

Winkleigh Primary School

Owls Class Autumn Term 2024



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Owls Class!

We hope you are all well and had a wonderful Summer.

We are very excited about welcoming our new Owls into school this term and have been busy getting the classroom and outdoor areas ready for them. We have lots of fun activities planned and are hoping to use our outside space as much as we can come rain or shine this term. Please make sure your child has a named sunhat with them each day and also a coat for when the weather turns wetter and cooler.

During the first part of this term we will be focusing on 'ourselves', thinking about our feelings, our families, our pets, what is special to us, and what we like and don't like to do! We are really looking forward to getting to know your children and will be spending lots of time learning through play.

During the second half of the term we will move on to learning about a range of different festivals and celebrations as we head towards Christmas.

We will be using our running track as much as possible, and the children will have PE sessions on Tuesdays this term, so please ensure children come to school wearing appropriate PE kit (black shorts or tracksuit bottoms, and a white t-shirt along with a school jumper) and trainers on this day.

Please could we ask that all children are provided with a spare set of underwear and a clean change of clothes to keep on their peg along with a packet of wet wipes in case of little accidents. We will inform you of any accidents in their communication books and wet clothes will be sent home in your child's book bag. Over the years our supply of spare clothes has diminished and we do not always have spares that will fit your children unfortunately so a spare set of clothes for them to keep at school is much appreciated.

Please could we ask that all items of clothing, along with re-fillable drinks bottles and lunchboxes, are clearly named. The children are welcome to re-fill their drinks bottles as much as they need to, and are free to drink whenever they need to throughout the day. Please can we ask that children's bottles contain water and not juice, in line with our healthy eating policy.

Once your child has settled into the routines of school we will begin our guided reading journey. We teach phonics through the Little Wandle Scheme and the children will read books at least 2x per week in small groups at school. These books will then be uploaded as e-books for you to share with your child at home at the end of each week. More details of how to access these books will be sent home in due course. They will also have a physical book to read at home which will be of a similar decodable level to the guided reading books we will be using at school. These will be changed on a weekly basis, once they have been read at home. We encourage you to read with your child as much as possible, and comment in their reading record book. Children love to receive stickers for reading at home so a little comment or a signature in their book ensures they get the praise they deserve. Please could you try to ensure all books are kept in your child's message wallets. Your child will also bring home a library book from our class library on a Friday to share with you. Once again, please ensure these

books are in their book bags every Friday ready to be swapped for a new book. The children always love choosing their own books and these are not ones we expect them to be able to read themselves, but ones we hope you are able to enjoy together at home to encourage and develop that real love of reading.

Unfortunately, we do not have space in our cloakroom for rucksacks to be brought into school and stored on pegs. Book bags are usually big enough to carry all that the children require and can be purchased via the school gateway.

Children are invited to wear their home clothes to school on their birthday and may also bring in cakes or sweets to share with their friends on their special day. Please ensure you let the office know if your child has any allergies.

Please can we ask that you wait at the bottom of the steps at the end of the day when collecting your children. It is sometimes difficult for them to see who is picking them up when there are a lot of adults and it also takes us a little while to recognise faces and match children to the correct adult! Thank you. Can we also ask that if your child goes home on the school bus, you inform the office via a phone call or email should your child NOT be on the bus for some reason to avoid any confusion. This is also the same for pick ups from the gate. If your child is being collected by a different adult to usual, please ensure you let us know via email or in their communication book. This saves unnecessary worry for your child.

If you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via your child's green communication book in their book bags, or via email. If you have written a message in the communication book, please leave the book open in their message wallet for us to see. We will also do the same if we have a message for you. We will always endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

We look forward to getting to know your children and having lots of fun this term!

Mrs C Bourner, Mrs T Brook, Miss H Parker and Miss M Jones