

Barn Owls

Spring 2 Newsletter



Welcome back everyone!

Spring is very much on its way and we're ready for an exciting few weeks leading up to Easter!

Our whole school topic is

'Let's Explore the World'

Our whole school Christian Value is

Forgiveness

'Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you'. Ephesians 4:32

Topic

This half term, our Topic is Kenya and the UK! In Geography, we will begin by learning the world's continents and oceans, particularly Africa, before zooming in on Kenya. We will be comparing what it is like to live in Kenya compared to the UK, how children's lives might be different in each place before finishing on deciding which country we would prefer to live in and why. Our Topic will also link nicely with our English book for this half term *Lila and the Secret of the Rain*, Music/Computing which has an animals theme and our Art where we will be inspired by some African art!

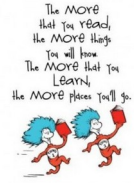
Writing

For our writing this half term, we will be focusing on how to write a persuasive advert, influenced by the book *Lila and the Secret of the Rain*. 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. The 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 may 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.

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 half way through the year, we will be focusing more on spelling and will therefore have a spelling 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 focusing on apostrophes including contraction and possession. We will also recap different types of sentences including

exclamations and statements, and expanded noun phrases.

Maths

We have now completed our Money unit and will be moving on to multiplication and division 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 continuing our Biology unit 'Living Things and their Habitats'. We will be continuing our understanding of different habitats and why creatures live in a particular habitat before designing our own creature and its place to live! We will then continue on to food chains to complete this unit.

PE

Year 2 will be having two PE sessions a week, one longer session with Mrs Laycock during my Planning, Preparation & Assessment (PPA) time on a Monday afternoon and a shorter session with myself on a Thursday afternoon where we do a variety of team games, fitness, yoga and dance.

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 Easter matter to Christians?' explores

the events in the Easter story, why Jesus sacrificed himself and some ways we celebrate Easter at church.

- **PSHE** – the children will be exploring the 'Healthy Me' unit, including medicine safety, healthy eating and the importance of rest.
- **Computing** – the children will be learning all about Digital Music, how music can make them think and feel. They will make patterns and use those patterns to make music with both percussion instruments and digital tools. They will also create different rhythms and tunes, using the movement of animals for inspiration.
- **Music** – This half term, our Music will be delivered as part of our Computing unit 'Digital Music'.
- **Art** – we will be creating some work inspired by African artists and patterns!

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

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

