss Thomas
Year 6 Class Teacher

Enc.

SATs:

As you will know, it is now less than a month until our Year Six Statutory Assessments take place. These tests help measure the progress pupils have made and identify if they need additional support in a certain area. The tests are also used to assess schools' performance and to produce national performance data. These will take place over four days from 11th to 14th May 2026.

The timetable is:

Monday 11th May	English: Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (45 minutes) English: Spelling (around 20 minutes)
Tuesday 12th May	English: Reading (1 hour)
Wednesday 13th May	Mathematics (Arithmetic- 30 minutes) Mathematics (Reasoning- 40 minutes)
Thursday 14th May	Mathematics (Reasoning- 40 minutes)

These are statutory tests- your child must be in school on these dates.

Most children will complete the tests in our classroom as their usual learning environment, although some children (e.g. those with adult support or extra time) will complete these elsewhere in the school.

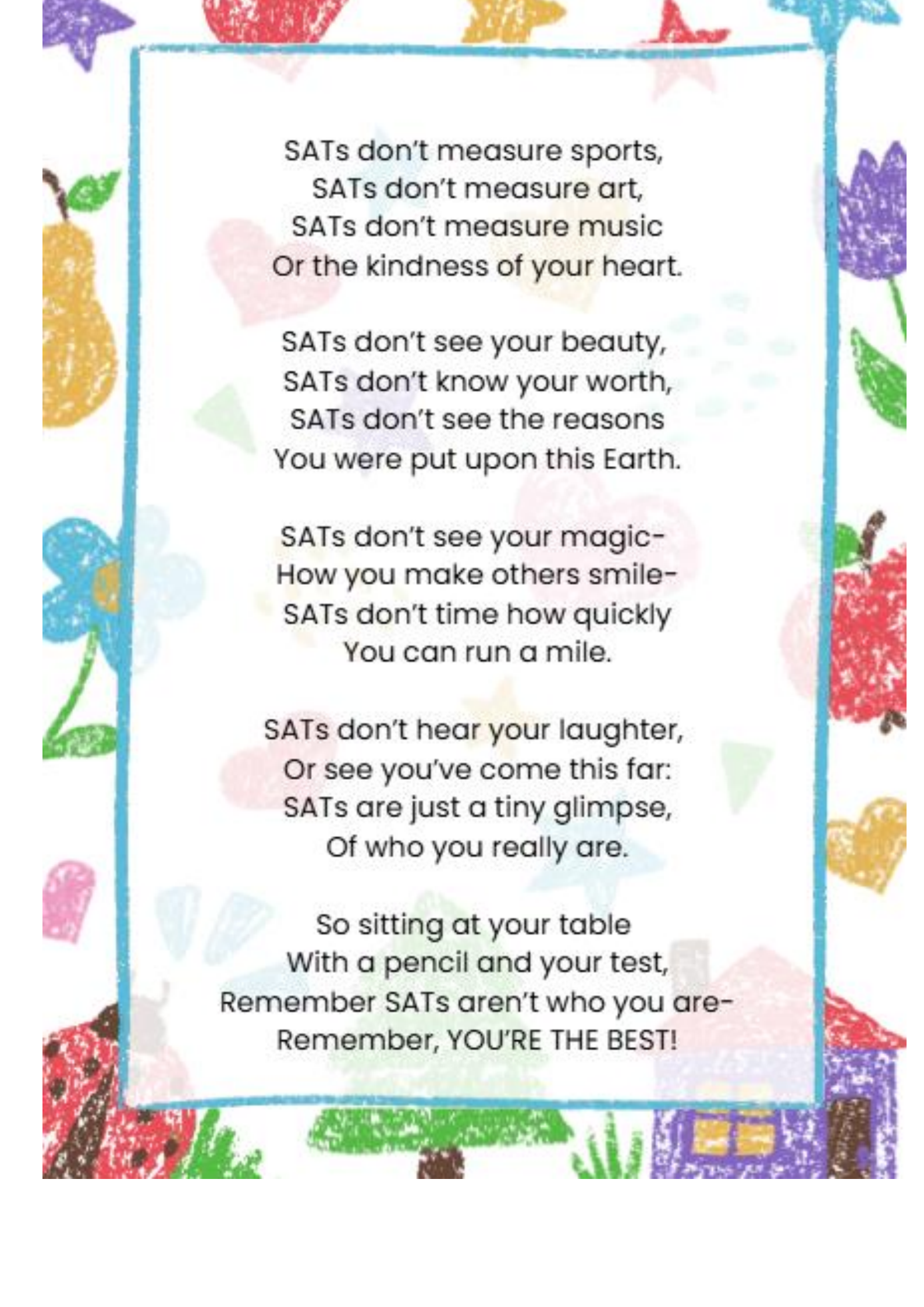
Between these tests, children will be taking part in a normal school day (obviously with a little emphasis on preparation for the next day's tests). For example, we will still have PE on Tuesday afternoon.

After the tests are completed, the papers are sent away to be marked externally. The results are then sent to the school in July and you will receive them with your child's school report. The outcome of SATS will make no difference to your child's Secondary School place.

Before the holidays, I sent home plenty of resources for children to work on as revision. This will be their homework for the rest of the term (although on no level do I expect all of the resources to be completed!). Children can work through these as much or as little as you and your child think is right for them- speak to them about the areas that they need to work on, as they should be able to identify these. Whilst I do not need these back in school, I'm happy to address any areas that they are struggling with.

Most importantly, the best way for children to prepare for their SATs is to feel calm and ready. This means not over-preparing to the point of exhaustion and stress! Make sure they have had a good night's sleep and are feeling positive about the progress they have made this year; being motivated to do their best and full of self-belief is more impactful than any last-minute cramming could be.

I believe that every single member of our class has a bright future ahead of them and I am already proud of all that they have achieved. Whilst it is totally normal that they are likely to feel a little nervous, it's important that they know that these tests are not going to define them or their futures in any way. It's just a chance to show off all that they have learned in primary school!



SATs don't measure sports,
SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music
Or the kindness of your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty,
SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons
You were put upon this Earth.

SATs don't see your magic-
How you make others smile-
SATs don't time how quickly
You can run a mile.

SATs don't hear your laughter,
Or see you've come this far:
SATs are just a tiny glimpse,
Of who you really are.

So sitting at your table
With a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are-
Remember, YOU'RE THE BEST!

Residential:

The Sunday after SATs (17th May) will be our PGL Residential trip! I know how excited the children are- although there are also always going to be inevitable nerves (from both children and parents!) which we will hope to manage within school. However, if you or your child have a specific question or concern, please do get in touch.

I have attached the kit list below as a reminder. I need to strongly reiterate that children should not bring any form of electronic device, and specifically not phones or tablets. They should have no devices with internet connectivity. Any that are brought will be confiscated immediately and dealt with seriously and parents will be notified. The reasons for this include, but are not limited to:

- Children should not have unsupervised internet access, as this is a safeguarding risk to both your child and others.
- Children should also not have the facility to take pictures of other children without their permission, particularly when they are living in such close quarters e.g. sleeping and getting changed. This is also a safeguarding risk.
- If children are feeling a little bit homesick (which is totally normal- especially if they haven't stayed away from home before!) and have a phone, they are likely to reach out to you. This will most likely upset both you and them! Homesickness is part of the process of residential for many children, and overcoming this is such a huge but important leap in independence! Many of the staff attending are very experienced in supporting children through this and, genuinely, I have never had a child who was homesick who hasn't had a brilliant time and been proud of themselves for staying (which every single one of them has). Please be reassured that if there were any issues that you needed to be aware of, we would get in contact with you ourselves.
- We want children to have the full residential experience- midnight feasts, giggling in the dark and all! Technology changes children's behaviour and stops them from engaging with their friends, and we want to let them enjoy being children without the distraction of a screen.

Please support us in this by not allowing your child to take a hidden device, and by checking that your child has not smuggled any devices into their bag.

I will sort room arrangements based on children's preferences, as well as having to consider the needs and inclusion of all children. This will mean that they may not all have the exact room that they have requested, but I will make sure that everyone is with at least one friend that they have chosen. They will find these out closer to the time.

Please have a good look at the kit list below and make sure you have all items in time. We will be taking part in water-based activities, so please ensure children have these items too. Please also make sure that as many items as possible are named. If your child is bringing a sleeping bag rather than a duvet, could you please train them to roll it up and fit it back into the bag to allow them to be as independent as possible!

A final tip- if your child has never slept a night away from home (or, more importantly, from you as parents), why not organise a sleepover with a friend or family member between now and then to show them that they can do it! I have also added a teddy and a book to the kit list as these things can help children to self-soothe if they are struggling to get to sleep. This, however, will inevitably only be an issue on the first night as they will be so exhausted on every other night!

You will receive further information about finer details of arrangements in the run up to the trip.



WHAT TO BRING

Please ensure that all items are named

CLOTHING

Clothes are likely to suffer wear and tear and also get dirty and/or wet therefore you should bring several changes of old clothes for doing activities.

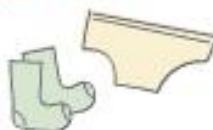
- ☐ Tops & jackets
 - ☐ T-shirts
 - ☐ Long sleeved shirt/T-shirts
 - ☐ Waterproof jacket
 - ☐ Fleece/jumpers
- ☐ Trousers or leggings
but not jeans as they get heavy and cold when wet
- ☐ Underwear & socks
- ☐ Swimming costume/trunks for water activities
- ☐ 1 or 2 sets of clothes for the evening
- ☐ Suitable nightwear



Your arms will need to be covered to do some activities.



Your socks will need to cover your ankles to do some activities.



FOOTWEAR

- ☐ 2 pairs of trainers
 - 1 for activities
 - 1 old pair for watersports
- ☐ 1 pair of dry shoes for evening activities



We recommend that all visitors wear closed-toe footwear while on site due to uneven terrain and safety considerations around activity areas

OTHER ITEMS

- ☐ 2 towels
 - 1 for showering
 - 1 old one for activities
- ☐ Reusable drinks bottle
- ☐ Small rucksack/bag
- ☐ Labelled bin bag for wet and dirty clothing
- ☐ Sleeping bag or duvet and pillow (unless otherwise advised)
- ☐ Washbag including soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste (please do not bring Aerosols)
- ☐ Hair ties for long hair
- ☐ Torch
- ☐ A book
- ☐ Pocket money £10-20 Recommended
- ☐ A teddy!



TRAVELLING IN THE...



...SUMMER?

- ☐ Shorts
- ☐ Baseball cap/sun hat
- ☐ Sunscreen



...WINTER?

- ☐ Warm coat
- ☐ Hat and gloves

Lost property

We recommend you write a list of what you pack to check before you come home. If you do leave anything behind, please contact your party leader who will contact PGL. Postage will be charged for returning lost items.

Study courses and sports weekends

Groups taking part in study courses and sports weekends e.g. netball/football, should bring appropriate clothing/footwear for these activities.

What to wear

We have included some guidance on what to wear and what not to wear for the activities we are most often asked about. Please note, activities vary at each centre and final activity itineraries are planned by each centre.

Water-based activities

- ✓ Old trainers/water shoes
- ✓ Warm clothing
- ✓ Layers
- ✓ Old clothes
- ✓ Swimsuit (for some water activities)
- ✗ Flip flops/crocs/sandals
- ✗ Wellies
- ✗ Jeans

Rope sessions

- ✓ Sturdy footwear
- ✓ Tops to cover the shoulders
- ✓ Shorts that cover the thighs
- ✓ Long trousers
- ✗ Flip flops/crocs/sandals
- ✗ Denim shorts

Muddy activities

- ✓ Old trainers
- ✓ Long trousers (waterproof if possible)
- ✓ Layers
- ✗ Flip flops/crocs/sandals
- ✗ Shorts

PLEASE DO NOT BRING

- ✗ Electrical devices
 - ✗ Computer games
 - ✗ Food items that contain nuts
 - ✗ Jewellery/valuables
 - ✗ Aerosols
 - ✗ Flip flops/crocs/sandals
- If you bring your mobile phone, please note, it is not covered by our insurance.

