



Welcome to Little Owls

What a great start to school we have had! Mrs Bingham, Mrs Laycock and I are very proud of all the children in how they have made this big step.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

As we are a Christian school Collective Worship is part of our daily routine and the character of the school. Our worship theme this half term is **Thankfulness**. We are learning to be thankful, what this looks like and how it makes us feel, how much fun we can have when we are grateful for what we have.

Our topic this half term is '**All about me**'. For this we have been reading *The Colour Monster* and *The Colour Monster Goes to School*. The book looks at how our emotions and feelings change throughout the day as we have new experiences. The children are learning how to talk about their feelings and the different situations we find ourselves in. We are discussing what makes us feel happy - yellow, sad - blue, calm - green, angry - red, scared - black and love - pink and how we show these feelings. We will then move on to Autumn and *The Little Red Hen*, beginning to learn the story structure.



To further develop our topic and learn more about each other, please could your child bring to school a **photograph** of themselves either with family members, friends or doing something they enjoy. We will share these as a class and put them on display, talking about our families and things which make us feel happy.

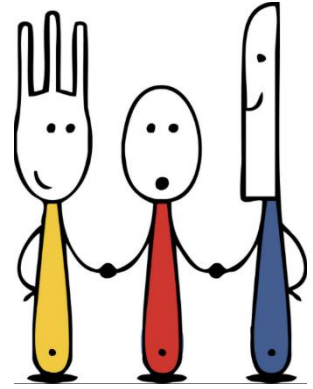
Part of learning about ourselves has been **recognising our names** - the children can find their pumps, pegs and register themselves in the mornings using their name cards. It also helps to relocate lost items around the classroom so please make sure all belongings are clearly **labelled**.



Hambleton considers Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE) to be a 'core' area of learning for all of our children. We use our exciting new 'Jigsaw' scheme to teach PSHE weekly (for more details on Jigsaw see PSHE under the Curriculum section of our website). Every Jigsaw lesson includes a focus on mindfulness.

In Little Owls, this half terms PSHE unit is called *Being Me in My World*. The unit will focus on how it feels to belong and that we are similar and different, starting to recognise and manage our feelings as well as understanding why it is good to be kind and use gentle hands.

School dinners will start week beginning 09/09/24! Please try to talk with your child about the school menu to prepare them to make their choices, these can be found on the school website. Little Owls receive a free school meal and it is a chance to allow the children to explore different food choices and flavours. Every day there is the option of the Hot School Meal or a Jacket Potato. On Fridays Paninis are offered instead of a Jacket Potato.



Your child will need their water bottle each day, these should be filled at home with **WATER ONLY** and need to be clearly **name labelled**. Also a healthy snack is helpful, as it is a long time until lunch! Having a **snack** of fruit, vegetable and maybe a cracker will keep us going until lunch arrives.

Also please remember that we are a Peanut and Nut Aware School. **Nuts, peanuts or any products containing nuts or peanuts are NOT allowed in school.**

Cool milk is also available and free for children under the age of 5, to receive this free milk you must register on the cool milk website. www.coolmilk.com – click on parents and follow the instructions.

Week beginning 09/09/24, we will be ‘baseline’ assessing the children.

Phonics – We will start to learn our initial sounds from 16/09/24, s,a,t,p,i,n,d.

Each day a new sound is introduced and we look at the shape of the letter as well as how it sounds, identifying words that begin with the sound. These are the building blocks for your child’s reading and writing journey and it would be beneficial to quickly practise saying these sounds each day. As we start phonics and maths, Home Learning Books will be updated each week for you to practise and to encourage rapid recall please make sure they keep returning to school weekly so we can keep updating them as your child progresses.

A meeting about phonics will be arranged where we can discuss the Little Wandle scheme, how lessons are taught and early reading.

As well as introducing phonics we will be working on our fine motor skills preparing the children for holding a pen and emergent writing.

The children have had a great start to school, they have settled extremely quickly and have learnt new routines and names. Week beginning 09/09/24 we will all be in for the morning starting from 8:45, have lunch together in the classroom and we finish at 1pm, the following week we will start at 8:45 until 3:15

PE - this will start after October half term. PE will be on Tuesdays and your child can come to school in their PE kit, red plain T-shirt with black shorts and suitable trainers. Black jumpers with black jogging bottoms or leggings can be worn as the weather changes.



Reminders - Please make sure long hair is tied back at school. It keeps children safe when they are playing and exploring and also keeps head lice under control. Head lice thrive in a school environment and are really common. Regular checking of your child's hair as well as tying long hair back will stop any outbreaks.

Before school we can be busy, helping the children into school and starting the day, after school we will be available if you would like an informal chat. If you would rather you can always call or email the school office for any queries or questions.

We look forward to a fun year with you all.

Mrs Savage, Mrs Bingham and Mrs Laycock.