

Elf Owls
Autumn Two Half Term Newsletter



Our Christian value this half term is: Trust
My God is my strength in whom I trust
- Psalm 18.2

Welcome back everyone! We have had a fantastic start to the new half term and the children have all settled in well again. We are really trying to be independent and complete our weekly Rainbow Challenges with increased independence.

The first half term we focused on getting to know our new classroom as well as their new teacher and they have been fantastic! I have really enjoyed getting to know them all and coming together as a class, we like to say we are the best in the school!

At the start of Year One your child transitioned into learning through play with a little more structure to their day compared to Early Years. The 'Rainbow Challenges' have been extremely popular with the class. To give you more detail on those, they are independent challenges for each child to complete throughout the week and they are to consolidate their learning from the previous week. It is their opportunity to choose which learning they want to focus on. Below includes more detail about each colour challenge. Red – maths, orange – creative, yellow – small world, green- construction, blue – writing and mark making, and purple – reading. They also have whole class phonics, writing and maths inputs as well as small focus group time which is adult directed and allows the children to have more 1:1 support with their learning.

Our first topic – Adventures in Time

This second half term we will spend some time learning about toys in the past. We will focus on seasons and materials in science. In history we will be researching about toys in the past during the Victorian Era and compare them to our modern toys.

Writing

The continuing main focus for our writing skills is writing sentences with capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We will also have daily handwriting sessions at the start of each day.

This half term we will follow the book: The Naughty Bus. We will learn how to write a non-chronological report! Our focus will be to apply phonetic knowledge to spelling when writing.

Over the term we will cover:

- leaving spaces between words
- joining words and joining clauses using "and" and 'but'
- beginning to punctuate sentences using a capital letter and a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark
- using a capital letter for names of people, places, the days of the week, and the personal pronoun 'I'

Reading

Your child will read in a reading group three times a week where we 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.

Children will also be heard reading throughout the week. It is highly important that children read at home and practise their sounds and words.

Book changing day will **only** be on a **FRIDAY** and your child will receive **one Little Wandle book** which they would have read three times at school. They will also have a library book sent home which will be changed on a **MONDAY** each week.

Phonics

Children have daily phonics where we learn new sounds and how to say, write and blend for reading and segment for spelling.

The class spent the first couple of weeks recapping phase 3 and we are now working on phase 4 and phase 5. There are 45 common exception words which need to be learned by the end of Year 1 (see attached sheet sent home in Autumn 1 – please work through the words for them to read and spell independently).

Maths

Our first unit of learning in maths is addition and subtraction. We need to make sure we are secure in number bonds to 10 and addition and subtraction within 10. We will be applying this learning in problem solving and investigative contexts. Then we will be moving onto shape for 2D and 3D.

PE

On a Monday they will need a PE kit. Children will need black shorts or trousers and a red PE t-shirt in school. PE pumps and trainers are also useful as, when possible, PE will be outside. Please can they come in in their PE kit in the morning. They will have an additional short PE session on a Thursday afternoon but will only need trainers, not full PE kit.

Homework

Each week a phonics homework sheet will be sent home on a Friday. These are to help consolidate their

phonetic learning from the past week, Please continue to go over CEW for Year 1 and fill in the maths passport.

I will introduce some spelling practice from week two, where I will say which spellings we are going to 'test' the following week. This will be on whiteboards and done as whole class so nothing too scary!

Snack and Water Bottles

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

Children in Year One do still get a fruit snack at school too. We have snack just after morning playtime, whilst they listen to our class story. Please could the portion size reduce as it takes a long time out of our day for your child to eat their snack and many are not hungry for their lunch.

Children need to now bring in their own labelled water bottle each day. They can refill it within the school day but we please ask for it to be filled with water, not juice when they come to school.

Lastly, on a Tuesday afternoon Miss Richardson will continue to teach Elf Owls science.

Another reminder that the school is a nut-aware school and we ask that you check labels of any pre-made food your child brings to school.

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to email Mrs Shaw and I will be happy to arrange a phone call or always available to chat on the gate at drop off times! I have loved getting to know all of the children so far and can't wait for a fun filled half term, leading to the nativity!

Best wishes,
Miss Tucker