



**Dry Sandford County Primary School**  
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**Headteacher: Mrs Katie Friday BEd (Hons), QTS**

## **Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

### **Barn Owls Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the beginning of a new and exciting year at Dry Sandford Primary School. As we start a fresh new year and look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead, we continue to reinforce our school values through everything that we do: Kindness, Determination, Creativity, Respect.

In Barn Owls this term, our topic is 'All About Me'. We will be discussing our lives so far, as well as our thoughts and feelings and strategies on how we might deal with our emotions. We will be reading and sharing lots of exciting stories, such as The Tiger Who Came to Tea and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. As part of our curriculum within English, children will be producing a variety of writing pieces and will also be practicing different oracy skills, for example, hot seating, throughout the term. We follow White Rose Maths, who provide a mixed year group curriculum where all key objectives are met.

Our phonics scheme, Twinkl phonics, has been very successful and will continue this year. Children are grouped based on their phonics levels and will have a session every day. Please look out for spellings from the phonics scheme in your child's homework book each week, and practise them at home daily. Year 1 Barn Owls will have a phonics screening test in June; look out for more information regarding this closer to the time.

There have been a few changes this year as our school continues its exciting new journey with Mrs Friday as the Headteacher. **All of the new updates have been included in the school newsletter and the updated uniform policy document, this was emailed to all families, if you did not receive this or would like a paper copy please see the school office.** Reminders of school policies will be sent home from Monday to individuals if needed.

In Key Stage 1 (KS1), children are provided with fruit for their morning snack, if they prefer to bring in their own fruit or vegetables, please can any round foods (grapes, blueberries, cherry tomatoes) be cut in half. Children should bring a water bottle to school each day which should only contain water. **Please note: any food brought to school for snack or packed lunch must not contain nuts or kiwi fruit; we have a child with a severe allergy to these foods.**

Forest school will be on a Friday afternoon. Please can you provide your child with appropriate warm clothing as we will be going out in all weathers (unless assessed as unsafe), including wellies and waterproofs. We do ask that wellies remain in school all year round where possible. Forest School is a great opportunity for learning for all children; it is child-led so gives children the opportunity to take their learning into their own hands, whether that's taking risks, building dens as a team or just exploring nature! For more information on Forest School please see our school website.

Barn Owls will have PE sessions on a Monday afternoon. Children should have a named PE kit in a PE bag on their peg, with their kit and suitable trainers, please see the **updated school uniform policy** on what clothing is acceptable. This term our PE will mostly be inside but we may sometimes have sessions outside if the hall is unavailable. It is handy to leave the PE bag at school for the week in case of any timetable changes. **Please also remove any stud earrings on these days or provide tape.**

### **Helping your child at home**

As you may have seen in your child's bookbag, each child has been provided with a Homework Book this year. In here, there is a weekly reading homework to complete and your child's weekly spellings. Reading books will be sent home weekly too. Please read with your child for at least 10 minutes every school day and sign in the reading record. We also ask that children go on DoodleMaths; we do check this regularly and certificates are awarded for consistency and hard work.

Here are some other examples of activities which will support your child's learning:

- Reading real and made up 'alien' words and discussing which are real e.g. chin, zot. The Phonics Play website has some great resources for this.
- Ordering, reading and writing the days and the week and months of the year.
- Forming letters correctly when writing cards and lists.
- Sharing and making up stories or changing the endings of favourite stories.
- Reading all types of books, including poetry, nonsense rhymes, fiction and non-fiction.
- Counting objects in your house and when out on walks.
- Count out groups of objects in 2s, 5, 10, continuing with Doodle Maths and Times Tables.
- Giving your child the opportunity to pay in coins at the shop and count out the change.

We believe that cooking, tasting and special creative activities are valuable learning experiences and, in order to make this a regular activity, we would appreciate a contribution of around £3.00 in September, January and April to help to cover the cost. We are also always grateful to receive any donations!

Please keep an eye on the Class Dojo app for any updates and pictures of what we are getting up to in Barn Owls! Next week I will provide passwords reminders for Doodle Maths and Purple Mash as I am just waiting for all the classes to be updated. If you have any questions or concerns please do come and speak to me or get in touch through the school office. I look forward to working alongside you to help and support your children's learning.

Miss Goodgame

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