

Newsletter for Parents Autumn Term 2018

Little Owls - Reception Class



Class Teacher-
Mrs A Parkin

Advanced Teaching Assistant-
Mrs L Bingham

Teaching Assistant-
Mrs J Bourke

We would like to welcome your child to Hambleton C of E Primary School and Little Owls Class. We look forward to working together to build a partnership that will enable your child to do their very best during their first year at Hambleton School. Indeed this is a very important year for your child. We have found that children work to the best of their ability when they are actively involved and interested in what they do at school. Your involvement might range from talking to them about what they have been doing to reading with them and helping them with homework activities. If you have any questions about what you can do to help your child then please do not hesitate to ask.

Curriculum: EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)

The EYFS is split up into seven areas of learning:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Each area of learning is just as important as the other. They are covered through focused teaching sessions, child initiated play, discrete teaching and through the enhanced provision areas. Our overall theme for this year is '**Happy Times**', which we will learn through the changing seasons, harvest, Christmas and Easter. We will also be listening to stories from our own holidays and those adventures of Barnaby Bear. We shall start with asking your child to bring in a photo, to go on display, of themselves having a 'happy time' somewhere and hope they can talk about it. We shall encourage your child to bring in items/pictures from home to be displayed on our '**Happy Times**' wall in the classroom. As we begin our Jolly Phonics teaching and start identifying initial letter sounds we shall encourage your child to bring in small items/pictures from home to be displayed on our initial letter sound table top. Please note our letter sounds for the week will be displayed on the classroom window.

(see parent phonic meeting details scheduled later this month overleaf)

'**Barnaby Bear**' is a class bear who likes to see the world around us and have a 'happy time' travelling about with our new Little Owls! Please be aware that Barnaby Bear may accompany your child home overnight or even one weekend in his own back pack and with his diary and would love a photo with your child to go on our class display doing something special, having '**Happy Times**' together!

The Early Years Profile focus for this term

(all the below curriculum will be put up on the window of the classroom, please read and support your child at home with a similar focus and discussions)

PHONICS focus- **one letter a day** until all 44 phonemes are covered.

MATHS focus- a different **shape** a week, a different **number** each week from 0-20

UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT -

a different **colour** focus each week linking in with **food and tasting** different foods relevant to the colour focus, e.g. last week we tasted different RED fruit and vegetables and this week we have been tasting GREEN fruit and vegetables. (Check the classroom window for the colour of the week details)

We are also very pleased that Little Owls receive nutritional lessons with a PE specialist, Miss Sutherland, who visits school every Wednesday. This half term she will focus on the importance of a balanced diet and the importance of a **healthy lifestyle** which is also closely linked with our topic focus.

Safeguarding your child and passwords

Thank you for completing and sending in your child's password. It is important we have these as we will use the system if we do not know the person collecting your child from school.

Equipment

In the first few weeks please keep it simple. In an attempt to help the children learn the basic school routines please leave any unnecessary belongings at home. The school provides all the younger children with the equipment that they need at school therefore it is best that they leave personal equipment like pencil cases, drinks bottles or bags and back packs at home. 'Friends of Hambleton School' have provided all Little Owls with a book bag and these will be sent home when we give your child a book in a couple of weeks. Please leave any spare clothes for your child in a named carrier bag on their peg this way it will reduce the 'bulk' on your child's school peg. At the moment the only daily possession your child needs to regularly put on their peg is their coat. Your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated, thank you.

P.E./Games

We may choose to do physical exercise as and when we feel it appropriate which means your child might do it more than once a week.

Little Owls children will need to have their **P.E. kits** in school everyday **from January** when we feel the children are ready for the routine of changing clothes to participate in physical exercise.

Snacks

The children receive one piece of free fruit or vegetable snack everyday. The choices may include apple, pear, clementine, mango, pineapple, tomato, cucumber, banana, raisins and carrot. We will encourage the children to eat the snack provided each day. However, this is often not enough to sustain them through a very busy three and a half hour morning session until lunch time. ***We strongly recommend therefore you provide your child with extra fresh or dried fruit or vegetable snacks in a named box which fits on the snack trolley.*** We encourage the children to eat the snack during snack time so we have happy, engaged learners throughout our busy, active morning session.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Your child will automatically receive a Universal Infant Free School Meal. There is **no need to inform anyone official** that you would like your child to have a Universal Infant Free School Meal. If your child is having a **packed lunch** please place it on the **bottom shelf** of the food trolley. I am very aware that the entrance area of the classroom gets very congested on a morning so on good weather days the **food trolley will be outside** against the wall of the entrance door in an attempt to reduce the amount of 'bodies' in the doorway!

'Cool Milk'

Milk has started for those children whose parents have registered with the Cool Milk scheme. Your child is entitled to free school milk if under five and can purchase milk, for a small amount, if over five. This must be done through the Cool Milk scheme. If you are unsure please ask at the school office.

Water

All children have access to water throughout the day. Clean cups are provided each time so there is no need to provide own water bottles, thank you.

Your Child's Belongings

It is so important to label as much of your child's belongings as is possible from shoes to hats and gloves. This helps to minimise the stress caused to everyone when things are misplaced or taken, unknowingly, by the wrong child. **If you would like your belongings back you must label them!** Thank you for your support in this matter.

Your first homework

I am holding a meeting at the start of school at 8.45am-9.30am in the school hall **Monday 24th September** to discuss how you can support your child's learning at home. I will explain in detail the **reading and phonics homework** and other home/school expectations. We hope you can attend this short meeting. If you cannot make this time please see me for information. If your child has any particular interests emerging e.g. dinosaurs, the world around us, please advise us as we enhance our learning areas with appropriate resources to support your child's learning and needs.

Reading

To be addressed at the meeting on Monday 24th September 8.45am, school hall

Topics this term

'Happy Times'

Nutrition and healthy eating

Colour

2d Shape names

Numbers 0-20

Harvest festival

Donations Please

Are you having a clear out? Little Owls need any vehicles or sandpit toys, egg boxes and old appropriate newspapers please, thank you in advance!

Visits/Events

The **Selby Times** newspaper will be taking a photo of our new Reception Class on the morning of **Monday 17th September** in school time, watch out for our super new starters photo in the press!

Harvest Celebrations, whole school, **Tuesday 9th October** 9.15am school hall.

This half term we shall be walking to **Hambleton Hough** for a 'Happy Times' nature walk and picnic to link in with our topic on colour and healthy eating. Parent helpers needed on this visit! A letter detailing visit information will be sent nearer the time.

A visit to **Tesco in Selby**, date TBC, with your child's buddy to find colour matching fruits and vegetables.

We look forward to a positive partnership between home and school so that together we can strive to make this a happy and successful year for your child.

If you have any questions about the above information then please do not hesitate to ask. And remember to check the school's biweekly newsletter via your email.

Mrs Parkin



