



Owl Class

Curriculum Letter



Friday 10th September

Dear Parents

Welcome to Owl Class! We hope that you all had a restful summer and that you are looking forward to the exciting year ahead. We have been so impressed with how well all the children have resettled into school life and how quickly they have adjusted to the routines of Key Stage 1.

English

Literacy this half term is linked to our topic 'The Great Fire of London'. They will be investigating the life of Samuel Pepys and his diary, detailing the fateful events of the fire. The children will research and act out events, before writing their own diary. After that, we will begin to look at shape poetry. We will think about adjectives and how to describe fire. We will then write our own shape poems.

The children will continue to revise and extend their knowledge of spellings and sounds:

Year 1 will be revising the phase 3 digraphs h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss, and the phase 3 sounds ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er.

Year 2 will be moving consolidating the phase 4 and 5 sounds. There will be particular focus on the split digraphs e.g. a_e as in make.

Maths

In maths, we are learning/extending our knowledge in the areas of:

- Place value and counting on and back with numbers up to 20 for year 1 and up to and beyond 100 for year 2.
- Addition and subtraction
- Counting in 2's, 5's and 10's
- Addition and Subtraction with money

An important aspect of mathematics is to apply this knowledge to problem solving and investigations. This means that a component of mathematics taught must be to reason, question, reflect and discuss strategies in order to answer questions. Children will use manipulatives to practically explore these problems and work on justifying their answers.

Topic

We begin this half term with a term with the mini topic 'Our Community'. Children will explore Little Missenden and learn about the villages history. We also hope to engage with the local community, eg by delivering harvest gifts, to strengthen our bonds with our wonderful neighbours.

We then move to the exciting topic 'The Great Fire of London.' We will be investigating the tragic story using the Diary of Samuel Pepys. The children will use maps to locate London and spend time comparing Modern day life to Stuart times in 1666. After that, we will build our own Tudor houses and hold a special Great Fire Day.

In the second half term we will turn our focus to Christmas and The Nativity Story. We will look at how Christmas is celebrated in different parts of the world and discuss the origins of our own Christmas traditions. The children will have the opportunity to design and make their own decorations and bake a variety of Christmas treats. We will end the topic by holding our very own Owl Class Christmas Market.

Science

This term we are looking at our own amazing bodies and how they work. We will begin by identifying the main parts of our body before taking a closer look at our senses. Children will learn about the five senses and how they work together to help us understand the world around us. We will also look at how animals, including humans, grow and change as they get older.

R.E.

In this half term we will be investigating the big question: Is everybody special? Within this unit we will read and discuss the parables 'The Lost Coin' and 'The Lost Sheep'. Children will think about relationships and how they make us feel about ourselves. We will think about what made Jesus so special. The children will also learn about the importance of giving thanks at Harvest time and will be involved in delivering gifts to the local community.

After half term, the focus will be on the true meaning of Christmas and the Nativity story. It is always a very exciting time!

PSHE

This term we will be looking at Thinking Positively and Respecting Rights. We cover these with lots of discussion and practical activities.

Computing

We have an exciting two terms of Computing planned. In the first half term, children are exploring how to use the school laptops. Children will need to use a mouse accurately, open and save documents and cut and paste information. This is an excellent topic for developing fine motor skills and will set the children up for the rest of the year.

What is an algorithm? In the second half-term, we put on our technology hats and beginning to think about this big question. We will begin by looking at the meaning of this technical term, before looking at how to sequence instructions and make our Beebots and Probots move in a specific direction, with Year 2 programming our probot to draw shapes and write words.

Art

In Art, our work will reflect our topic, The Great Fire of London. We will look at a range of paintings from the era, exploring the media used and textures created. We will then make our own images using silhouette, marbling inks and pastels.

PE/Games

PE will take place on a **Wednesday** afternoon. Please make sure that your child wears full school PE kit for the day. Please can we ask that trainers are Velcro fastening. This term we will be doing gymnastics.

Our Team

- Monday: Mrs Stockdale, Mrs Fraser and Mrs Steele
- Tuesday: Mrs Stockdale, Mrs Hester and Mrs Hiles
- Wednesday: Mrs Stockdale, Mrs Downie, Mrs Hester and Mrs Hiles
- Thursday: Mrs Downie, Mrs Hester and Mrs Fraser
- Friday: Mrs Downie, Mrs Fraser and Mrs Steele

Homework

Reading, spelling and mathematics continue to be the focus of our homework in Owl Class

Reading

- To be changed on Mondays and Fridays.
- Please continue to record in your child's yellow book every time you read with them.
- **Please also ensure your child's reading record is in school every day.**

Spellings

- New spellings will be given out every **Monday** (beginning the week of 21st September)
- We encourage the children to practise their spellings every day using the look, cover, write, say and spell method.
- We would also like them to practise using the words in a sentence.

Maths

- We will be setting mathematics work on the Maths Seeds Platform on a **Friday**
- Log-in details will be given to you at our Meet the Teacher event Wednesday 15th September at 2.30pm
- Children are encouraged to explore the platform on a daily basis.

Finally, we would like to invite you to our **"Meet the Teacher" afternoon at 2.30-3.00pm on Wednesday 15th September**. We hope to meet as many of you as possible and answer any questions you may have about this newsletter or about the year ahead (please note this will take place on the playground, so if it is raining it will be rescheduled).

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a convenient time to meet.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs. Stockdale and Mrs. Downie