

**Brilliant Barn Owls**  
**Autumn 1 newsletter**



Welcome back everyone! We hope you have had a fantastic summer and we look forward to a fun and exciting year with you all.

We have had a brilliant start to the new school year and the children have all settled back in.

Our whole school topic is  
**'Adventures in Time'**

Our whole school Christian Value is

**Generosity**

'Proverbs 11:25

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

**Our first topic**



This half term we will be finding out about 'Superheroes'. Superheroes have great adventures in many different places and times. We will also link this to 'real life' superheroes, people who have made a significant contribution in our history. We will be finding out about our 'real life' superheroes and comparing some of these people to similar superheroes in the past.

**Writing**

For our talk for writing this half term we will be writing a journey story. We will use 'Little Red Riding Hood' as our talk for writing text and consider what makes it a journey story, what language and grammar we can use to make this a good story and finally we will write our own version of the story applying the skills we have learned. We will also be making sure we use the 'non-negotiable' writing skills such as, spelling, handwriting and 'Sentence Sam'.

**Reading**

Most of the children in Barn Owl Class will still be accessing our school reading scheme at the start of this school year. Children will be able to change their book on a Monday after they have placed it in the 'Book Change Box'. Your child will bring a new book home either Monday or Tuesday. It is your child's responsibility to ensure their book is placed in the box - we encourage independence in Year 2! When it is deemed appropriate, your child may start to access the 'Accelerated Reader' programme. This is where children take home a book of their choice and complete an online quiz at school that tests their comprehension skills. This will be brought home along with a reading scheme book.

If we can stress one thing this year it is to hear your child read. Reading unlocks all other learning and it is vital children continue to make progress in reading. It may be that you feel your child still needs support with phonics to help them decode and we will be recapping phonics for the first half term. If you need any support with this please let me know via email to school. Children in Year 2 will have to sit the Year 1 phonics screening check at the end of the autumn term. Please also read to your child. This is a fantastic way for children to 'pick up' key skills such as, fluency and expression, which are extremely important in Year 2.



We will also start whole class reading where we will read as a class and practise different reading skills across the week. During this time we practise blending and decoding words using phonics, literal retrieval from the text and inference about the text. Groups of children will also be heard reading to further focus on these skills.

Children will also be heard reading individually at least once a week. If you would like to volunteer and have an up to date DBS check, we would really appreciate your help.

**SPaG (spelling and grammar)**

The focus for learning moves from phonics for reading to spelling and grammar in Year 2. Children will bring home a spelling list on a Friday to look at, practise and apply. These will not be tested at school. The weekly spelling lists we send home will be linked to the spelling rules we have learned in class.

There will also be 3-5 Common Exception words for year two. As in Year 1, these need to be read and spelt correctly by the end of Year 2. This is a key expectation in writing for children to meet age related expectations for Year 2.

**Maths**

Our first unit of learning in maths is Place Value. The first part of our learning will be to ensure children have retained the key skills from year 1 to help them build on ready for Year 2. So if for the first week your children feel they are covering work they have already learned, it is to make sure we can move on securely. Following this children in Year 2 learn about place value to 100. We will learn to read and write all numbers to 100, order and compare numbers to 100 and split these numbers into different combinations of 10s and 1s e.g.  $65 = 50 + 15$ ,  $65 = 40 + 25$ ,  $65 = 60 + 5$  etc. We will apply these skills in problem solving and reasoning contexts.

We still have **Times Table Rock Stars** and **Sumdog** to access at home. You will find your log in details in the



★ homework book. This is an excellent resource to help support mental maths skills.

If you have any urgent questions or queries please ring the office or send an email. ★

★ **PE**  
We are very lucky to have a PE specialist this term that will cover Wednesday afternoons for my Planning Preparation & Assessment (PPA) time. Children will need black shorts and a red PE t-shirt in school. PE pumps or trainers are also useful to have in case we can fit in another PE session which may be outside.

Kind Regards,  
Mrs. Harpham and Mrs. Mills

★ **Homework**  
You will receive a homework book and homework sheet. These have some key tasks we suggest **must** be done with your child as they support them in their key skills in school.

★ Also on the sheet will be a range of different activities linked to our topic and **these are optional**.  
★ Please feel free to do as many or as few as you like. Some children and parents are keen to carry on their learning at home and these are just to give you a few ideas of how you can do this. House Points will be given if children bring their homework into share but children do not have to share it.  
★ The book is for you to practise spellings, numbers and stick photos in of homework. It is a working book for children to record home learning in but will not be marked.

★ **Snack**  
★ Please make sure you **only send your child with a fresh or a dried fruit snack for snack time**. Children in Year 2 do still get a fruit snack at school too. We have snack at morning playtime.  
★ Please remember to only send water in water bottles to drink through the day -a hydrated brain is an active one! Juice is fine for lunchtime but not to drink when we are learning in class.  
★ Milk may be ordered for playtimes (contact the office for details).

★ **Independence**  
★ We try to encourage children to be more independent in Year 2 therefore we encourage children to put all their things away, their books in the box if they need changing and to sit down for their morning activity by themselves. It would be helpful if you could remind them of the routines at home as well.

★ A message from Mrs Mills: For those who don't know me you will probably recognise and notice me by my strange (American) accent. My name is Mrs Mills and I am so excited to be your teacher on a Thursday and Friday. I have worked previously at Hambleton in a wide range of year groups. I am very much looking forward to getting to know your children and yourselves.

