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Leading Lifelong Learning; Creating Caring Communities.

Friday 11th September 2026

Barn Owls Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

Welcome back to another exciting academic year at Dry Sandford Primary School. We always try to reinforce our school values through everything that we do: **Kindness, Determination, Creativity, Respect.**

Barn Owls class is our year 1 and 2 class with children age 5-7. Our learning typically takes place in our classroom and in our newly developed outside area! We enjoy lots of hands-on learning in all areas of learning and try to incorporate continuous provision where possible. Please see our school website for daily timetables and more class information.

Curriculum

Our school curriculum has recently been updated, so you may find that some topics are being re-visited this year. Please be assured that if we are revisiting a topic your child has done before, it will be sufficiently different and challenging for your child!

The updated curriculum 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.

This term's big question is:

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

In Barn Owls we will be looking at changes in living history, including: toys, schools, clothes and holidays. It would be good if you could discuss what these were like when you were a child and maybe ask grandparents too. It would be great to see any photos or items you are happy to share.

For Maths lessons we follow the White Rose curriculum. Starting with place value and then moving on to addition and subtraction for the second part of the term.

We share lots of stories in Barn Owls which form the basis of our literacy learning, leading to producing a variety of writing outcomes. We also use stories to practise oracy skills and storytelling, including role play and hot seating. Three reading books are sent home weekly for children to read and share at home with their families.

Key days

Forest School sessions are on a **Monday afternoon. A separate letter with a start date and information will follow.**

Barn Owls have **PE Tuesday and Friday 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, earring must be removed before school.

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, 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.

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.

Phonics

Phonic sessions take place daily. We follow the Twinkl Phonics Department of Education approved scheme. The Year 1 children will take part in a Phonics Screening Check in June, more information will be provided nearer the time but if you have any questions please come and ask. Spellings are provided weekly in line with our phonics scheme, you can practise the spellings however works for you at home, they are stuck in the yellow books so please make sure this book is back in school on Monday's. 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! Year 2's will have a weekly spelling check in school. Reading books will be sent home weekly too on a **Monday**. 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!

Helping your child at home

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! Our project this year is to develop an outside area for Barn Owls to use throughout the school year. If anybody is giving away anything that could be useful.

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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