

Owls – Class Newsletter Spring Term 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, Owls! The daily routine for the children is much the same as last term. Children will arrive through the gates from 8.45am. The gates shut promptly at 8.55am to ensure learning can begin at 9.00am. Lateness can be disruptive for the class and the children who are late. Please ensure that children all have a named water bottle with them and their school book bag with their reading record and message book inside. Snack is free but children are welcome to bring in a piece of fruit from home if they prefer. Lunches are free this year and can be booked up to 8am on the morning of each day. Please ensure that any changes are communicated to us if your child is being collected by someone different or if they are not travelling home on the school bus.

Visitors/parents/carers must continue to report to the main reception entrance where any queries, early collection etc will be dealt with by the admin team.

Our PE days for this half term will be Wednesdays and Thursdays. The children may continue to attend school in their PE kit on these days, as well as if they have a sports after school club. PE kit consists of black tracksuit bottoms/shorts, white t-shirt and navy PE hoodie. The children may wear black trainers every day as we will regularly make use of our running track. Children should be wearing their full school uniform on other days, more information can be found here: <https://www.winkleigh.devon.sch.uk/winkleigh/parent-information/uniform>

Once the children arrive in class, they will store their belongings before beginning their morning task. This will be followed each day by drawing club, maths and phonics before lunch. The rest of the curriculum will take place in the afternoon. This involves PSHE, Understanding the World, PE, Music, Art, Design & Technology and Computing. Subject information pages can be found on the Owls page of our website. More information about our curriculum aims and mission statements can be found here:

<https://www.winkleigh.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Our+Curriculum+in+Detail&pid=191>

Please ensure that the children have a **coat** in school every day as we make the most of our outdoor spaces every day. They should be wearing sun screen/sun hats during any warm weather. The children should carry their belongings in a **book bag**. We do not have the space for rucksacks in our cloakrooms and as such, children using them will be required to store them outside.

At the start and end of the day, please ensure that you use the pavement and supervise children carefully as we have buses arriving and departing. Children should not be playing on the grass bank or in the staff car parking area.

The children will continue to have a reading book sent home and changed weekly. This should be in bookbags along with their Polar Bear reading record book everyday as the children regularly read in school. Reading regularly at home is of paramount importance as this will have the most impact on your child's progress across the curriculum. Reading records will be checked in school on your child's guided reading day.

During this term, we will be visiting Rosemoor. More details will follow in a separate letter closer to the time.

We are pleased to continue to be able to offer wraparound care. Our Early Birds club runs from 07.45-08.45 offering the option of breakfast. Our All Sorts club runs from 15.30-18.00. Both of these can be booked via the gateway and offer a variety of activities through the week to engage all children.

Safeguarding is of paramount importance. Our designated safeguarding lead is Mrs V Fenemore, deputies are Mr W Slocumbe and Mrs D Rowcliffe in the event that you have any concerns please contact them through admin@winkleigh.devon.sch.uk Nationally, there has been an increase in children accessing the internet independently through a range of device, such as 'phones, gaming devices and tablets, it is possible to view very inappropriate content.

We promote key mental health values such as kindness; resilience and open communication; helping children to name and understand their feelings. Staff are trained to identify early signs of emotional difficulty, including changes in behaviour or engagement. Our Designated Mental Health Lead (DMHL), Mrs Rowcliffe, is the main point of contact for Early Help, supporting pupils and families to ensure concerns are identified early and appropriate support is put in place, she can be contacted through admin@winkleigh.devon.sch.uk.

If you have any questions about anything regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please email admin@winkleigh.devon.sch.uk and we will aim to reply within 48 hours. Message books are used in Key Stage One and Early Years and some information will be communicated through them. Teachers are not available at the start or end of the day as they are busy overseeing these transitions. If you require an appointment with me, as class teacher, via telephone or in person, please email admin@winkleigh.devon.sch.uk to arrange a suitable time.

Kind regards,

Miss Batstone and Miss Crosby