

Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.

Friday 1st May 2026

Owlets Curriculum Letter – Summer Term

Welcome to the Summer Term at Dry Sandford Primary School.

I hope you all had a lovely Easter break - I've been hearing about some of the great adventures the children had as well as how many Easter eggs they all got!

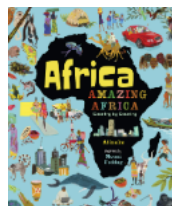
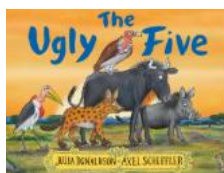
I am pleased to say that the children have settled back into the daily routine of school very well and have all come back with renewed enthusiasm for learning. Unfortunately, there is still a sickness/upset tummy bug going round so we are being extra vigilant with hand washing etc and we would ask you to do the same at home.

Attendance

Every day is a precious learning day so please bring your children in, even if they have minor coughs or colds. As you know, the school has a duty to monitor attendance, including late arrivals – please note that the registers close promptly at 9.00am. Please let the office know as soon as possible if your child is not coming to school and try to make appointments outside of school hours where possible. As Owlets will be attending morning assemblies on a more regular basis, it is even more important that you arrive as promptly as possible. The door into class will continue to open at 8.40am but will now close at **8.50am**, in line with the rest of the school, so that children can be registered, check their lunch orders and go to the toilet before we go to the hall for 9am.

Topics for the Summer Term

For the first half of this term, our focus is Amazing Africa! We have already started on the wonderful story of Handa's Surprise, which introduces the children to a variety of tropical fruits and wild animals. And the children are already getting a sense of just how vast the continent of Africa is, with more than 50 different countries each with their own languages, dialects and customs. To enhance our learning, we will also be making tropical fruit kebabs later this term, so that the children can try some new flavours.



The topic for the second half of the term is To Infinity and Beyond! Along with some much-loved stories and books about famous astronauts, we'll also be able to use footage from the recent Artemis II Moon mission, bringing another dimension to the children's understanding of space.

We will of course be continuing our daily phonics lessons. The children have all made excellent progress and we will spend the first part of this term consolidating knowledge of Level 3 in both reading and writing. We will then move onto Level 4 where children learn about cluster sounds – such as /st/ and /nt/. While this is not part of the Early Learning Goal for Literacy in the EYFS curriculum, it puts them in a better starting position for Year 1. And it goes without saying that those children that need more time to become secure with Level 3 will certainly be given it.

In Maths we will be looking at numbers to 20 and beyond, exploring numerical patterns as well as concepts such as sharing and grouping. We take a very practical approach with Maths and encourage children to talk about what they have found out when exploring concepts. We want children to make their own connections with numbers and numerical patterns as this will give them a better understanding of Maths in the future.

Reading is still a key focus. Reading books will continue to be changed once a week – as mentioned on Dojo I have recently changed the reading days - and although children may not read with an adult individually each week, we still have lots of opportunities throughout the continuous provision in the classroom for reading. Children will also start weekly visits to the School Library on Mondays. Books taken from here can be kept for a week. Please ensure library books are in book bags on Mondays ready to be changed.

Homework

I will be sending home a short Phonics-based worksheet once a week on a **Friday** and children will have until the following Wednesday to complete it. This is not compulsory, but I believe it helps children to consolidate their learning even further and gives them a taster of Year 1! I hope that you all have been able to access Purple Mash (Mini Mash) for more fun activities for children to try at home that cover all areas of learning.

PE lessons on Monday

Children have been enjoying their more formal PE lessons each week. As the weather gets nicer, we will be able to take these lessons onto the field! Please ensure children come to school on Mondays in their **PE kits** (jogging bottoms are still advisable although children can wear their shorts underneath in case they get hot) and appropriate footwear (trainers or plimsols).

Packed Lunches

Please help us to encourage nutritious eating habits in children. If your child is having a packed lunch, then our Healthy Eating Policy asks you to provide a healthy and balanced lunch for your child to eat at school. Acceptable items include: fresh or dried/package fruit such as raisins, vegetables, cheese, crackers/dry biscuits, yoghurt, fruit bread, sandwiches/wraps with a healthy filling, pasta/rice, crisps in a small amount and one small, sweet treat per day.

Parent Donations

Thank you to those parents who were able to make the yearly donation of £10.00 that we asked for in the Autumn Term. This went primarily on some much-needed Maths resources but also ensures we can continue to have an exciting and "tasty" curriculum (eg decorating Halloween treats, making Easter nests!).

I will continue to post updates and photos on Class Dojo but if you have any specific queries, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or Mrs Price at drop off or home time.

Finally, thank you for your continued help and support with your child's journey through Reception. It really does make a difference!

Miss Lambie

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