



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
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Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to Year 1 - The Owls

We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed the time that you have shared with your family and friends. Thank you so much for all of the kind Christmas cards, gifts and well wishes! After such a fun break, it will be wonderful to meet back with the children and carry on our learning in 2018! We are excited to see how each of the children continue to progress in Year 1, both as individuals and as learners.

We continue to make the transition from Foundation to Year 1 as smooth and enjoyable as possible and are already conscious that the children are adapting to the different challenges of Year 1 in an enthusiastic and positive way. To inspire the children this term, we will be having a special visitor from the past and will also be making a visit outside of the classroom, which should be most exciting! We will send out more information about the trip nearer the time!

Just a few reminders:

PE

PE will be on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Please ensure all PE kits are in school on Monday and taken home on Friday just in case of any timetable changes. If your child has pierced ears, they must be able to take out earrings on their own as teachers are unable to assist them. If they cannot, they will not be able to take part in PE. Please refer to the uniform policy for details.

Water

Please ensure your child has a named water bottle in school every day. Fruit juice or squash is not permitted but feel free to pop a slice of fruit in!

Play time snack

Year 1 will still receive free government fruit each day. However, we will be eating this in the afternoons as part of story time. Please provide your child with a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable - named or in a named bag/plastic tub and they will eat this at morning break.

Milk: Sadly in Year 1 milk is no longer free and must be ordered through Cool Milk by yourself if you wish for your child to receive it. We are provided with a list of children from Cool Milk who should be receiving milk each day. If your child is on this list, they may choose to drink this at morning break or with their afternoon snack. If you have stopped ordering milk this year, it would be really helpful if you explained this to your child to save any upset at play time - thanks.



Reading

Reading continues to be an important skill that the children are developing. We really appreciate all the support that you give to your children as they approach the task of becoming fluent and engaged readers. Please continue to read with your child each day if possible, ten minutes maximum is plenty in order to support their reading progress as it is little and often that counts towards recognition of sounds and key words become embedded. Please see the Book Banding letter and booklet for more information on how to help your child at home on the school website. Star reader certificates will be handed out each Monday for children who have read at home four or more times each week - this has proved very motivating for the children.

Phonics

Phonics continues to be taught every day - children carry on meeting new sounds and practice ones that they have met before, in order to deepen their understanding. This is a useful building block for both the children's reading and writing skills. During our phonics sessions, we will meet words that we call 'tricky' as they do not conform to the way of word building that children can usually apply. We therefore have to learn these words and will be encouraging the children to keep practising their spelling of them as well as their recognition of them in texts.

Home learning

Home learning continues with your child receiving a fortnightly sheet in their home learning book, with activities based on what we have been learning during the weeks. We hope that it continues to be a shared activity, promoting lots of discussion between you and your child about their learning. The aim is that the children explain their learning to you and in so doing; it consolidates for them what they have been doing in school. As the Spring term continues, it would be great to see the children attempting to write some of their thoughts on the sheet too, being confident that they can record their own explanations of what they are learning. There is no urgency to complete the sheet immediately that it is received, it can be revisited across the fortnight and should take no longer than 30 minutes each week to do, with no pressure to finish it. Each piece of work will be celebrated and stamped to show acknowledgement of their efforts. Instant feedback is really important, particularly for younger children. Please let your child know that they have done well after they have spent time on their home learning. A termly topic web is available on the website if you wish to revisit anything, please let us know if there is something in particular which your child has struggled with and we can go back over this in learning time.

Wow Moments

We will be continuing the WOW! board which is still so popular in Year 1! We enjoy seeing and celebrating what children achieve out of school. The sheets will be on our WOW! notice board inside the door to our cloakroom - please help yourself!

3:05pm collection of your child

On the odd occasion you may need to arrange other adults to collect your child, please sign the sheet on the notice board before 8:40am in the Year 1 cloakroom to advise staff of this. Any permanent and weekly arrangements should be put in writing to the office and ourselves. Many thanks.

If you have any questions around your child's time in Year 1, please do not hesitate to come and talk to us after school, we are always happy to talk!

Best wishes

Mrs King, Ms Butt and Mrs Coggins , Chief Owls