

**Elf Owls**  
**Spring Term Newsletter**



**Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a lovely half term break. Everyone has come back with big smiles on their faces and ready to learn even more which is amazing to see!**

**Our Christian Value this half term is: *Justice*.**

Do to others as you would have them do to you  
- Luke 6:31

**Whole School Topic: Let's Explore the World!**

During this half term your child will gradually transition away from learning through play into structured learning. We have already transitioned to structured in the morning which they have been brilliant at! They will need to be resilient to the increased structured learning time and find more independence with their learning, but I am confident they will continue to flourish!

**Our current topic – Let's Explore the World.**

This half term we will spend some time learning about our wonderful world and the climates in different countries. We will continue to focus on geography for topic this half term. Comparing hot and cold climates and their relation to the equator and learning more about our oceans, being able to identify and label them. We will focus on India in particular and explore Indian patterns in Art too. We also will discover the journey of how chocolate is made and where it comes from, including Fairtrade.

**Writing**

The main focus for our writing skills will continue to be writing sentences with capital letters, finger spaces and full stops as well as applying conjunctions and using adjectives or verbs independently.

Across the term:

- leaving spaces between words
- joining words and joining clauses using "and"

- 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'

Our text this half term is the Magic Bed! Focusing creating imaginary places and re-writing a fantasy story where they are the main character! They will apply their understanding of adjectives to embellish their writing further. I will encourage them to use varied conjunctions in order to extend the length of their writing and progress their independence.

**Reading**

Continued from last term, Elf Owls will read to an adult at least three times in a week practicing their decoding, prosody and comprehension skills.

Reading books will be changed every **FRIDAY** with a phonics homework sheet. The sheet will cover all new sounds and words learnt through the week. This is not required and will not be marked but will help to secure their new sounds.

It is highly important that children read at home and practise their sounds and CEW and this is a priority for home learning.

For your child to be on the correct book band, they must have 95% fluency without overt sounding out and blending (they should only say the whole word aloud not the individual sounds 95% of the time), with this in mind, your child might stay on a lower phase book than year 1 level until they recognise the sounds quicker and gain more fluency.

Every **Monday** they will also choose a book to take home from the library. Please bring in library books to be changed on Mondays.

**Phonics**

Children have daily phonics following the Little Wandle scheme. Last half term we focused on learning new phase 5 sounds and applying these to our spelling in writing. We will continue to learn new phase 5 while also growing the code.

There are 45 common exception words which need to be learned by the end of year 1 which I sent home earlier on in the year. If your child can read and spell these independently, they can

move on to year 2 CEW which I can send home on request.

**Maths**

Our first unit of learning for Spring in maths is addition and subtraction to 20. We will then cover doubling, length and height and then volume and mass. They will apply their understanding of symbols and number when transitioning through the units.

**P.E**

This half term your child will be learning activities leading to games, which will be taught by Miss Knox on a Monday morning. Please ensure your child comes dressed in P.E clothes which are suitable for inside and outside P.E.

**PSHE**

In Elf Owls, this half terms unit is called '*Healthy Me*' and includes: healthy choices, clean and healthy, medicine health, road safety and our healthy selves.

Mrs Laycock will continue to teach Elf Owls on a Thursday afternoon, teaching topic.

We have Miss Knox from York St John University with us this half term, working with me in the classroom. The children have thoroughly enjoyed having her in the class and built strong relationships already!

If you have any questions or queries please speak before or after school or if you need to arrange a telephone call please contact Mrs Shaw and I will try my best to help and make myself available! We are half way through Year One already and I can't wait to continue having such a great year.

Kind Regards,  
Miss Tucker