

Barn Owls

Autumn 2 Newsletter



Welcome back everyone! I hope you have had a lovely week's holiday. We have had a brilliant first half term of the new school year and we have a jam-packed few weeks ahead in the run up to Christmas!

Our whole school topic is

'Adventures in Time'

Our whole school Christian Value is

Trust

Trust in the Lord with all your heart - Proverbs 3.5

Topic

This half term we will be learning all about the infamous Great Fire of London! We will be learning all about why the Great Fire of London was a significant event, including how it started and stopped, the timeline of the events of the fire and the impact it had on the people of London at the time. We will also complete the topic with an exciting DT unit making our own moving fire engine vehicles!

Writing

For our writing this half term we will be focusing on non-fiction writing, creating an explanation text based on the book *Rosie Revere, Engineer*. The children will get creative, making up their own wacky inventions then explain and describe how they work! We will continue to work on our stamina for writing as well as beginning to develop the skills to revisit and revise our writing, identifying areas of improvement and making corrections where necessary.

Reading

In Barn Owls we will be continuing the Little Wandle reading groups. During these sessions we will read a text together and complete activities to improve comprehension. Once these groups are set up, children will receive their reading book to take home to read with an adult. 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. This will be brought home along with a reading scheme book.

If we can stress one thing this year it is to hear your child read. Reading unlocks all other learning and it is vital children continue to make progress in reading. It may be that you feel your child still needs support with phonics to help them decode and we will be recapping phonics for the first half term. If you need any support with this please let me know via email to school. Please also read to your child. This is a fantastic way for children to pick up key skills such as fluency and expression, which are extremely important in Year 2.

The children will also be heard reading individually at least once a week.

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. These will **not** be tested at school. The weekly spelling lists we send home will be linked to the spelling rules we have learned in class. There will also be Common Exception words for Year 2. As in Year 1, these need to be read and spelt correctly by the end of Year 2. This is a key expectation in writing for children to meet age related expectations for Year 2.

This half term, we will also be focusing on use of commas, word classes, conjunctions and different types of sentences in our writing.

Maths

We have now completed our first unit of learning in maths, Place Value. We are now on to our Addition and Subtraction unit, consolidating our bonds to 10, 20 and 100, learning strategies to add and subtract numbers particularly across a 10 before learning to add and subtract two-digit numbers.

We will also be doing daily mental arithmetic to support the children in their Maths lessons. We use the website www.topmarks.co.uk for our arithmetic which has several fun games such as Daily 10 and Hit the Button. This can be accessed at home should you wish.

Science

In Science, we are continuing with our materials unit. We have already learnt to how to identify and compare the suitability of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper, and cardboard for particular uses. We will now find out how the shapes of solid objects can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting, and stretching before inventing a new use for a material.

PE

Year 2 will be having 2 PE sessions a week, one longer session with Miss Richardson during my Planning, Preparation & Assessment (PPA) time, and a shorter session with myself on a Thursday afternoon. **Children need to wear black shorts, a red P.E. top and trainers to school on Mondays and school uniform with trainers on Thursdays.**

Other subjects

- **RE** – our unit 'why does Christmas matter to Christians?' explores the purpose of a nativity, what the Christmas story teaches us, and the meaning of incarnation.



- **PSHE** – the children will be ‘Celebrating Differences’, exploring stereotypes, bullying

Homework

All children have received a homework book and will

Weekly things to remember

- Mondays – full PE kit and trainers with **no earrings** for PE
- Wednesdays – library book to change
- Thursdays – trainers and **no earrings** for active session
- Fridays – reading book to change and home learning book

and standing up for ourselves and others.

- **Computing** – the children will explore the world of digital art and its exciting range of creative tools. They will create their own paintings, while getting inspiration from a range of other artists.
- **Music** – Barn Owls will learn how events, actions and feelings within stories can be represented by pitch, dynamics and tempo in this Musical Storytelling unit.
- **Art and DT** – amongst the exciting Christmassy art projects of this time of year, the children will make their own moving fire engines to conclude our Great Fire of London project!

be given a weekly 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 in to 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! Water bottles must also be name labelled. Milk may be ordered for playtimes (contact the office for details).

Independence

We try to encourage children to be more independent in Year 2 therefore we encourage children to put all their things away, sit down for their morning activity by themselves and take on specific responsibilities in the classroom which will be rotated.

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me via the office.

Kind Regards,
Miss Reynard



"Nothing beats kindness," said the horse. "It sits quietly beyond all things."