



Mells Church First School
Mells, Frome, Somerset, BA11 3QE
enquiries@mells.bwmat.org
01373 812380

Executive Headteacher: Sally Jefferies
Headteacher: Rory McGrath

Welcome to Sunflower Class 2025 / 2026

We would like to offer you a warm welcome to Sunflower Class. We hope you had a fun and restful summer break, and you are looking forward to the new adventures the Autumn Term will bring. It is our aim this term to ensure that the children experience a smooth and gentle transition into Year 1 and 2. Also, we provide a positive and rewarding return to school for the children after the summer break, with a real focus on their wellbeing. So here is some important information to help you and your child achieve this.

Sunflower Team

Mr Shipway is the class teacher every morning. We will be supported with the following Teaching Assistants throughout the week:

Mrs Clayson – Monday

Mrs Harding – Tuesday & Thursday

Mrs Joseph - Wednesday

Morning Routine

Children will come through the main school gate at the front of school and enter the classroom through the Sunflower Class door – where an adult will normally be waiting.

The children are encouraged and expected to come into the classroom independently and say goodbye to their parents/carers at the front gate.

The children need to be responsible for their belongings and organise where their coat, fruit, water bottle, lunch box, reading book, reading diary and book bag should be put away.

The School Day and Punctuality

The children are expected to arrive at school between 8:40am when the school gates open and 8:50am when they close. . In order to foster independence and to encourage the children to be the best that they can be and to allow us to welcome all our children into a calm classroom, we ask that children say goodbye to their parents at the school gates and carry their own belongings into school and put these away in the correct places.

We please ask you to ensure your child arrives at school on time because the register is taken at 8:50am followed promptly by Wake and Shake at 8:55am. Lateness will disrupt the learning of others, and it is often quite daunting for a child to enter a session after it has begun.

If you need to speak to the class teacher please speak to the adult on duty at the gate, who will be happy to pass on a message or email the school office. The adults in school will assist the children with putting their things away if needed. Please avoid coming into the classrooms to speak to the teacher at the beginning of the day. If the message is urgent, please speak to the member of staff on the gate that morning and it will be passed onto the relevant class teacher. Alternatively, please make an appointment to speak to the class teacher at a convenient time after school.



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The School Day

Morning Register is at 8:50am

Morning break is from 10:45am to 11:00am.

Lunch break is from 12.15pm – 1.15pm

Afternoon register is at 1:15pm

Afternoon break is from 2:45pm to 3:00pm

School ends at 3:20pm

End of the Day

If someone other than parents will be collecting your child from school, please could you inform the adult on the gate in the morning. Alternatively, you can email or phone the school office. We will not be able to let a child leave with a different adult if we have not been informed.

What your child will need for school:

- A fruit snack for morning break - these are put into the snack basket on arrival at school. Please ensure your child's name is on their snack / snack pot to avoid confusion, thank you.
- Water in a **named bottle**, as we like to encourage them to drink throughout the day. These are kept in the box by the snacks for easy access.
- At this time of year, the children are expected to come to school in a warm coat as we endeavour to use the outdoors as much as possible to support the children's learning.

Uniform

Please ensure your child wears the correct uniform to school and that it is all **clearly named**. It is also essential that all the children come to school with a rain/warm coat every day. We will always endeavour to take the children outside to play even if it is raining!

P.E

Autumn Term: Children will be having PE on Wednesday and Friday this term. On these days, your child should come to school wearing their PE kit and trainers.

Reading

As in Reception and in Year 1 your child will have a reading diary that they will bring home along with a reading book. These need to be brought into school every day. The children will be responsible for putting their reading books and diary into the reading book box as they enter the classroom every day.

The children will have lots of opportunities throughout the week to read and enjoy books within school and to share these with you at home. We will continue to work towards Roarsome Readers points and prizes. So, an adult at home needs to sign the reading diary for the children to gain a tick on the 100 square towards the new Roarsome Rewards, the the adult in school will regularly check your child's reading record and then tick the 100 square at the front when they have read at home.



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We ask that children read to an adult at home a minimum of 4 times a week. This is essential to practice the decoding and comprehension skills that are being learnt in school and will allow your child to develop into an accomplished and confident reader. We want children to enjoy the experience and gain a lifelong love of reading so encourage you to read widely with and to your child sharing the experience together.

As well as this, it is so beneficial for you to read to your child regularly to enable them to engage with more challenging stories and be immersed in the rich vocabulary that these texts contain.

Maths

To help support the children's maths learning it would be beneficial for the children in Year 1 to begin to practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and for the children in Year 2 to practise and learn their 2, 5 and 10 times tables confidently. Other helpful maths practice would be for the Year 1 children to learn their number bonds to 10 (1+9, 2+8, 3+7, 4+6, 5+5) and the children in Year 2 to learn their number bonds to 10 and 20. Other beneficial things are for the children to learn doubles to 20 and to be able to count and recognise numbers to 50 in year 1 and to 100 in Year 2. These are skills the children can practise throughout the year.

Please continue to access the DoodleMaths app – any questions on this please ask

Home Learning

Every term the children will be given Home Learning linked to much of the learning that is taking place in school during the term. The activities will be creative and practical ways that the children can practise and reinforce the knowledge and skills they are learning in school. Children are asked to choose and complete **four** of the learning tasks which they can bring into school to share with their class. The children will be rewarded with a family point for every completed home learning.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to help your child enjoy a happy and successful year ahead. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me and I will always be happy to help.

Kind regards and warmest wishes

Mr Shipway & Sunflower Staff