

Barn Owls

Spring 1 Newsletter



Welcome back everyone! I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and are feeling refreshed for the new year.

Our whole school topic is

'Let's Explore the World'

Our whole school Christian Value is

Courage

'Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love' - 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Topic

This half term, our Topic is Dragons and Castles! In Geography, we will be exploring castles in the UK, whilst learning the countries and capital cities of the UK, as well as the purpose and advantages/ disadvantages of living in a castle. Our Topic will also link nicely with our English book for this half term *The Dragon Machine*, our Science all about habitats, Music which has a myths and legends theme and our Art where we will be creating a dragon eye out of clay!

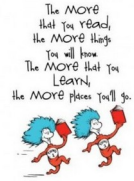
Writing

For our writing this half term we will be focusing on suspense narrative writing, based on the book *The Dragon Machine*. As their final outcome, the children will write their own suspense dragon story. We will continue to work on our stamina for writing as well as 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.



Please note that, for these children on the AR scheme, AR quizzes are currently being done with Mrs Bourke on a Wednesday afternoon and will be changed subsequently on this day too.

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 to reading to spelling and grammar in Year 2. Children will bring home a spelling list on a Friday to look at, practise and apply. Now we are moving away from phonics and on to spelling, there will be a quiz on these words the following Friday. 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 continuing our focus on word classes, conjunctions

and different types of sentences in our writing.

Maths

We have now completed our Addition and Subtraction unit, and will be moving on to Shape and Money this half term.

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 starting our first Biology unit 'Living Things and their Habitats'. This focuses on scavenging activities to help us understand if something is living or dead, exploring things that have never lived and comparing different habitats.

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. **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 'Who is Jewish and what do they believe?' explores the Judaism faith and important aspects of this faith such as Shabbat and Channukah.

- **PSHE** – the children will be exploring the 'Dreams and Goals' unit, including our goals, strengths and celebrating our, and others', achievements.
- **Computing** – the children will be learning Robot Algorithms which develops understanding of instructions in sequences and the use of logical reasoning to predict outcomes. The children will use given commands in different orders to investigate how the order affects the outcome. They will also learn about design in programming. They will develop artwork and test it for use in a program.
- **Music** – Barn Owls will develop an understanding of structure by exploring and ordering rhythms in this Myths and Legends unit.
- **Art** – our exciting clay project will involve being inspired by Barbara Hepworth and making a dragon eye out of clay!

Homework

All children have received a homework book and will 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.

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.

Weekly things to remember

- Mondays – full PE kit and trainers with **no earrings**
- Wednesdays – AR book and/or library book to change
- Thursdays – trainers and **no earrings** for active session
- Fridays – reading book to change and home learning book. Spelling quiz on this day.

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. We welcome Miss Longwa, a York University Student Teacher, who will be working with me in Barn Owls this term.

Kind regards,
Miss Reynard

