



John Blandy Primary School

Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a lovely summer break. We are excited to be back in school and are very much looking forward to working with the children in Year 5/6 this year.

We have three classes working together this year: Maple being taught by Mrs Williams, Willow being taught by Mrs Kane and Poplar being taught by Miss Matheson and Mrs McClimont. All of the classes have TAs supporting the children and will be working with all children in Year 5/6. Our focus text for the autumn term is 'The Nowhere Emporium' and 'Macbeth'. The topic overview for the term is attached with this letter.

Morning and home time arrangements

The children will enter via Fir Tree gate each morning and make their way to their classroom independently. The gate will close promptly at 8:40am. If you need to speak with one of us, the best time to catch us is at the end of the day or you can make an appointment via the office. Should you have a quick message for us then, please write a note or email us via the office. At the end of the school day, the children will be walked out onto the KS1 playground with an adult to meet you, this will be new for Year 5, but we will have practised it already this week. The three classes will be brought out to the ball post alongside Elm class. An electronic form has been sent home for you to inform us if you would like your child to walk home on their own at the end of the school day.

If your child walks to and from school without an adult they can bring a mobile phone with them, however they need to be turned off as they enter Fir Tree Close and turned on as they leave. Once in school, they must be handed into the class box. It is at their own risk and own responsibility bringing in phones and this will be discussed in more detail at 'Meet the Teacher' meetings in September. Children who are not walking to and from school independently should not be bringing mobile phones to school.

Water bottles and Uniform

Please ensure that your child has a clearly named water bottle so that they may have easy access to drinking water throughout the day. It is always helpful to have all school uniform and PE kit clearly named so that children and staff know who they belong to. We work closely with our secondary schools to enhance transition from Primary and therefore in Year 5/6 in order to start preparing the children for secondary school, we would like the children to bring in their PE kit (including a pair of suitable trainers) on the days they have PE and not leave it in school. This will start to develop independence and responsibility, which are key skills in preparing for secondary school.

As a school, we are in support of reducing both costs of school uniform and also reducing competition amongst peers.

We therefore ask that children wear plain socks (no logos) and school shoes, not sports shoes, including Nike Air Force. If these have been purchased, we do request that the tag is removed.

www.johnblandyprimary.org.uk

John Blandy Primary School, Laurel Drive, Southmoor, Oxfordshire. OX13 5DJ

t: 01865 820422 e: office@jbl.faringdonlearningtrust.org

Headteacher: Mrs Elliott

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We also ask that skirts of an appropriate length for primary school. Children should also not come into school wearing jewellery (except a small simple gold/silver stud earring), having dyed hair or wearing nail varnish, false nails/eye lashes or make up; these will be asked to be removed. We would like to start the year as we wish for it to continue and for the older children to set an example to the rest of the school. We ask that you support us in these requests.

Please do ensure these are in school for our PE days which are:

Maple- Wednesday and Thursday

Willow- Tuesday and Friday

Poplar- Tuesday and Wednesday

During the colder weather we would encourage children to wear plain black or navy-blue joggers/leggings as most P.E lessons will be outside. PE kit should not be heavily labelled with logos.

Homework

Homework this year will focus on reading, spelling and maths. Homework books need to be handed in on a Monday and will be re-issued on a Wednesday. Spellings and times tables (or maths facts) will be tested at the beginning of the week. Reading, spellings and times tables practise all need to be recorded on your child's weekly homework sheet.

Spellings – initially these will be based on the common exception words in the autumn term and will then progress on to spelling rules. Please encourage your child to learn these spellings at least **4x** a week, using the strategies that have been taught in both Year 5 and in Year 6. They can also practise on Spelling Shed if they would like too.

Reading- Your child will be expected to read at least **5x** a week and record this information in their homework diaries. We would like your child to read an appropriate book for their reading age and to be aiming to read a wide range of texts, including fiction and non-fiction. The focus of this reading should be for enjoyment.

Times tables- We will have a mental maths test which to begin with will be times tables however as and when the children become fluent with these, we will progress onto other mental maths tests. Please do practise these at least **3x** a week.

Further information on the weekly homework can be found in the letters at the front of your child's homework book.

Year 6- additional homework

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As you are no doubt aware, this year your child will be taking their SATs, which will be a culmination of their learning over Key Stage 2. We will be encouraging and supporting the children to be ready and prepared over the next year, so that we can reduce any anxiety or worry and enable them to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding, with confidence.

*As mentioned at the end of Year 5, the children in Year 6 complete some extra homework to help support their SATs preparation. This year we have moved to using CGP books for their preparation. As a school we have managed to buy in a reading, GPS and maths book for each child at a considerable discount. These will be set weekly from October enabling the children to keep revisiting concepts throughout the year. The total cost of these three books is £8.86, which works out to be a lot cheaper for you if we purchase in as a school. Please can these be paid for on Bromcom by **Monday 28th September**.*

Equipment

We have asked that the children bring in their own pencil case that will remain at school. Ideally, it will contain the following: pencil, rubber, 15 cm ruler, **blue ink** fountain pen or rollerball pen (no biro please unless through discussion with class teacher), glue stick, coloured pencils and pencil sharpener (no felt tips please). They will also need to have a reading book with them daily either from home or the school library.

Upcoming dates for Yr5/6:

Thursday 8th September – Y5/6 Meet the Teacher (online) at 4:15-4:45pm. A Google Meet link will be sent prior to the meeting.

Wednesday 16th-Friday 18th September- Yr 6 (postponed Yr5) residential to Adventure Plus.

Thursday 24th September- Yr 6 SATS meeting- 3:15pm (in person) and 5:00pm (Online)

Friday 25th September- Macmillan Coffee Afternoon at 2pm- led by House Captains and Community Councillors

Friday 9th October- Yr 6 Kilvrough Residential meeting- 3:15pm (in person) and 5:00pm (Online)

Monday 9th November- Macbeth performed by Young Shakespeare Company

Parent Helpers:

Throughout the year, we have various trips, sporting fixtures and events taking place for which we will need parent helpers. If you are interested in being a parent helper this year, please could you email the office to let us know, if possible, indicating which days of the week you are available. We can then pull together a list of volunteers that we can call upon. Where parents volunteer as drivers, you will be requested to complete paperwork ahead of any trip eg: insurance details, MOT etc.

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We are all very much looking forward to working with the children this year and sharing their achievements with you. If at any point, you have queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us, either via a message to the office, by making a note in the homework books or catching one of us at the end of the day.

Kind regards,

Year 5/6 Team

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