

Welcome to Barn Owls!

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to all pupils in Barn Owls! I hope you have had a wonderful summer enjoying time together with family and friends. The children have had a super few days returning and settling into new routines at school. We had a tour of the school led by Year 1 pupils and Year R (Reception) pupils have enjoyed exploring both the indoor and outdoor areas of KS1.

Your children have made a wonderful start coming into school and I know this can be a daunting time for parents. Please rest assured for any children who find this part of the day difficult, the children settle quickly once inside the classroom and we have a team of wonderful KS1 staff who support them all in this process.

This letter will explain how Barn Owls will run and what your children will be doing this term. If you have any questions or anything you wish to discuss, please do come and speak to me at the end of the day or email the office and I will get back to you. It is difficult to speak to parents at the beginning of the day as my focus is getting the children into class and settled. If you need to pass on any information that may affect your child's day, please email this to the office and they will get a message to me.

Literacy

Phonics

Year 1 and Year R children will have daily phonics lessons to help improve their reading, spellings and writing. Their spellings for the week will correspond with the sound they are learning in sessions.

Year R children will not receive spelling homework until later in the year when they have settled and learnt a larger bank of sounds.

We will be reading lots of familiar stories this term looking at repetitive rhymes and patterns. We will read some traditional fairy tales and books focused on returning or starting school.

Year 1 objectives	Year R objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Orally compose a simple sentence.Begin to write a simple sentence independently using a sound mat or word bank to find the letters/words you need.Through teacher modelling children will begin to learn about leaving finger spaces between words, using a capital letter and full stops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Retell a familiar story to peers and adults using puppets and role play.Join in with repeated phrases in stories.Practise letter formation.Draw a character from a story and colour it.Write and recognise own name.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read your sentence back to an adult. • Write short labels and captions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy books, rhymes and familiar stories.
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Mathematics

Year 1 objectives	Year R objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore all the different representations of number 0-20 with a deep understanding of numbers to 10. • Begin to write numbers 0-10 and 11 - 20 with the correct formation. • Experiment with different ways of making groups of corresponding colours, size or shape. • Place value and ordering. • Say one more or one less than a number. • Compare groups using equal to more/less, greater/fewer. • Begin to use a number track. • Properties and arrangements of shape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore numbers 0-5 and their different representations. • Develop a deep understanding of numbers 0-5. • Experiment sorting objects into groups of corresponding colours, size or shape. • Subitizing (identifying the number of things in a set simply by quickly looking at them) • One to one correspondence. • One more/one less. • Making arrangements with shapes.

The Rest of the Curriculum at a Glance

RE	Who made the world? Why is Christmas important to Christians?
ICT	ICT all around us Finding out where sources of information come from
History (1 st half term)	Transport
Geography (2 nd half term)	The local area
Art/DT	Colours in art (1 st half term) Festival art (2 nd half term)
PE	Gymnastics; Music and Movement
PSHE	Being me in my world Celebrating differences
Science	Animals including humans; Seasonal changes

PE

PE lessons will take place on **Monday and Thursday afternoons**. Please ensure your child has their correct PE kit in school and that **everything is labelled**. The children leave their PE kits in school and bring them home at the end of each half term.

Reading Books

Year 1 children should have bought some reading books home with their reading record by now. Over the next few weeks Year R children will be bringing books home too. Reading records and books will be collected in on Mondays and new books sent home on Wednesdays with their reading record. **Please read with your child as often as possible and record it in their reading record**. This helps develop a love of reading and a passion for books! Regular reading support at homes makes a real difference to your child's progress.

Year 1 Homework

Year 1 homework will be set on a Wednesday and is to be returned the following Monday. The children will be set spellings, literacy and Maths work. Literacy and Maths will be Mathletics, Reading Eggs or paper homework so please check your child's book bag.

Please use the look, cover, write and check method to help your child learn their spellings. There are also lots of fun ways to learn spellings and suggestions will be in your child's spelling book to make this process fun and enjoyable. Aim to do this at least 2x a week and choose one or two spellings to write a sentence about. Children in Year 1 will have a weekly spelling test on a Monday during the phonics session.

Year R Homework

Year R homework will start later in the year once children have become more settled into school. However, they will soon be coming home with Mathletics and Reading Eggs passwords so do encourage them to log on and have a go at some of the activities.

<https://www.mathletics.com/uk/>

<https://readingeggs.co.uk/>

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has a named and filled water bottle each day so they can help themselves to a regular drink. This will be sent home at the end of the day for washing and refilling. We request that the bottles are filled with water only and no other drinks. It is also helpful if they have flip lids rather than screw tops.

Labelling

Please ensure that all belongings (uniform, coats, book bags, snack boxes, water bottles etc) are clearly labelled with your child's name. This helps your child to recognise their name and locate their own belongings. It also enables misplaced items to be easily identified and returned rather than staff needing to spend time locating it rather than being with the children to enjoy activities!

Show and Tell

In order to develop the children's communication and language skills, we are planning to have a Show and Tell session on Tuesday afternoons when children can bring in an item from home to talk about to the class. This can be an item relating to one of our afternoon subjects or something of educational interest such as a book about dinosaurs etc. Please **do not** send your child in with their favourite toy as it could easily be lost or broken causing tears. We will not allow the children to show toys.

Barn Owl Staff

On Thursdays this term Mrs Steere will teach Barn Owls. The children met her last week when she joined us for the first day of school and they had a wonderful day! Mrs Steere has a wealth of early years' experience and is looking forward to working alongside the class each week.

We are fortunate to have three teaching assistants (TA's) working in the class.

Mrs Youngman:	TA	Monday to Friday
Mrs Barker:	TA	Monday to Thursday
Mrs Mann	TA	Friday afternoons

Mrs Youngman is also their mid-day supervisor.

Meet the Teacher Tuesday 28th September

Following the success of these meetings last year, we will be holding two separate meetings:

Year R parents/carers 8pm
Year 1 parents/carers 8:30pm

These meetings will give you a chance to find out more about the year ahead and ask any questions. These will be remote meetings with a link emailed to you nearer the time.

Finally, **thank you for your very generous donations of pens, pencils, glue and all stationery.** As you can imagine, Barn Owls use these resources regularly to develop lots of skills and we are grateful for any donations! Please do bear us in mind at the beginning of a new term as we would be delighted to receive more 😊

We look forward to working in partnership with you during the year ahead.

Mrs Thomson and the Barn Owl team.

