

Brilliant Barn Owls
Autumn Term newsletter



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

Our whole school topic is

'One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'

...which is quite fitting as Year 2 can feel like a giant leap as we continue to learn this year.

Friday

Ms Jones will be teaching Barn Owls on a Friday. Ms Jones has worked in the Selby



area for fifteen years after many years teaching in London. She is a very familiar face in Barn Owls as she has covered supply last year and is very much looking forward

to working with the children. Please take the time to introduce yourself to her.



Our first topic

This half term we will be finding out about Space and people who have made a significant

contribution in our history. We will be finding out about Neil Armstrong, investigate light and dark and look at different materials.

Writing

For our talk for writing this half term we will be recapping stories and reminding ourselves what makes a good story. We will be using all our learning from last year: sentence Sam, adjectives, adverbs and similes but also find out about dialogue and speech in stories.

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, Tuesday or Friday after they have placed it in the 'Book Change Box'. 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.

We will be having some 'Library Time' in school once a week. We will be visiting the school library and will have the chance to bring home a book each week to share with our families. Please be assured that it is equally fine to hear your child read this book or read the book to your child depending on the level they have chosen. Allowing your child to practise their reading fluency skills, talking about what they have read and modelling an enjoyment of reading will all greatly support your child's reading development and we appreciate the time you spend reading together.

We will start our guided reading story 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. It is really important that children read at home and practise their sounds and words.



★ **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.

★ 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.

★ **Maths**

★ Our first unit of learning in maths is 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** to access at home. This is an excellent resource to help support mental maths skills.

★ **PE**

★ We are very lucky to have a PE specialist this term. We will have gymnastics with Mr. Wright on a Wednesday afternoon. Our other PE day is Friday afternoon.

★ 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.

★ It is a good idea to bring your child's PE kit on a Monday and leave it until Friday so they always have it in school.

★ **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).

Mornings

We try to encourage children to be more independent in Year 2 which also includes bringing themselves into class on a morning. It would be extremely helpful if you could leave children at the door and encourage them 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.

If you have any urgent questions or queries please feel free to call in briefly on a morning or for a longer chat after school. You can also always ring the office or send an email.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Harpham and Mrs. Jones

