



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear parents and carers

### **Welcome to Year 1 - The Owls**

We hope you have had a great summer holiday and spent lots of time with family and friends! The weather has largely been kind which makes all the difference when enjoying time together!

It has been good to welcome our new Year 1 class and we are already enjoying getting to know them! We have noticed that they are excited to listen, eager to learn, and have settled into our classroom comfortably already! We are both looking forward to seeing how each child progresses as both a learner and an individual throughout the next academic year.

In Year 1, our aim is to make the transition from Foundation Stage to Key Stage One as smooth and enjoyable as possible, whilst developing the independence both academically and socially of each child. We also strive to achieve the targets within the Year 1 Curriculum through fun and challenging continuous provision (learning through play) in order to build upon the foundations of Foundation Stage and to broaden each child's learning experience.

As part of our effort to encourage independence in Year 1, we are introducing a system where the children come into the classroom in the morning and place their picture on the lunchtime meal choices chart displayed there. It would help us greatly if each morning, you could inform your child of the meal that you have chosen for them so they are able to put their picture in the correct place - meat is colour-coded as 'red' and vegetarian is colour-coded as 'green' packed lunch from school or home is yellow/orange. We hope that this will help the children at lunchtime as they will know their lunch food choice in advance and won't be disappointed if they thought they may have been having something else!

Day trips or workshops in school will be organised each term and these will link to the current topic; in fact, our trip for this term is already set and the December pantomime has already been booked! We will send out more information about these events nearer the time.

### **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 our 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:** 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 - thank you.

### **Reading**

It is really important to read with your child every day, if this is 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. This term, we are excited to be introducing a new style reading diary which will travel between home and school with your child and will be a place to record comments and should also be a useful resource for you to use when supporting your child's reading. For additional information, please see the Book Banding letter and booklet for more ideas on how to help your child at home, this can be found 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 proven to be very motivating for the children.

### **Phonics**

Children will be taught phonics every day - this is where they will learn new sounds which will support their reading and writing progress.

### **Home learning**

Home learning will be similar in format to that of the Foundation Stage, in order to enhance transition. Your child will receive a weekly sheet with activities based on what we have been learning during the week. Home learning should be a shared activity which will consolidate what they have been learning in school. It should take no longer than 30 minutes each week, regardless of whether your child has finished. 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 which answers they got correct or incorrect in order for you to show them where their successes are, and equally, what they need to improve on. 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 was so popular in Foundation Stage. 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 about Year 1, please do not hesitate to speak to us, we hope your child enjoys their learning journey this year!

Best wishes

Mrs King, Ms Butt and Mrs Miles  
Chief Owls