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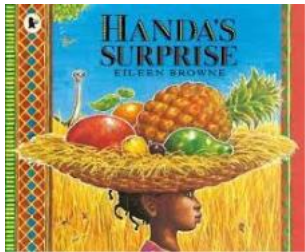
Headteacher: Mrs Katie Friday BEd (Hons), QTS

Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.

Friday 1st May 2026

Barn Owls Curriculum Letter – Summer Term

Welcome back to our final term of this academic year at Dry Sandford Primary School. As always, we try to reinforce our school values through everything that we do: **Kindness, Determination, Creativity, Respect.**



In Barn Owls this term our topic for the first half of the term is 'Amazing Africa'. This topic will be cross curricular and explored in all areas of the curriculum. We will be reading and sharing lots of exciting stories, such as Handa's Surprise and Meerkat Mail and creating different pieces of writing in English lessons. We will explore traditional patterns in Art and have a taste of fruits that grow in Africa in DT. After the half term, our topic will be 'to infinity and beyond' exploring all things space! In Science, we will be looking at plants and what they need to grow and stay healthy.

In Maths this term the children will begin to look at money, time and fractions. These are all maths topics that can be practiced at home 'in the real world'.



Money: Look at different coins together asking children to identify each one, ask children to help price up the shopping, get children to pay for things in coins at the shop and count the change.

Time: Look at clocks together both analog and digital

Fractions: cut food in half, quarters or thirds.

We will continue to practice the 2, 5 and 10 times tables in Year 1, adding the 3 times table in Year 2.

Exciting update

You may have seen that the outside area project in Barn Owls is underway! Although this is still a working progress, we are happy to have a covered area that we will be able to use in all weathers encouraging outdoor learning. We do have a wish list for some outside equipment that I will be adding to the school Amazon Wishlist, but if anyone has anything that will be useful in an outside area, please get in touch. We would like some drain pipes for water play and old saucepans if you have any to spare!

Key days

Forest School sessions are on a **Monday afternoon** this term. As you know we have outdoor learning in all weathers so please provide waterproof trousers, waterproof coat and welly boots, as well as warm clothing for the winter months. Please see our Forest School policy for more information.

Barn Owls have **PE Tuesdays and Fridays this term**. Barn Owls are lucky to have a PE coach called Owen on a Friday afternoon. Please can children come to school in their PE kits both days including trainers.

School uniform

A full school uniform should be worn with black shoes. On PE days children should come to school dressed in the school PE kit and trainers can be worn of any colour. Hair should be tied up if it is longer than shoulder length and hair accessories should be kept simple in neutral or school colours. Simple stud earrings can be worn to school but should be removed or covered on PE days.

Packed lunch and Snacks

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

We ask that grapes, cherry tomatoes and other food of a similar shape and size are cut to limit the risk of choking. In KS1 a fruit snack is provided daily but children can bring their own snack each day of fruit or vegetables only if they wish to do so.

Warmer weather

As the weather begins to warm up sunhats should be worn to school each day and suncream applied before school. Most suncreams will offer an all-day protection (please check the bottle of the suncream you purchase for more information), however, if you wish for your child to reapply suncream throughout the day they must be able to do so themselves. On really hot days we will encourage children to reapply suncream and stay in the shade.

Staff

We continue to be very lucky to have lots of staff members working within and supporting the Barn Owls. The Class TA's are Mrs Plummer, Miss Archer and Mrs Bernasconi who work different days throughout the week.

Year 1 Phonics Screening

The Year 1 children and some Year 2 children will participate in the Phonics Screening check this term. Children will sit 1:1 with me and read me 40 words, some are nonsense words and some are real words. This is nothing to worry about and we will have plenty of practices with the children. You will receive their results in their school report in July. I spoke to most parents about the format of the test during parents evening but if you have any other questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Helping your child at home

Spellings are provided weekly in line with our phonics scheme, you do not have to practice on our look, cover and write sheet, whatever works for you at home, it is just provided as a guide. Maybe try writing the words with different colour pens or on big pieces of paper, if you have chalk at home it's always fun to write outside on the ground too! Reading books will be sent home weekly on a **Monday** this term. Please read with your child for at least 10 minutes every school day and sign the reading record. Please share with us if your child is reading other books at home too!

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. Thank you to everyone who donated. So far we have purchased outside equipment, more spades for Forest School and have baked bread! We are also always grateful to receive any donations!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do come and speak to me or get in touch through the school office.

Miss Goodgame

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