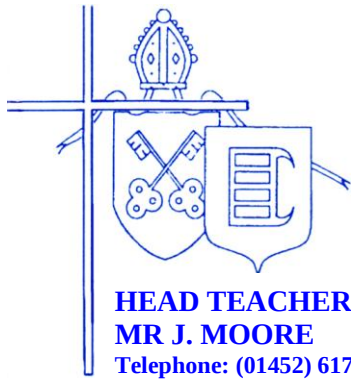




HEAD TEACHER:
MR J. MOORE
Telephone: (01452) 617135

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

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

Friday, 11th September 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to the start of Year Six! Having spent the last week with your children, I just know that it will be a wonderful year for us all. 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 exciting new start that is ahead of them.

As the children's final year in primary school, we have so much memory-making to do in the year ahead, so there will be lots of events throughout the year! A focus in the classroom will be making sure that we raise children's expectations of what they can achieve and how they can behave, ready for starting secondary school next year. This includes working on their organisational skills, independence, manners and learning behaviours. Perhaps you could encourage them to do the same at home, giving them a little more responsibility and independence to let them know that we recognise what they can truly achieve.

This year, there will be various adults working alongside me to support our children: we are lucky to have Mrs Wood and Mrs Hurcum supporting the class each morning. On a Wednesday, when I will not be in school due to fatigue caused by a health condition (ankylosing spondylitis- please do feel free to look it up!), the class will be taught by Mrs Gisby in the morning and Mr Moore in the afternoon. We will undoubtedly make a fantastic team to help Year Six to achieve their full potential this year!

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!

SATs:

The SATs assessments that children undertake in Year Six are statutory tests which will take place from **Monday 10th to Thursday 13th May 2027**. 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 'Eureka', where the children will consider the achievements of the Ancient Greeks and their influence on the western world such as the Olympics, architecture, democracy and inventions. Using the differences between life in Athens and Sparta, the children will develop their understanding of types of ruling and form their own views of which is better. In Geography, we will explore the human and physical features of modern-day Greece.

Through our **English** texts, the children will find out about life in Ancient Greece, the myths and legends of Ancient Greece and Ancient Greek Gods and Goddesses. We will be focusing on a variety of genres, using the texts on our knowledge organiser as inspiration – this will include writing narratives, reports, letters and newspaper articles. As part of our daily English lessons, we will have a spelling, punctuation or grammar focus.

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 securing their knowledge and understanding from previous years and building on these skills.

In **Science**, we will be learning about electricity and light. In our electricity unit, we will be exploring circuits and conducting scientific enquiries. When looking at light, the children will understand how we see things and how light behaves.

In **RE** we are looking at two main questions; 'What does it mean for Christians to believe that God is holy and loving?' and 'What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?' We will also be focusing on the values of Respect and Trust. Please encourage your children to talk about these values and how they can demonstrate them in everyday life.

Our **PE** lessons will 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.

Homework:

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. Children can record these themselves, but **parents just need to initial these once a week** to show that they agree that these reads took place! Children's reading records will be checked each Thursday, with a chance for them to win a book for our class bookshelf from the Mystery Reader raffle!

To encourage them to read a wider range of genres, and actually finish books instead of giving up part way through, we also have our Book Beads challenge, where children receive a bead for their book bracelet when they have finished a book and written a book review in their reading record. If they are choosing to read a book from home, they just need to bring it in once to show me so that we can agree on a genre.

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!

Additional homework will vary throughout the year, dependent on what we need to work on in class-it will increase throughout the year, ensuring that children are fully prepared for life at secondary school, and in preparation for SATs. I will ensure that you are fully informed of any changes through Class Dojo. Currently, children should just focus on their reading as well as choosing three activities from the homework grid (attached) and completing these before Christmas.

Other Reminders:

- The school gates are opened at 8:45am and closed at 8:55am. **Any children who arrive after this time will be marked as late.** As a class, lateness in the morning is a significant issue. If a child is just 10 minutes late each day, they will miss almost an hour of learning each week (including morning interventions, which happen first thing each day). In secondary school, lateness will lead to detentions- I would like our children to start secondary school used to being ready, organised and motivated to learn each day. I will be working with the children to improve this- we would greatly appreciate your support in doing the same.
- Children in the juniors can bring their own snacks into school for morning break as it can seem a very long time before they have their lunch. Their snack should be healthy e.g. fresh fruit or raisins (no peanuts, due to allergies).
- Children should have a drinking bottle in school so that they have access to water. These should only contain water- no squash please. We have been aware of children bringing drinks such as coke and even coffee in the last few years, which are clearly not appropriate; if this continues to be an issue, we will enforce that children may only have transparent drinks bottles.
- 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 continued support, I look forward to our year ahead together!

Best wishes,

Mrs Whiting
Year 6 Class Teacher

Year Six: Things to remember

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

- ✓ Remember to get an adult to sign your Reading Record

Thursday

- ✓ Remember Reading book
- ✓ Remember Reading Record

Friday

- ✓ Wear PE Kit today