

Bodsham Church of England Primary School

OWLS CLASS ORIENTATION AND NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write this with a really huge and warm welcome to you all – both back to Bodsham, and as part of Owls class. We return to our ‘new normal’ after an extraordinary six months; I truly hope that you and your children are ready and looking forward to this next step in the process. I am so excited about teaching your children – we have lots of wonderful learning planned ahead of us, and between us all, we have a wonderful Team Owls.

SAFETY MEASURES

Time will be spent as soon as term begins on how we can all stay safe in school. Pupils will be taught about personal hygiene, our class bubble and the larger bubbles which will operate during break times and lunchtimes, and the new systems and routines needed within school to keep us all as safe as possible. Within this, pupils will understand that children and adults will be washing their hands frequently throughout the day and sometimes perhaps using hand sanitiser, and that our desks will be arranged to avoid children sitting opposite each other; they will also be taught that they will not be expected to socially distance themselves from other children in their class bubble, but that reminders will be given sensitively for any inappropriate playing or behaviour; and they will also learn about the ‘large bubble’ they will form as Owls with Woodpecker pupils for lunchtimes in the hall and playtimes on the playground and field, if weather allows.

CATCH-UP CURRICULUM

I will be delivering a temporary catch-up programme at the start of this academic year in reading, SPAG, writing and maths. We will be using Learning Objectives from the previous year where necessary to help children rebuild their self-confidence, and also allocating time each day to go over anything the children seem to or may need a little extra time on.

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Please be reminded that we are following a staggered timetable for pupil arrivals and departures. Each day, Owls pupils need to arrive at school between 8:40–8:50am and our school day ends at 3:30pm, when Owls pupils will be lined up to be sent to their collecting adult as usual. However, if your child has siblings who are required to arrive at the earlier time of 8:30-8:40am, your Owls child will need to come into school at that earlier time - I will be in the classroom ready to welcome these pupils from this time. We do ask you to please adhere to these timings as much as possible so that the routine can work smoothly, as required.

PE

As a school, we have decided that children should wear their PE kit to school on days when their class is having PE lessons to avoid the need for children to change in school. This means that I would like your child to come to school **dressed in their PE kit on Tuesdays and Thursdays**. Elite will be leading our PE on Thursdays. Just as a reminder for you, our Bodsham PE kit consists of our white Bodsham PE T-shirt, which can be worn under the usual Bodsham sweatshirt, and black or navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms. Please be aware that all of our PE will be outside, so please ensure that your child is warm enough as the days get colder, and make sure they have a coat with them every day. Children should wear trainers (not plimsolls) on these days, **but they should continue to wear school shoes at all other times**. Could I also remind you that earrings cannot be worn during PE, so children with earrings must be able to remove them independently or not wear them on our PE days.

All Bodsham PE kit can be ordered from our website.

RHE (Relationships and Health Education, formally known as PSHE)

Throughout this catch-up period, there will also be a focus on the pupils’ well-being. We will be working on themes such as self-confidence and self-esteem, friendship, mindfulness and teamwork. Settling the children back into school life and

being with one another again will be a key part of this autumn term, and essential in building the right foundations on which to learn and move forward academically and pastorally. RHE will be taught explicitly every week from now onwards.

READING

Guided reading will happen across the week, with specific texts being used. Your child will be expected to bring in a reading book with them every day, and they will bring this home each afternoon too. Please encourage your children to read on a regular basis – regular reading is very important, and even one to two pages per night is extremely beneficial to your child’s learning. They can read from a variety of genres, styles and formalities, and any discussion of their reading that you can share with them would be really useful. Both reading stamina and comprehension are important skills across the whole of the curriculum, and the more practice they get at it, the better. They have already been given a reading record book and we have discussed how this should be used: these are really important for recording not only what they have read, but also any celebrations, queries or next steps that may have arisen, either from yourselves, your child or from myself. If you hear your child read, please date, record pages and sign in the book, and please encourage your child to do the same when reading independently. Please also feel free to jot any specific correspondence about your child’s reading in the book, which you should then date and sign, and I will respond to this accordingly. Written comments may also be made by myself, so please do keep a check on the book.

HANDWRITING

We will be focusing on handwriting, and ultimately cursive handwriting, from the beginning of the term as this will help instill confidence and motivate children’s writing from the start. All children are expected to maintain cursive and neat handwriting when writing at speed by the end of Key Stage 2, so it is important that this aim is worked towards from the beginning of the year. Any additional practice you would like to do at home would also be of benefit.

SPELLING

Your child will be learning and practicing spelling rules, patterns and expected words across each week, but we have decided as a whole school that we will not be sending home spelling words to learn for a test. They may receive activities based on their learning in this subject for homework.

HOMEWORK

Homework will begin on Thursday 17th September. It will be issued on Thursdays and is due in on Tuesdays (when it will be marked). Your child will receive a homework book with a piece of maths work and a piece of literacy work which are linked to their learning to complete each week. Pupils should complete all homework in their homework books unless otherwise stated or it is online, for example, on the My Maths website. I will send home My Maths logins again, when appropriate.

WORSHIP

Sadly, we can not currently gather as a school to share Worship together, but we will continue to Worship as a class within Owls classroom. Mr Newton will lead each week’s Worship theme with his own video-based Worship session on a Monday; there will then be three further Worships, linked to the theme of the week, across the week, lead by myself in Owls. On Fridays, we will continue our Gold Book celebrations, where we will read about and celebrate the other Gold Book entries from across the school, albeit separately, and where we can celebrate our own Owls’ entries together in person. If your child is in Gold Book, you can look forward to receiving their certificate via email!

CLASS RULES AND REWARDS

We have been working on our class agreement, where children can design the rules they would like our class to stick to so that the classroom environment they want to have can be maintained – as a team. We have been spending time already creating Team Owls!

We will be continuing to issue and collate team points for effort and behaviour in class and around school, which will be totalled each week and added to those from the other classes. In class, we will continue to use our rain, cloud and sun system, where everyone begins every day on the sun, and I have added the next step of a rainbow this year, too! As previously mentioned, we will also be continuing with our Bodsham Gold Book.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thank you for sending your child into school in school uniform already. Just to remind you, full school uniform should be worn every day (except for on our PE days, Tuesdays and Thursdays, as previously mentioned). Due to the measures we need to take in school, please ensure your child has a school jumper and a coat in school every day, especially as our days are getting colder now.

BELONGINGS

School bags

Year 5 pupils will need their book bags in school each day, and Year 6 pupils now have the privilege of bringing their own small backpack.

Reading books

Pupils will need to bring a reading book and their reading record book into school every day, and these will come home with them again for their home use.

Pencil cases

Your child will be given a pencil case with all the essential stationery equipment they will need, and these will remain at school. Because of this, there will be no need for them to bring their own pencil cases or pens from home.

Water bottles

Please ensure that your child has their own, clearly-labelled water bottle with them in school every day. These need to go home every day for cleaning, and returned the next day.

Lunches

A full menu of school meals will be available from the first day of term and you can make payments to Caterlink as usual using their online booking system. Owls children will eat in the dining hall in large bubble group with Woodpecker children. You can choose to send in a packed lunch if preferred, and lunchboxes and bottles can go home every day for cleaning.

Playtime snacks

All Owls' children may bring fruit or vegetables as a snack for morning break times, but please do not send in anything in a wrapper.

COMMUNICATION

Because of the required difference to the start and end of the school day, there will unfortunately be less time and opportunity for us to communicate on the playground. If you have any queries or concerns that you wish to discuss with me, please do email the school office and I will endeavor to telephone you as soon as possible.

PARENT/CARER EVENINGS

We will be holding a first telephone consultation with parents during Term 1. There will be further details about this to follow from Mr Newton.

I am really looking forward to working with your children and yourselves over the coming year, to creating our Owls Team and to ensuring that your child has a happy and productive school life.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Allen

Owls Class Teacher