



## **Year 1 Owl class** **information - 2021-** **22**

### **Welcome**

Welcome to Year 1 and Owl class. We are enjoying getting to know your children and are excited for the year to come.

Owl class is taught by Mrs Burrett Mon – Tues, and Mrs Loveday Wednesday - Friday.

Our Teaching Assistant is Mrs Baldwin who will be with the class all week. We have additional adults that work across Key Stage 1 during the year so it is likely that your child may mention they worked with someone else from time to time.

Puffin and Owl classes together make up the Year 1 team. With that in mind you may find that your child will come home some days having worked with children from the other class. After a year of lockdown 'bubbles' we want to take advantage of uniting the children across both classes. We will obviously take note of any national guidance and restrict this if necessary.

### **The Classroom**

#### **A.M. Arrangements**

Lunch trolleys – please unload 'luggage' (lunch boxes, water bottles and book bags) on to trolleys which will be outside the playground classroom door before the children come into class. Please make sure that all items are clearly labelled with the children's names so we can return them to their owners if they get lost.

Please remember to send your child with a water bottle, a hat, a raincoat and their lunchbox if they are having a home packed lunch. There is free school piece of fruit/veg provided each day.

Please bring your child to the class door between 8.40am and 8.50am. There you will say goodbye to your child and they will enter the classroom independently to hang up their coats and bags. The children will then have a variety of morning tasks to get involved in. This time is an opportunity for you to mention any practical matters you feel important for the staff to be aware of. For example, if your child will be going home with a different person to the normal routine, please let a member of staff know that morning. If you feel you need longer to discuss a particular issue with the class staff then we would ask you to save this conversation till the end of the school day when we can give you more time. We are always contactable via Tapestry but please bear in mind this may not be checked until the end of the school day.

Please help us to have a smooth and calm start to the day by ensuring your child is in school on time. The class door will shut promptly at 8.50am to enable us to begin the teaching day. After this point, you will need to drop your child at the main reception.

It would be very helpful if you could look at the lunch menu at home to make a choice with your child of what they will be having for lunch that day. The office will have sent you an updated menu for the Autumn term. If you lose this, there is a copy on the school website which can be located on the red 'Lunch Menu' tab on the right-hand side of the front page.

## **P.M. Arrangements**

At the end of the day, we will keep the children in the classroom until we have seen you (or the person you have informed us will be collecting your child).

We may ask to speak with you briefly to pass over some relevant information. If so, please be patient whilst we supervise the other children being handed over safely to their parents. As already mentioned, we want to be as accessible as possible but the safety of your children is our paramount concern.

## **Rewards**

The same systems run in both Year 1 classes.

- Traffic lights - the objective is for the children to work their way to the stars by the end of the day. Each day they have a new start on the green traffic light.
- Special Helper of the day
- 'Hooray' chart – smiley face on a grid when the whole class are making a really great effort. When enough smiley faces have been accumulated the children earn a 'hooray'. As a whole class the children discuss and choose a reward.
- Whole school Celebration certificates focusing on our JONK (Joy of Not Knowing) Learning Behaviours which are Resilience, Resourcefulness, Creativity, Reflective and Collaboration.

When it is your child's birthday, they are able to come to school in their 'own clothes'. If this falls on a PE day, please make sure that they are suitably dressed for outdoor PE. If your child has a birthday in the school holidays then they are free to choose when they would like to wear their non-uniform.

## **P.E.**

P.E. is on Tuesday and a Thursday. Please ensure that your child comes to school on these days dressed in suitable clothing for an outdoor PE lesson, for example a black pair of jogging bottoms/leggings/shorts, a red/white t-shirt and a red/black sweatshirt. If your child has pierced ears, ideally, we request they remove their earrings before coming to school that day or they bring their own tape to place over their earrings. We also request that all long hair is tied back. The children will be doing outdoor PE as much as possible so we would ask that they wear trainers instead of plimsolls.

## **Reading**

There will be a separate letter explaining how reading will be taught this year as we are making some changes.

## **Phonics check**

The phonics check was introduced several years ago and there is an expectation that all Year One children will have reached a required level determined by the government each year.

It consists of 40 words to blend, 20 real words and 20 non words or 'alien' words.

It normally takes place in June but we do not make the children aware of the check as it will feel familiar to them as we continue to assess them throughout the year.

## **Abacus Maths Homework/**

As the children settle into Year 1, we will begin to upload a fun maths activity for the children to complete on-line. This will reinforce what the children have been learning that week so it is very relevant and useful to the children. We have provided you all with a 'How to access Abacus' maths homework crib sheet. If you have any issues accessing it at home, please let us know. We will notify you on Tapestry when we start providing this for the children.

### **Educational Visits**

We try to give the children as many opportunities to learn outside of the classroom as possible. Our first trip of the year is to the **Dinosaur Park on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**. You will receive a letter with more information. We are also planning to see a live performance of the Gruffalo at the Playhouse in November as part of our "Once Upon a Time" learning theme. More details to follow.

We also make use of our local environment e.g., the park, the local woods and church. If you have given us permission for the school to take your child out on a local visit, that will include such places as the local park etc. We will let you know in advance of when we are planning to take the children out of school and please be assured that all our trips have adequate adult supervision.

### **Curriculum**

Curriculum maps have been sent home for you to see some of what we are doing this half term as part of our Dinosaur learning theme. Further information will be sent at the beginning of each half term.

### **Important Dates**

Please take a good look at the School Diary for further dates and keep a close eye on the whole school newsletters from Mrs Humphrey. Due to COVID we do not want to plan too far ahead so we will hope to be able to invite parents and carers into school for story cafes and other school events. Watch this space!

We appreciate that there is a lot of information provided here so please do not hesitate to ask any questions you may have. It may be worth keeping a copy of this on the fridge or somewhere else you can keep referring to throughout the year. We really do look forward to getting to know you and your child and working in partnership with you to ensure we have a great Year 1!

Mrs Burrett and Mrs Loveday