

# Elf Owls

## Autumn Term 1 Newsletter



**Welcome back everyone! We have had a fantastic start to the new school year and the children have all settled in well. We are really trying to be independent and learn our new school routines.**

Our whole school Christian Value is  
**Generosity**

Proverbs 11:25:

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

At the start of Year One your child will transition from learning through play with a little more structure to their day compared to Early Years. Your child will learn through play and be encouraged to complete 'Rainbow Challenges' during busy learning time to consolidate their skills in most areas of the curriculum. So far they have all risen to the challenge and have thoroughly enjoyed the rainbow challenges as well as the more structured parts of their school day. They also have small focus group time which is adult directed and allows the children to have more 1:1 support with their learning.

### Our first topic - Adventures in Time

This half term we will spend some time learning about homes in the past. We will focus on The Three Little Pigs for our topic and writing. We will find out about the best materials to use for certain objects such as a house and umbrellas. We will be researching about the homes in the past and compare to homes today and in the story of The Three Little Pigs.

### Writing

The main focus for our writing skills is writing sentences with capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We will also have daily handwriting sessions at the start of each day during phonics. Your child will learn precursive handwriting, which will lead to cursive before the end of the school year (please see handwriting formation worksheet for your child to have a go at home).

We will focus on characterisation and learn how to write simple sentences to describe. All using our Talk for Writing approach.

### Reading

We will start Guided Reading where we will 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.

Children will also be heard reading individually at least once a week. It is highly important that children read at home and practise their sounds and words. Book changing day will **only** be on a **Monday** and your child will receive **three books** each week.

### Phonics

Children have daily phonics where we learn new sounds and how to say, write and blend for reading and segment for spelling. As the class missed parts of their phonics learning last year we will be recapping to start with, and then progress onto new sounds. We will start with phase 3, then 4 and 5. There are 45 common exception words which need to be learned by the end of Year 1 (see attached sheet).

**Maths**

Our first unit of learning in maths is counting, ordering and comparing numbers to 10, then to 20. We also make sure we are secure in number bonds to 10 and addition and subtraction within 10. We will be applying this learning in problem solving and investigative contexts.

**PE**

On a Thursday Elf Owls will need a PE kit. Children will need black shorts or trousers and a red PE t-shirt in school. PE pumps and trainers are also useful as when possible PE will be outside. The children should arrive school in their PE kit please.

**Homework**

You will receive a homework book and homework sheet when your child brings their reading books home this week. 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.

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 and Water Bottles**

**Please make sure you only send your child with a fresh or a dried fruit (healthy) snack for snack time.** Children in Year One do still get a fruit snack at school too. We have snack just after morning playtime, whilst they listen to our class story.

Children need to now bring in their own labelled water bottle each day. They can refill it within the school day but we please ask for it to be filled with water, not juice when they come to school.

Lastly, I would like to inform you that on a Tuesday afternoon Miss O'Neil will be teaching Elf Owls for the afternoon. Miss O'Neil will be teaching science and PHSE lessons.

Another reminder that the school is a nut-free school and we ask that you check labels of any pre-made food your child brings to school.

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to email Mrs Shaw and a phone call can be arranged with myself.

Kind Regards,  
Miss Denison