

Barn Owls Newsletter January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the spring term and hope that you had a wonderful and well rested Christmas holiday with your families. We look forward to hearing all about this from the children. We would also like to thank you for your generous cards and gifts. It has been a pleasure to read your messages and see the many pictures the children drew in their Christmas cards.

In this letter you will find an overview of the work that your child will be completing during this term.

Little Wandle Phonics Update

The children will be continuing their phonics in year groups for the spring term. We have been fortunate enough to buy new home reading and guided reading books to use that are linked directly to our phonics scheme. This term the children will continue with daily phonics sessions to learn their sounds alongside 3 x guided reading sessions. This provides them with the opportunity to learn new sounds and practise them directly within the books they read. For more information on Little Wandle please use this link:

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

Additionally, children will come home each Monday with a home learning sheet to keep you informed of the sounds we are focusing on during our sessions. Please do support your child from home to develop their confidence with saying and reading the sounds. These will be sent home in book bags.

Literacy

We will be reading lots of different stories based on different cultures and looking at non-fiction books this term based around animals.

The children will be:

<u>Year R</u>	<u>Year 1</u>
Practising correct letter formation and how to say these sounds.	Handwriting with a focus on correct letter formation and begin to form full simple sentences to include a capital letter and full stop.
Begin to spell words by breaking down the sounds in them using a phonics mat to write. Example, I am going on a lion hunt. The word am is broken into two sounds a...m. On is broken into two sounds o...n.	Using a phonics mat independently when writing to help identify the sounds needed to form words. Say the word, break it into sounds, find the sound and write it. How many sounds does a word contain. Example in the story I am going on a lion hunt. Hunt is broken into 4 sounds h..u..n..t.
Developing the use of story language focusing on new vocabulary and understanding that print has meaning.	Understand and use adjectives in writing to develop story language. Example, Handa put seven <u>delicious</u> fruits in her basket.

Example, the words guava or ostrich in the story Handa's Surprise. Identify words that begin with the same initial letter sounds.	Begin to use simple imperatives to give an instruction. For example, shut the door please or sit down now.
Explore a range of ways to mark make within continuous provision. Investigate a range of fine motor activities such as, tweezers to pick up items,	Identify features of fiction and non-fiction texts. Diaries and fact files

Reading books

It is important to continue reading daily with your child and to discuss the book with them. The colour coded books are to practise the phonics sounds we know, and your child will also bring home a longer story book (from either the library or our story box) for you to read to them. These are story books where you can enjoy this time discussing pictures and developing their language skills. Please sign your child's reading diary to let us know how that is going. Books will be changed and sent home every Monday so please ensure they come to school with all their books and their reading record.

The video link here can help you to teach your child to read at home:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SxF8A2ww1E>

Please hear your child read every night. Once they have read their decodable book once, please hear them read it again and again so that they can develop fluency and expression.

For those children who are reluctant to read try the following:

- Read a phonics-based book only every other night so they do not feel overwhelmed. Five minutes maximum is enough to keep them interested and feel like they have achieved something, followed by lots of praise.
- You **do not** have to read the **whole** book in one go. Read only two pages if necessary but work hard to break down the letters and sound them out.
- Tell your child they are going to be the teacher; you sound out a word and get them to correct you.
- If a child is finding it tricky you sound out the word for them, get them to repeat it and say it together.

Please also read to your child as this is a lovely activity which children enjoy and helps engender a love of reading and books.

Mathematics

The children will be covering a lot of different areas of Maths this term through adult led activities and their continuous provision. These include:

Year R	Year 1
Concept of zero Composition of numbers 4 and 5	Place value within 20
Growing 6,7,8 Simple addition Making pairs Building 9 and 10. Bonds to 10	Place value within 50

Length and Height	Length and Height
Length, height, time, patterns and spatial awareness.	Weight and Volume

The rest of the curriculum at a glance:

RE	What is the Good News that Jesus Brings? Why does Easter matter to Christians?
Computing	We are photographers We are researchers
Science	Everyday materials-brilliant builders Plants
History	Florence Nightingale (first half of term)
Geography	Weather (second half of term)
Music	Round and Round Friendship song
Art/DT	Materials to create art Designing and making playgrounds Cookery (first half of term) Forest school (second half of term)
PE	Gymnastics Multi ball games/skills
PSHE	Dreams and goals Healthy Me

PE

PE will take place on Thursdays this term. Please ensure that your child has their correct PE kit in school and that everything is labelled! Many items of PE kit remained unnamed last term- this takes up valuable learning time looking for items only to find out they have no name. Just their name on the label of items in biro is a huge help to us. Our apologies for those items that get into others' PE bags. The staff and children are working very hard to rectify this with staff encouraging the children to take responsibility for their items by placing them in their PE bags when changing and not on the floor! It is a work in progress and the children are doing well. The children leave their kits at school and bring them home at half term. Also, do encourage your child to dress and undress themselves. Some are very reluctant to do this in school and it is a valuable life skill. They feel a real sense of achievement when they can change independently.

Homework

Maths and Literacy homework Year 1 pupils

Reading records and spellings will be completed on Mondays and returned the same day. Please ensure your child comes to school each Monday with these in their bag.

Maths and literacy will be set on a Tuesday and is to be completed by the following Tuesday. Mathletics will be set weekly. Please see notes below regarding spellings and Reading Eggs.

For Year 1 Barn Owls, spellings will go home in a purple spelling book where children must 'look, cover, write and check' 3 times to practise each word throughout the week. This term the focus will be on tricky words. Year 1 children are encouraged to write their spellings into sentences each week. This really does help them develop into independent writers ready for the jump into Year 2. We love a silly sentence so go for it! Spellings will be tested each Monday and new ones sent home the same day alongside reading books and records, so please ensure your child has their purple spelling book in school each Monday.

Additionally, we would ask all Year 1 Barn Owls to complete one Reading Eggs per week. I will not set specific assignments but ask you choose one with your child as the app sets the appropriate level. Occasionally, I will set a paper task that will be sent home in your child's bookbag in place of reading eggs so please do check. If no paper task is in there on a Tuesday, then assume it's a Reading Eggs week 😊

Barn Owls Reception homework update

Reception Barn Owls will be set one Maths activity on Mathletics to complete each week. Some Barn Owl Reception children may have already completed Mathletics but it is always beneficial to repeat activities so please do so if these are set. When you log on, the home page will ask you to complete an assignment set by your teacher. Mathletics link:

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

All logins were sent home last term attached to your child's reading record. Please do come and ask if you cannot find this.

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child brings a **named** and filled water bottle into school with them each day so that they can drink regularly throughout the day. Children are actively encouraged to have a drink whenever they choose and at lunch. Bottles will be sent home at the end of each day so that they can be washed and returned to school again the following morning. We request that these drink bottles contain water only, which is not only better for children's teeth, but can cause limited damaged to other items if the contents get spilt. Some children are finding screw top bottles challenging to open so do consider what is best for them.

Labelling

Please ensure that all belongings (uniform, coats, lunch boxes, book bags, snack boxes, water bottles etc) are clearly labelled with your child's name. This not only helps your child to recognise their name and locate their own belongings, but also enables misplaced items to be easily identified and returned! Last term we continued to have many items that were not named. There will be a lost property box for KS1 located in the outdoor area at the back of Barn Owls classroom.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell will continue a Tuesday afternoon. Please only encourage drawings, models and books rather than precious toys that can get lost resulting in tears. We had a superb collection of home-made books made last term which the children have decided to keep in our book box. The children love reading them! Children will not be allowed to show cuddly teddies or toys.

Stationery

We would be delighted to receive any kind donations of stationery for use in Barn Owls. We really appreciate any donations of extra glue sticks, whiteboard pens, high quality pencils or rubbers, as they keep our forever-dwindling stocks topped up. If you happen to see any going cheap in the supermarkets or have any spare at home, then please send them in. The children are constantly mark making both indoors and out which is wonderful to see. We would be most grateful!

Helper update

We would value parent helpers to listen to our children read regularly. This is of such benefit to young children and a wonderful way to see what happens within the class. If you are DBS checked and could volunteer 15 – 30 minutes of your time once a week, we would love to see you. Preferred times are 9 -15/30 am or 2.30/40 – 3.00 p.m. Please come and speak to me if you can volunteer. If you are not DBS checked, it is a quick and easy process so do ask at the Office to have one completed.

Mrs L'Esperance will be teaching Barn Owls on Wednesday mornings this year and is very much looking forward to the Spring term.

Finally, we would like to thank you all for your support last term. It was both busy and exciting with a real buzz throughout Barn Owls. We look forward to seeing your child's progress during the spring term and would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Mrs Thomson and the Barn Owls team.