

Owls' Class Newsletter- Term 3

Happy New Year!

Welcome back, we hope that you all had a restful and healthy Christmas. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the cards, gifts and best wishes you gave to us at the end of last term. It was incredibly kind of you and very much appreciated by us all. We have an exciting and busy term planned. Please come and talk to us if you have queries or concerns about anything.

Best wishes,

Mrs Foxall, Mrs Whittaker & Mrs Wiffen

Independent Learning

Independence is a key part of the Foundation Stage and is an area we spend a great deal of time working on. By developing the independence of very young children, they go on to being able to lead and manage their own learning.

This term, we will be focussing on encouraging children to be able to do the following three things:

- Put on and attempt to do up their own coats
- Write their own name in lower case letters using a capital letter at the start
- Collect the equipment they need for a lesson e.g. a pencil, glue stick etc.

Reading at Home

Thank you for your ongoing support with reading at home. We will continue to change reading books each Tuesday and Friday. It is very common for children to struggle when first working on segmenting and blending the sounds to read words. Continuous practice, both at home and in school, will enable children to continue making fantastic progress in this area.

We give out certificates to celebrate reading and we have a class reading raffle to encourage the children to read at home. Please mark in the reading record every time your child has read and please send their book and reading record in every day.

PE lessons will continue to take place each week.

Please make sure that a full named PE kit, including plimsolls or trainers, is in school ready for these sessions.

Cool Milk!

If your child is now 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.

What are we learning this term?

***Dinosaurs** - This term we will be learning about dinosaurs! Lots of children have expressed an interest in dinosaurs through their play so hopefully they will be as excited as we are for this topic. We will be finding out about different dinosaurs including what they ate, how big they were and where they lived. We will be learning about fossils and finding out what these teach us about dinosaurs as well as finding out what a palaeontologist does. We will use what we have learnt to draw dinosaurs and label their features, to make a dinosaur model and to make our own dinosaur habitats.

***Chinese New Year** - We will be learning about Chinese New Year. We will do some art and design about this topic, taste some Chinese food and learn about how people celebrate in different ways.

***Phonics** - We will continue to recap the sounds we learnt last term in addition to learning new sounds. We will continue to practise how to segment and blend sounds to read simple words and sentences. In addition to learning new sounds, we will also learn some tricky words which cannot be decoded using phonics and instead need to be recognised from memory.

The sounds, which we either recap or learn in phonics, are:

-f, ff, l, ll, ss, j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh, th, ng

The Tricky Words we will learn are:

he, she, be, we, me, was

***Literacy** - In literacy we will focus our lessons around a variety of stories about dinosaurs including:

Harry & the Dinosaurs series- *Ian Whybrow & Adrian Reynolds*

The Dinosaur that Pooped series- *Tom Fletcher & Dougie Poynter*

Dear Dinosaur- *Chae Strathie & Nicola O'Byrne*

We will apply the phonic sounds we know in order to write in a variety of contexts. We will continue to learn about writing sentences which feature a capital letter at the beginning and finger spaces between each word. When writing words and sentences we will apply the phonic sounds we know in order to spell regular words correctly and to make phonetically plausible attempts at more challenging words.

We will also spend some time looking at information texts and producing our own factual pieces based on our dinosaur learning.

***Maths**- This term we will continue to work on our ability to recognise a group of objects without counting but by combining smaller amounts. We will also develop our counting and number work with numbers to 20. We will also continue to try and write numbers correctly particularly those tricky 2-digit numbers. We will build on our understanding of what is meant by 'more than' by saying what is 1 more than a given number. Later in the term this will be extended to finding out what is meant by 'less than'. Our understanding of 'more than and less than will support us when we learn about addition and subtraction. We will continue learning about shapes and will begin to find out about 3D shapes. We will also be learning about money and will be giving a total amount of money by counting a group of 1p coins.

Why not share some of these activities with your child:

Topic

- Find out the names of different dinosaurs, some have very tricky names. Can you say them correctly?
- Learn three facts about a dinosaur of your choice
- Design your own dinosaur using different features of dinosaurs you know about

Literacy

- Practise writing a sentence; don't forget to leave a space in-between each word.
- Look at an information book about Dinosaurs. Are information books different from story books?
- Play 'Tell a T-Rex'. You can find this game in the literacy section of www.ictgames.co.uk

Maths

- Find things which are bigger or smaller than you are.
- Have a go at finding ways to make different totals. 3 and 2 more is 5, 8 take away 1 is 7.
- Look at different coins and try to find out how much each one is worth.

Diary Dates

Date TBC - Trip to Faversham Play Gym

27th January - Drama Workshop

29th January – Year R Hearing Checks

WB 9th February – Children's Mental Health Week

10th February – Safer Internet Day

13th February – Last day of term 3

16th – 20th February – Half term

23rd February – Staff Development Day

24th February – Start of Term 4