

Brilliant Barn Owls

Spring 2 newsletter



Welcome back to the second half of our Spring Term! I can't believe we are half way through the year already. I'm so impressed with the progress all the Barn Owls have made over the last few months; I just know their successes will continue as they grow in confidence.

Our whole school topic is
'Let's explore the world!'

Our whole school Christian Value is
Forgiveness

Ephesians 4.32

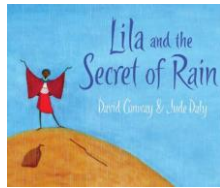
"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."

This Term's Topic

This half term we will be broadening our understanding of the world around us and looking at our wider wonderful world. In Geography, we will learn about the different continents and oceans and discover the similarities and differences between England and Kenya. In Art, we will be using different mediums to express a range of landscapes and weather changes.

Writing

We are starting with narrative writing this half term, focusing on setting descriptions of the Kenyan village in the story Lila and the Secret of Rain. We will use descriptive language devices such as expanded noun phrases in our writing. Before moving onto the use of similes and emotive language to describe how the weather changes throughout the story and the impact this has on the characters who live in the village. This will lead us nicely into poetry writing before the Easter holidays.



Reading

We will be continuing the Little Wandle reading groups this half term. During these sessions we read a text together and complete activities to improve fluency, prosody, and comprehension. Once the children have taken part in their three reading group sessions at school, they will take their book home. The comprehension questions and focused reading skills are outlined in the back of the book if you wish to use them while reading with your child. Little Wandle books will come home on a Friday as well as their new library book. **Please make sure that both their Little Wandle book and library book are returned to school the following Friday.**

As well as the Little Wandle reading groups, we hear children read individually throughout the school day. We greatly appreciate volunteers to hear children

read, if you would like to volunteer, please get in touch!

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.

SPaG (spelling and grammar)

We have now completed our phonics recap and bridge to spelling unit so this half term we will be moving onto the Little Wandle spelling units. These units follow the familiar structure of the phonics lessons, supporting children to make links to their phonics learning. Little Wandle Spelling teaches children to consider etymology, morphology and grammar when spelling new words and provides full coverage of National Curriculum spelling requirements.

Maths

In maths we will begin to learn about multiplication and division. We will learn our x2, x5 and x10 tables and division facts. We will also keep practising counting in our x3 tables. We love testing ourselves by doing the 'Daily 10' on the Top Marks website, something which you can also practice at home.

Children in Year Two need to:

- Recall multiplication and division facts for 2, 5 and 10 and use them to solve simple problems, demonstrating an understanding of commutativity as necessary.
- Make deductions outside known multiplication facts.

Science

In science, we will continue to learn about habitats of different animals and how they are suited to where they live. We will find out about food chains, In Year Two we need to:


- Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.
- Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.

PSHE

In Barn Owls this half terms unit is called 'Healthy Me' and includes a focus on healthy eating, exercise and making healthy choices.

RE

Our unit this half term is 'Salvation' and we will be learning that Easter is very important in the 'big story' of the Bible. Christians believe that Jesus showed that he was willing to forgive all people, even for putting



him on the cross. And that Jesus builds a bridge between God and humans.

PE

We will continue to have PE with Mr Cinar every Wednesday afternoon for my Planning Preparation & Assessment (PPA) time. Children need to wear black shorts, a red P.E. top and trainers to school. The children will be working on their skills in gymnastics.

Homework

Weekly homework will continue to be handed out on a Friday and will now include handwriting practice as well as spellings and arithmetic. Handwriting practice follows the Letter Join scheme which we use to teach children how to form and join letter correctly. Some extra practice at home will go a long way as the children start to join their writing consistently. I have been blown away by the effort in homework in Barn Owls and we will continue to celebrate this effort in class.

Snack

Please make sure you only send your child with a fresh or a dried fruit for snack time.

Please also 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 are building on our independent learning behaviours in Barn Owls. The skill of reading our own work back and independently editing it with blue pen is something we will be working very hard on. This will help the children continue to take pride in their work and build confidence in recognising and correcting spelling and grammar mistakes. As well as improving cohesion and creativity in their independent work.

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

Kind Regards,
Miss Harrison