

Barn Owls - Summer Term 2025



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 outdoors. We have enjoyed hearing about the children's activities over the school holidays. Thank you all for your kind messages and Easter treats.

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 and they will have their weekly learning sheet posted on Tapestry. If you would like to reactivate your Tapestry account so you can access the home learning little Wandle sheet, please contact the school office with the email you would like a link sent to. Please do support your child from 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

We recently purchased some new books for Barn Owls and Snowy Owls because our stock had become very low due to books not being returned each week.

Could we kindly ask that any reading books are returned to school on Mondays where staff will log that they have been returned and new books handed out. Sadly, if books are not returned, we will not be able to issue new ones until they are. This is to avoid us having to re stock again at great cost to the school. Thank you for your support in this area.

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 this themselves.

The children will also bring home one-story book 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. Books this term have a space theme which link to our history topic, so lots of cross curricular learning can be fulfilled.

All the children will be:

Reception	Year 1
Forming most letters correctly and writing short captions 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 independent writing in their play and do enjoy sharing their work with adults.	Putting a finger space between words and writing for a purpose. For example, write a story about a favourite character or 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	Judaism What do Christians believe God is like?
Science	What do animals (including humans) need to survive? Living things, food chains
Computing	Emails Data handling
History (1 st ½ term)	Neil Armstrong
Geography (2 nd ½ term)	Continents
Art/DT	Recycling and Eco art Sculptures
PE	Bat and ball games
Music	Classical Zoo time

PE

PE lessons will take place on **Wednesday** 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. We continue to have items of PE kit unnamed and with 27 children getting changed, it can be tricky to ensure all items go in the correct

bag. We are working on this! 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

This term all homework will be set for all children in Barn

This term, home learning will be set for all children on a Tuesday for completion the following Monday. This includes, spelling, reading books, Mathletics and literacy sent via either email or on paper in bookbags. Reading eggs will no longer be used in school. Please continue to practise spelling 3 x weekly and write out spelling sentences to include your spelling words.

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 Tuesdays 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! It is of huge benefit to us all when items are labelled and saves huge amounts of time when staff have to look for them rather than be teaching your children. Misplaced items are placed in lost property in the cloakroom. Please do ask if you are not sure where this is located.

Pencil cases

Children will no longer require pencil cases in school this term. Before Covid children in KS1 used to share whole class resources in baskets on their tables. This maximises table space and helps the children to remain focused on learning rather than who may be looking or wanting items in their pencil cases. We have a whole class set of writing pencils, whiteboard pens, colouring pencils, felt pens and crayons. We would be very grateful indeed for generous donations of writing pencils, glue sticks and colouring pencils if you do see any on offer as our stocks do go down quite quickly! These will be shared within the class, and we do appreciate your understanding with us returning to how we originally used whole class resources pre Covid.

We have an exciting term ahead.

Wellington Park trip 13th May

Sports Day 20th June

Oxford Science Day 23rd June

Indian dance workshop 14th July

Volunteers needed please

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with cooking, reading and those who helped during the library trip. The children were thrilled, and it was fantastic to have families join us for these activities.

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 2.30 – 3.15 p.m, 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 summer 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 KS1 team