

## Owls Class Newsletter

You will receive one of these letters each term which will share important information about what we are learning in class, along with ways in which you can support learning at home.

It has been an absolute pleasure to meet you and your children and we hope that you feel like they have already made a positive start to settling in at school.

We hope that you find the information in this letter useful and if you have any questions as the term progresses please do not hesitate to ask.

Best wishes,

Mrs Foxall, Mrs Whittaker, Mrs Wiffen & Mrs Paice

### Independence

The children have made a great start to their time in school. Lots of them are already saying their goodbyes at the gate and coming in independently. This is fantastic and helps them and the other children settle more quickly in the classroom.

Please remind your child to self-register when they come into the classroom in the morning, put their book-bag in the correct box and put their water bottle in the tray.

### Water Bottles

Your child should bring a drink bottle containing water into school each day which they can then access throughout the day. Please ensure that both the bottle and lid are clearly named. The bottle will be sent home each evening for you to wash.

### PE Lessons

In addition to the planned opportunities for physical play during Child Initiated sessions, children in Reception will have a weekly P.E. lesson which will take place. Please make sure that your child's named P.E. kit is always in school available for them to use. We will send these home termly for a wash! Please support your child to dress and undress independently at home, as this prepares them for getting changed for P.E. at school.

### Reading at Home

Thank you to those of you that came to the workshop about reading in Reception. We have some information and flyers for those of you who missed it so please ask if you would like it.

Reading books will be changed on a Monday and a Thursday. Please try and read to and with your child at least 3 times a week and sign the reading record book so that we know if your child has read with you at home.

### School Milk

The children are offered milk and a piece of fruit at break time each day. You are welcome to send in fruit from home if your child would prefer.

When your child is 5 they are no longer entitled to free school milk. If they still want to have a carton of milk at playtime, you need to pay for this via the Cool Milk website. You will receive an email following their birthday with a link to the website.

## Belongings

Please make sure all belongings are named as this really helps us in the classroom.

We love to hear about the things the children have done outside of school and the places they have been. The children are welcome to share news and photos with the rest of the class. However please discourage your child from bringing in toys and special things from home, as they become upset if they get lost or broken. Thank you for your support with this.

## Fancy a Challenge?

Try some of these activities to support your child's learning this term

### Topic

- Find out what a dentist does, perhaps you've visited a dentist before?
- Look at the buildings on your street. Are they all the same or are some different?
- Go for a walk and explore the environment at the start of autumn.

### Literacy

- Join the library and start borrowing books.
- Learn how to write your own name and the names of other people in your house.  
*For example: Can you write Mummy or Daddy?*
- Look for letters in the world around you.  
*For example: Can you find a 's' on a trip to the supermarket?*

### Maths

- Find out what number house you live at. What number is next door?
- Ask someone at home to give you an amount of objects to count.
- Look around your house, see if you can find, a triangle, a square, a rectangle and a circle.

## Useful Dates

Monday 23<sup>th</sup> September – Individual Photos  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Parent Consultations  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Last Day of Term 1  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Start of Term 2

## What are we learning this term?

This is just a flavour of some of the activities we will complete linked to each mini topic

**\*Ourselves & Our Families-** We will spend time talking about those who are important to us, discussing how they care for us and developing our understanding of how families may differ. We will also learn about our different body parts and produce a labelled diagram of our bodies as well as thinking about the function of different body parts.

**\*People Who Help Us-** We will be finding out more about people who care for us including, the emergency services, medical staff and of course school staff. In addition to this we will find out about ways in which we can look after ourselves including caring for our teeth and washing our hands regularly.

**\*Houses & Homes-** We will be talking about our own houses and finding out about other people's homes which may be different from our own. We will also be building models of our houses using junk which we will add to a map.

**\*Autumn-** Throughout the term we will observe the changes in our outdoor area and find out more about what happens to nature during autumn.

**\*Phonics-** At the start of our phonics journey we will play lots of listening games which will help us refine the skills we need to listen carefully to sounds in a word. We will explore the garden and the sounds we can hear there, as well as hunting for an object by following a sound. We will also play games which explore rhyme and words which sound similar. Later in the term, we will start looking at the letters and the sounds made by these which will enable us to recognise them in a word.

The sounds which we will learn this term are:

s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g

**\*Literacy-** In Literacy we will be exploring the story 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell. We will complete many activities including, talking about what happened in the story recalling events and characters as we do so, we will use our knowledge of the story to put the events in order. Later in the term we will be taking part in storytelling activities linked to the traditional stories 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'The Three Little Pigs'. We will use story maps to retell these stories and we will begin to engage in shared writing activities contributing ideas to a class piece of writing.

**\*Maths-** We will start to develop our ability to count a group of objects using number names in order. We will work on our ability to recognise numbers and match them to an amount, correctly recognising numbers as we do so. Our shape lessons will include looking for shapes in our environment and naming those which we find. We will also spend some time looking at and using language associated with height in order to discuss the differences between members of our class.