

Owls' Class Newsletter Term 1

You will receive one of these letters each term which will share important information about what we are learning in class, along with ways in which you can support learning at home.

It has been an absolute pleasure to meet you and your children, and we hope that you feel like they have already made a positive start to settling in at school.

We hope that you find the information in this letter useful and if you have any questions as the term progresses, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mrs Foxall, Mrs Whittaker and Mrs Wiffen

Independence

The children have made a great start to their time in school. Please remind your child to self-register when they come into the classroom in the morning, put their book-bag in the correct box and put their water bottle in the tray. If you can encourage your child to come into the classroom independently as soon as possible, this will help them settle into school life quickly.

Water Bottles

Your child should bring a drink bottle containing water into school each day which they can then access throughout the day. Please ensure that both the bottle and lid are clearly named. The bottle will be sent home each evening for you to wash.

Reading at Home

You will now have received information on how to support your child with reading at home along with their first book. These first books have no words and are designed to help your child tell stories, recall information and discuss characters and events. Reading books will be changed on a Tuesday and Friday. This year we are having a reading raffle, celebrating the children's reading at home. Please sign or comment in the Reading Record Diary when the children have looked at, discussed or read their school book or any book at home.

PE Lessons

In addition to the planned opportunities for physical play during Child Initiated sessions, children in Reception will have a weekly PE lesson which will take place. Please make sure that your child's named PE kit is always in school available for them to use. We will send these home termly for a wash!

Milk and Snack

The children are offered milk and a piece of fruit at break time each day. They can bring in a piece of fruit from home if they would prefer. When your child is 5, they are no longer entitled to free school milk. If they still want to have a carton of milk at playtime, you need to pay for this via the Cool Milk website. You will receive an email following their birthday with a link to the website.

Please label everything with your child's name.

Why not share some of these activities with your child:

Topic

- Find out what a dentist does, perhaps you've visited a dentist before?
- Look at the buildings on your street. Are they all the same or are some different?
- Go for a walk and explore the environment at the start of autumn.

Literacy

- Join the library and start borrowing books.
- Learn how to write your own name with a capital letter at the start and the names of other people in your house.

For example: Can you write Mummy or Daddy?

- Look for letters in the world around you.

For example: Can you find a 's' on a trip to the supermarket?

Maths

- Find out what number house you live at. What number is next door?
- Ask someone at home to give you amounts of objects to compare using words like "more", "less" and "same".
- Look around your house, see if you can find, a triangle, a square, a rectangle and a circle.

Useful Dates

Monday 22nd September – Individual Photos
Friday 26th September – MacMillan Coffee Afternoon
Tuesday 7th – Thursday 9th October – Parent Consultations
Wednesday 8th October – Flu Immunisations
Thursday 16th October – Last Day of Term
Tuesday 28th October – Start of Term 2

What are we learning this term?

This is just a flavour of some of the activities we will complete linked to each mini topic

***Ourselves & Our Families-** We will spend time talking about those who are important to us, discussing how they care for us and developing our understanding of how families may differ. We will also learn about our different body parts and produce a labelled diagram of our bodies as well as thinking about the function of different body parts.

***People Who Help Us-** We will be finding out more about people who care for us including, the emergency services, medical staff and of course school staff. In addition to this we will find out about ways in which we can look after ourselves including caring for our teeth and washing our hands regularly.

***Houses & Homes-** We will be talking about our own houses and finding out about other people's homes which may be different to our own. We will also be building models of our houses using junk which we will add to a map.

***Autumn-** Throughout the term we will observe the changes in our outdoor area and find out more about what happens to nature during autumn.

***Phonics-** At the start of our phonics journey we will play lots of listening games which will help us refine the skills we need to listen carefully to sounds in a word. We will explore the garden and the sounds we can hear there, as well as hunting for an object by following a sound. We will also play games which explore rhyme and words which sound similar. Later in the term, we will start looking at the letters and the sounds made by these which will enable us to recognise them in a word.

The sounds which we will learn this term are:

s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g

***Literacy-** In Literacy we will be exploring the story 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell. We will complete many activities including, talking about what happened in the story recalling events and characters as we do so, we will use our knowledge of the story to put the events in order. Later in the term we will be taking part in storytelling activities linked to the traditional stories 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'The Three Little Pigs'. We will use story maps to retell these stories, and we will begin to engage in shared writing activities contributing ideas to a class piece of writing.

***Maths-** We will start to work on our ability to compare and recognise amounts without needing to count. We will learn to use number names in order correctly and will practise reading and writing numerals. Our shape lessons will include looking for shapes in our environment and naming those which we find. We will also spend some time looking at and using language associated with height, in order to discuss the differences between members of our class.