

Barn Owls - Summer Term 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday and managed to enjoy lots of family time together with your children enjoying the glorious weather outdoors. Many thanks for the wonderful Easter wishes and surprises the Barn Owl's team received.

This letter shares the learning we have planned for the term ahead, along with any updates you may need to know. If you ever have a question or would like to talk something through, you're always welcome to catch us on the playground at home time, or pop a note in your child's reading record.

Year 1 Phonics

The children in Year 1 will be working towards their phonics test this term so do practise little and often, just five minutes a day makes a huge difference, and their confidence will grow too. Year 1 children will have a home learning sheet with all the sounds and sentences we are writing during the sessions sent home with their spelling books each Tuesday. Please use the sheet to help your child become familiar with the sounds and practise writing the sentences.

The children will be completing small group guided reading sessions in school (10 minutes per session) with staff to develop decoding, blending, fluency and comprehension skills.

Please help us to support your child by continuing to ensure that they practise their spellings at least 3 times, write out sentences containing their spelling and the tricky words (words that do not always follow the normal spelling patterns) and hear them read regularly at home, **once a day** is strongly recommended to help your child to make the most progress. If your child is stuck on a word, ask them to use their phonic skills to help blend the sounds together.

Reception Phonics

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

We will continue our Little Wandle sessions daily with Reception. Please keep an eye out for the home learning sheet that will be emailed home for the summer term's learning.

Please do support your child at home to develop their confidence with saying and reading the sounds. Magnetic letters are a great resource to build and sound out the words together or scrabble letters.

We would love to see examples of their learning at home on Tapestry or for Year 1 pupils via email to the school office (office@czn.odbst.org).

Reading books

Thank you to all families who consistently return reading books each week. We really appreciate your support. However, our book supply has become quite limited, so we kindly ask that two reading books are returned every Monday.

Please note that books are changed on Mondays, so it is important that they are returned on this day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a full and exciting range of books for the children.

Reading at home

It is important to read daily with your child. Do encourage them to sound out the words and try to read for themselves. This will really help to develop their confidence with reading in preparation for Year 1 and 2. Please sign the reading diary each week to let us know how this is going. Little and often is key. Children, who do this, make huge progress and do enjoy sharing their love of books with us.

In line with our Little Wandle phonics scheme, the children will bring home two reading books that link to the phonic phase they are currently being taught. These books can be decoded and sounded out. Aim to read the same book 2 or 3 times until your child can fully decode and fluently read it themselves.

The children will also bring home a library book on a Thursday that you can read to them and enjoy together

Please return reading books on Mondays when we will mark reading records and send new book home on Tuesdays.

Literacy

We will enjoy reading lots of different fiction and non-fiction books this term. Some books this term have a home/seaside/coast theme which links to our humanities topics.

All the children will be:

Reception	Year 1
Forming most letters correctly and writing short captions, phrases or sentences with increasing independence.	Forming most letters correctly and on the line and consistently using a capital letter to begin a sentence.
Saying a short sentence out loud and writing some words using sound talking. Example c -a -t (say it, write it) Children use a phonics mat to support them with writing.	Writing sentences independently and including conjunctions to extend their writing. Example: The dog was cross, and the cat was happy. The dog was cross because the cat hid his bone.
Beginning to identify capital letters and full stops in a text.	Using capital letters and full stops correctly.
Finding a purpose for writing in their play (shopping lists, police reports etc). The children often produce some wonderful	Putting a finger space between words and writing for a purpose. For example, write a story about a favourite character or

independent writing in their play and enjoy sharing their work with adults.	retell an event that they have enjoyed during the holidays.
Identify rhyming words through games and activities.	Writing a list poem based on a familiar story

Maths

Reception	Year 1
To 20 and beyond – making groups of numbers	Multiplication and division
How many now? – addition and subtraction	Fractions
Manipulate, compose, and decompose – shape work	Position and direction
Sharing and grouping	Place value within 100
Visualise build and map - patterns all around us	Money
Making connections – using their knowledge of the words to solve mathematical problems	Time

The rest of the curriculum at a glance

In Reception, the children will be learning a variety of skills through written work in our afternoon subjects and accessing continuous provision. Continuous provision allows the children to develop their skills in each area and really show their newfound knowledge!

PSHCE	Relationships Changing me
RE	Why do Christians meet regularly and what do they do? In what ways is the synagogue important for Jewish people?
Science	How does your garden grow?
Computing	Digital writing Programming animations
History (1 st ½ term)	Homes
Geography (2 nd ½ term)	The seaside and coasts
Art/DT	Artists around the world Mother Nature in art
PE	Athletics Bat and ball games
Music	Classical Zoo time

PE lessons will take place on **Tuesday** mornings and **Friday** afternoons. As the weather improves, we will aim to have PE outside so please do provide your child with outdoor shoes and jogging bottoms for a slightly cooler day. Please ensure that your child has their correct PE kit in school and that **everything** is labelled. The children will leave their kits at school and bring them home at half term. Do encourage your children to get dressed/undressed themselves as this is a vital skill. It's also great for fine motor development 😊

Home learning – Year 1

Please ensure that children continue to complete their Athletics activities online each week. You will also receive the term's topic homework by email.

We kindly ask that children practise their spellings three times a week and write sentences that include each of their spelling words. This regular practice really helps build confidence and accuracy in their writing.

Thank you for your continued support with home learning—it makes such a difference to the children's progress.

Mathletics <http://uk.mathletics.com/signin/>

Please return Year 1 spelling books every **Monday morning** for homework to be marked and for the children to complete their weekly spelling test. Spellings will be returned home on Mondays once they have been marked.

Children in **Reception** will have a few spellings to learn after May half term and in preparation for Year 1.

Labelling

Please ensure that all belongings (even sunhats and socks!) are clearly labelled with your child's name. This both helps your child to recognise their name and locate their own belongings, but also enables misplaced items to be easily identified and returned!

Misplaced items are placed in lost property in the cloakroom. Please do ask if you are not sure where this is located.

Class resources

A gentle reminder that KS1 children should not bring pencil cases to school. However, if families are able to support us, we would be very grateful for donations of items such as whiteboard pens, glue sticks, colouring pencils, masking tape, paper, card, felt-tip pens, etc. These resources are used daily and help ensure all children have what they need for their learning.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support.

Thank you

A massive thank you to all the volunteers who helped with cooking, sewing and those who helped during the recent school trips. The children were thrilled, and it was fantastic to have families join us for these activities. We do appreciate your time, and these events would not be able to take place without you. Do consider helping our superb PTA too because they fund our trips providing excellent memories for the children.

We would be delighted if you were able to volunteer to help listen to children in Barn Owls read. This regular practice is very important and it is such a wonderful activity to enjoy books together. Additionally, you can also hear your own child read!

If you would like to volunteer 8.40 – 9.15 a.m. or 3.00 – 3.15 pm., please email the school office and we would be happy to see you. The children also love a visitor to show off their reading skills to.

After the success of secret reader last year, we are hoping to roll this out across Key Stage 1 during the second half of the summer term (after May half term). Watch this space for more information!

Many thanks for your continued support in all areas of your child's school life. We always look forward to watching your children enjoy the brighter days and thrive during the summer term.

Mrs Beaumont and the Barn Owls team