

Barn Owls

Autumn 1 Newsletter



Welcome back everyone! I hope you have had a lovely summer and I am so excited to be your year 2 teacher! We have had a brilliant start to the new school year and the children have blown me away with how well they have settled in to Barn Owls.

Our whole school topic is

'Adventures in Time'

Our whole school Christian Value is

Generosity

"God loves a cheerful giver"

2 Corinthians 9.7

Our first topic



This half term we will be finding out about 'Superheroes'. Superheroes have great adventures in many different places and times. We will also link this to 'real life' superheroes, people who have made a significant contribution in our history. We will be finding out about our 'real life' superheroes and comparing some of these people to similar superheroes in the past.

Writing

For our writing this half term we will be focusing on narrative writing, using *Jim and the Beanstalk* as our focus story. We will learn the language and grammar from this book to write our own exciting narratives. We will discuss and describe characters and compare how heroes are represented in different stories. We will be working 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. This will be changed regularly. 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.



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.

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.

Maths

Our first unit of learning in maths is Place Value. The first part of our learning will be to ensure children have retained the key skills from year 1 to help them build on ready for Year 2. So, if for the first week your children feel they are covering work they have already learned, it is to make sure we can move on securely. Following this, children in Year 2 learn about place value to 100. We will learn to read and write all numbers to 100, order and compare numbers to 100 and split these numbers into different combinations of tens and ones e.g. $65 = 50 + 15$, $65 = 40 + 25$, $65 = 60 + 5$ etc. We will also apply these skills in problem solving and reasoning contexts.

We will also be doing daily mental arithmetic to support the children in their Maths lessons.

Science

In Science we will be learning to identify and compare the suitability of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper, and cardboard for particular uses. We will also find out how the shapes of solid objects can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting, and stretching.

PE

Year 2 will be having 2 PE sessions a week, one longer session with Mrs Laycock during my Planning Preparation & Assessment (PPA) time, and a shorter

session with myself on a Thursday afternoon. The children will be doing dance to kick off the year! **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 ‘What can we learn from sacred books?’ explores the holy books and key stories in Christianity, Judaism and Islam.
- **PSHE** – the children will be exploring ‘being me in my world’ in which the children identify their hopes and worries for the year ahead, find out about rewards and consequences and understand rights and responsibilities.
- **Computing** - With an initial focus on IT in the home, Barn Owls will explore how IT benefits society in places such as shops, libraries, and

hospitals whilst discussing the responsible use of technology, and how to make smart choices when using it.

- **Music** – In this call and response unit, we will be using instruments to represent animals, copying rhythms and creating call and response rhythms.
- **Art** – the children have already done lots of creative activities to settle them into year 2 in week 1, and we will finish Autumn 1 with a block of Art on superhero figures inspired by the work of Keith Haring.

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

