

Barn Owls Summer 1 newsletter



Welcome back everyone! I can't believe we are now in the final term – time has flown by!

Our whole school topic is
'Questions and Creativity'

Our whole school Christian Value is
Friendship

'Encourage one another and build each other up' (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Topic

This half term, our Topic is 'Our Local Area!' In Geography, we will begin by recapping what we know about human and physical features and recognising these in our local area. We will then begin to develop our map skills, learning about compass directions and map symbols before finally creating our own maps and a treasure hunt route around the school!

Writing

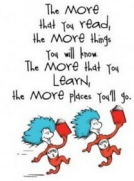
For our writing this half term, we will be focusing on writing a non-fiction information text, influenced by the books *The House Held up by Trees*. and *The Magic and Mystery of Trees*. This links brilliantly to our new Science unit all about Plants!

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 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 for 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 introducing writing in the past and present tense and the progressive past and present tenses.

Maths

This half term, we are moving on to fractions before doing a couple of weeks on position and direction to complement our Geography unit!

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 as well as Times Tables Rockstars.

Science

In Science, we are beginning a brand new unit all about plants. The children will have an opportunity to plant different seeds and bulbs and observe them over time to ascertain all the things a plant needs to grow happily.

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 'Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?' explores the purpose and importance of a mosque, what we can learn from Muslim holy words and we will learn about the Muslim celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr.

- **PSHE** – the children will be exploring the 'Relationships' unit, including families, friends, conflict in relationships, secrets and keeping safe.
- **Computing** – we will complete our final two Computing units in summer 2.
- **Music** – We will be learning folk songs and creating sounds to represent three contrasting landscapes: seaside, countryside and city..
- **Art** – Linking to our Geography unit, this unit focuses on exploring and creating maps through various art forms, including drawing, working in relief, printmaking, and designing stained glass.

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,
Mrs Forder

