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Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.

Friday 11th September 2026

Owlets Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

Welcome to the beginning of a new and exciting year at Dry Sandford Primary School.

I am so pleased at the way the children are settling into Reception. They are quickly adapting to their new classroom environment and learning the routine and rules of "big school". They have also been making friends and over these first few weeks we will be focusing a lot on the School Values: **Kindness, Respect, Determination and Creativity.**

We love teaching your children so please bring them in every day, even if they have coughs or colds, as every day is precious. Please note - attendance has to be monitored by the school, including late arrivals; the register for Owlets closes promptly at 9:00 am. Please let the office know if your child cannot attend and try to make appointments out of school hours where possible.

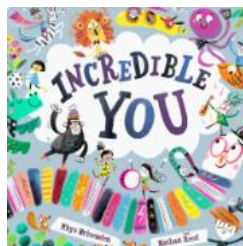
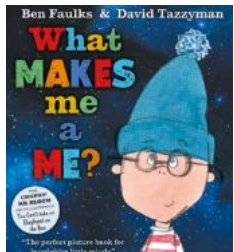
Curriculum

Our school curriculum has recently been updated, and the new plans will soon be added to the school website, so you can see an overview of the topics across the two-year cycle.

As part of our curriculum changes, we will have a whole school question to help us bring together our learning across the school, including Owlets. This term's big question is:

Where did I come from and how did I get here?

So, for the first half of this half term, our focus is All About Me. The children will be creating self-portraits, drawing pictures of their families and telling each other about themselves. We will also be thinking about what makes each of us unique and to support this learning we will look at books like Incredible You, What Makes Me a Me and of course the children's own All About Me books that you have helped them with over the summer. It's not too late to send your child's book in if you've not done so already!



Within our topic there will be lots of fun activities to develop all areas of learning including maths, literacy, social and communication skills. We would also like to explore living history by asking that

each child brings in TWO photos of themselves – one as a baby and one as a toddler, to compare the similarities and differences from then and now. More info will be sent via Class Dojo.

The focus will then turn to learning all about **AUTUMN** and the Harvest Festival. Owlets will also be learning songs for the special Harvest assembly – so make sure you save the date to attend (Friday 9th October).

Uniform

Please make sure all uniform items are named. This includes book bags, water bottles, wellies and coats. Owlets will be starting Forest School in the next few weeks. We will let you know more details in a separate letter nearer the time but having old warm clothes with lots of layers and having thick welly socks will be ideal for when the weather gets colder. Please also make sure long hair is tied back for school.

Fruit and Milk

The children have a healthy fruit snack each day – please feel free to send in your own snack if you would prefer, but please ensure it is something healthy. **Please note any healthy snacks brought to school must not contain nuts and no celery or kiwi fruit due to allergies within the school.**

Milk is provided by Cool Milk. Under 5s have free school milk. If you would like your child to continue having milk after they turn 5, you will need to register and pay. Please see their website for more information.

Please note: Only water is allowed in water bottle or as a drink at lunchtime. We will refill your child's bottle frequently, so they do not need to bring in massive or heavy bottles.

Helping your child at home

In a couple of weeks, the children will start to bring reading books home to read aloud to you. The reading books are linked to the phonics level they are learning in school. Children make the most progress when they read daily for even 5 minutes – a little and often is the best way forward. Please sign and date the Reading Record Book when you listen to them read. Children will also be bringing home a school Library Book, which they can keep at home for a week. These will not always be decodable books but are for you to read to them or to share at bedtime.

Children learn the most from real life experiences, and you can help your child by involving them in activities at home such as:

- Writing their first name
- Practising phonics- letter sounds they might see out and about and playing games such as Alphablocks:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks> and Numberblocks
- Making up and telling stories
- Counting objects found around the house and matching numbers to quantities
- Counting forwards and also backwards like a rocket count down!
- Using paints, play dough and threading to help strengthen their pencil control
- Helping to write or draw pictures of their favourite things, or for your shopping list.

Donations

We believe that cooking, tasting and special creative activities are valuable learning experiences which help to enhance our curriculum. To make this a regular activity we would appreciate a yearly contribution of **£10:00** per child to help cover the cost. We are also always grateful to

receive recycled 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, newspapers etc.

Finally – thank you to all parents who have already signed up to Class Dojo. If you haven't signed up yet, please either follow the link sent via email or use the personal QR code I have given you. I will post updates and information about the class on this platform as well as photos. There is a chat function although this won't be regularly monitored so if you have any questions or concerns then please either speak to myself or Mrs Price at drop off or collection. If you need to contact the school urgently, for instance to notify us of your child's absence, please always call the school direct.

Thank you for your help and support in your children's learning.

Miss Lambie & Mrs Price

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