

Newsletter for Parents Autumn Term 2019

Little Owls - Reception Class



Class Teachers-

Mrs A Parkin (Mon-Thurs)

Mrs Hind (Fri)

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 half-term is '**Once upon a Time**', which we will learn through stories and lots of nursery rhymes. And the overall theme of 'Celebrations' will cover the changing festivals, harvest, Christmas and Easter. We will also respond to your child's curiosities about the changing seasons and enjoy what this will bring to us as we observe the world around us. We shall start with asking your child to bring in a photo of themselves having a 'happy time' somewhere, possibly during the summer season or celebrating a special occasion, and hope they can talk about it. We shall encourage your child to bring in items/pictures from home. 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)

The Early Years Profile focus for this term

(all of the curriculum below 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.

READING to learn nursery rhymes by heart.

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. we might taste different **RED** fruit and vegetables next week. (Check the classroom window for the colour of the week details)

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.

Data Protection update

Due to new updated protection of child data school cannot provide class lists to parents or carers and teachers cannot distribute personal birthday invitations. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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, or is enough to sustain them through the afternoon session. ***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.*** And we thank all those parents who have clearly taken this on board already and have been sending fantastic healthy snack boxes full of small portioned rainbow colours of fruit and vegetables all prepared and ready to eat. The reason we encourage the children to eat the snack during snack time is 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 in the **large red plastic box**, outside the classroom with Mrs Bingham. We are very aware that the entrance area of the classroom gets very congested on a morning so on good weather days the **food box will be outside** near 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 **Tuesday 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 Tuesday 24th September 8.45am, school hall with myself. If you cannot make this time I will endeavour to send handouts to you via child post! Red book bags will be given to your child when they receive a reading book after the phonics reading meeting.

Topics this term

'Once Upon a Time' - Nursery Rhymes

'Celebrations' - Harvest festival / Christmas story

Colour

2d Shape names

Numbers 0-20

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

This half term we shall be visiting Hambleton Hough for a look at our world around us, a nature walk and picnic to link in with our topic on colour. Parent helpers needed on this visit! A letter detailing visit information will be sent nearer the time.

The Selby Times newspaper will be taking a photo of our new Reception Class on the morning of Wednesday 11th September this week in school time, watch out for our super new starters photo in the press!

Harvest Festival will be held in the school hall, see 'What's Happening' list attached.

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 and team.



