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**Headteacher: Mrs Katie Friday BEd (Hons), QTS**

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

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

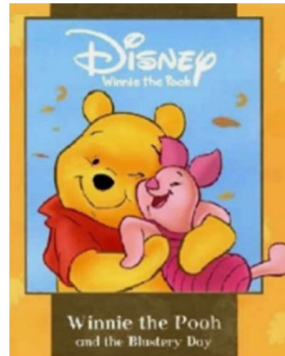
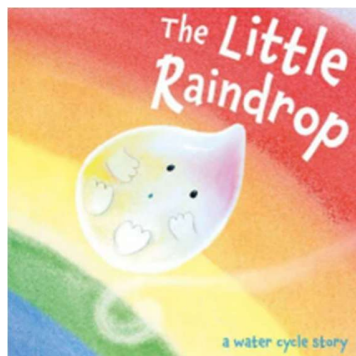
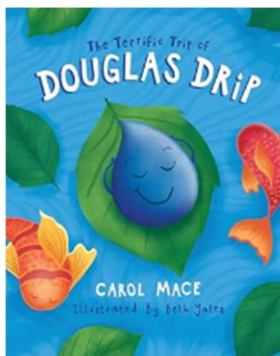
## **Owlets Curriculum Letter – Spring Term**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! And welcome to the Spring Term at Dry Sandford Primary School.**

It has been lovely to see the children settling back into school after the Christmas break – especially as I didn't expect to be here! They have quickly returned to the school routine and have been engaged in lots of fun learning. I know we had lots of illness just before the holidays so hopefully everyone is over the worst but please bring them in every day, even if they have coughs or colds, as every day is precious. Please also note – the school has a duty to monitor attendance, including late arrivals; the register closes promptly at 9:00am. Please let the office know if your child cannot attend and, if they need to see the doctor or dentist, then please try to make appointments out of school hours where possible.

### **Topics**

The topic this first half term is: What is the weather? The children have already experienced lots of extremes in the weather – we've had snow, ice, frost, mist and lots and lots of rain! But we will start to learn some early science about what causes weather, focusing on the water cycle, using information books as well as lovely picture books like the Terrific Trip of Douglas Drip and One Snowy Night.



After half term, our topic will be: Dinosaur Roar! Lots of exciting learning about the different types of dinosaurs...which I am sure most of the children will be informing ME about!

We will of course be continuing our daily phonics lessons, learning new sounds from Level 3 while continuing to embed and practice level 2 sounds, through fun activities and word games. In Maths, we will continue to develop and explore numbers to 5 and begin to extend to 10, using the concept of 1 more and 1 less as well as introducing early addition and subtraction. We will also be exploring capacity, mass, height, and length.

Reading books will be changed once a week but please remember to send children in with their book bags every day, regardless of their specific reading day. We will also start weekly visits to our school library so that children can borrow a book each week to share at home for pleasure. If you're also able to visit any local libraries, this helps to foster a love of reading in young children who are learning to read themselves.

Top tips for reading together:

*Thank you for engaging with reading at home – it is the key to success for producing fluent readers! A little and often approach to reading works best: talking about the pictures, taking it in turns to read, modelling sounding out and blending the words. Show how to follow or track the words in the book with your finger and when you have sounded out the words in a sentence, re-read the sentence together to help to get meaning from the text. Look for repeated words and talk about what is happening in the pictures. Think about how the characters are feeling and try to predict what will happen next. Talk about likes and dislikes and the type of text, for example, is it an information book or a story book? Spend around 10 minutes a day sharing books together, which could include sharing picture books or retelling favourite traditional tales, not just the reading books we send home.*

Other ways to help at home

Continue to give children lots of opportunities to write, draw or make letters and numbers out of paint or playdough, and, when writing remind, them to hold writing tools using a pincer grip. Incorporate fun maths activities into daily routines – counting out cutlery at dinner time, matching pairs of socks and counting in twos, or looking for numbers on your walk to school, and so on.

**Donations**

Thank you to those who have already sent in a cash contribution of £10 (for the year). This helps us to continue to provide a rich and varied curriculum to children including activities such as cooking and creative experiences. This term the children will be making some vegetable stir fry when we celebrate the Lunar New Year as well as trying out some weather experiments. We are also always grateful to receive materials for pictures and model-making, as well as things that can be used in role play - large pieces of material, cardboard boxes, carpet tiles, cartons, wool, old birthday cards, plant pots, newspaper etc.

Thank you for continuing to engage with Class Dojo. I will post updates, photos and information about the class on this platform as well as our very popular birthday celebrations! Although I occasionally send messages out, I will not always be able to check incoming messages very regularly, so please continue to speak to either myself or Mrs Price if you have any concerns or queries or contact the school office.

Finally - thank you for your help and support with your child's learning - from **Miss Lambie**

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