

Term 2: Owl, Hawk and Falcon Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope you all had an enjoyable half term and are ready for an exciting new one.



Our topic this term is 'Rainforest Explorers.' The children will be learning about the human impact on rainforests, with a particular focus on The Congo, New Guinea and The Amazon.

In Literacy this term, we have started by exploring an imaginary non-fiction text, *The Land of Neverbelieve*. Children will design their own trees with a focus on description.

In Reading, we are continuing our work on VIPERS through the dual-narrative novel, set in a Peruvian Rainforest, *Fire Girl Forest Boy*.

Maths for Year 3 and Year 4 will focus on Multiplication and Division, with the addition of Length and Perimeter for Year 4.

In Science, our topic is Plants. Children will learn to identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants, explore the requirements of plants for life and growth, investigate the way in which water is transported within plants and explore the role that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants.

PE

On days your child has PE (see below), they **must come to school in the correct kit**. School uniform should not be worn on these days and is not needed in school.

PE kit consists of:

- A green T-shirt.
- Black shorts (trousers in colder weather).
- Suitable trainers for outdoor wear.

Children must also have a jumper and coat to be worn when outside.

PE Days

Hawks – Tuesdays and Thursdays

Falcons – Mondays and Wednesdays

Owls – Tuesdays and Fridays

Bags

All children should bring their book bags, or a named school bag, into school **every day**. In addition to transporting their reading and spelling books, they are used to take letters, work and certificates home.

Spellings

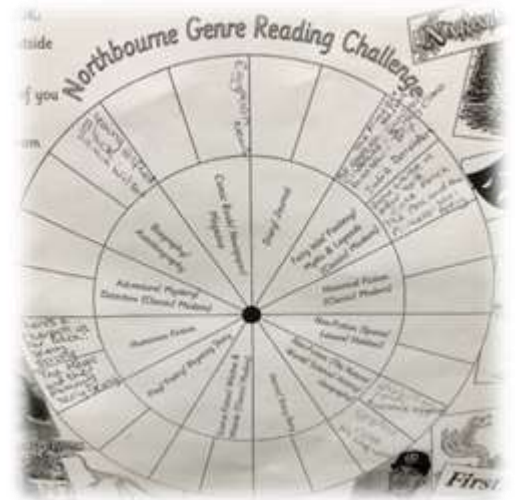
Please ensure that your child brings their spelling book to school **every day**. It is especially important that they bring their book to receive new spellings and so that they can do their spelling test in them.

Spellings in all three classes are set on a Friday and tested on the following Friday.

Reading books and diaries

Please ensure that your child brings their reading book and reading diary to school **every day**. In KS2, these reading diaries should be brought into class each morning, are checked daily and are used to communicate to parents. To make good progress with their reading, it is essential that your child reads at least 5 times a week, to an adult at home. Please write comments about your child's reading in the reading record.

In school, we work hard to ensure your child is introduced to, and finds pleasure in reading, a range of genres. So far this term we have covered a huge range of genres, including: biographies (Young, Gifted and Black), explanation texts (How to make a Mummy), humorous fiction (There is a Pharaoh in our Bath) and many more! Please support and encourage your child to read a wide range of genres over the school year using the genre wheel in the back of your child's reading diary. Not only will this help your child develop a wider vocabulary and love of a wider range of genres, but it will increase your child's confidence when they are reading or writing similar texts or genres in school, with knowledge of the way these text types are structured and the vocabulary and writing styles these text types include.



Maths homework

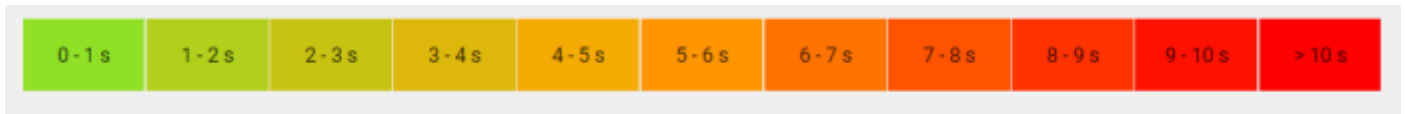
Mathletics

Children receive set activities chosen carefully by the teacher to be completed each week. These are set on Wednesday to be completed by the following Wednesday. Please ensure your child completes these tasks weekly.

Times Table Rock Stars

Knowing their multiplication and division facts has a hugely positive impact on the progress children are able to make within the mathematics curriculum. As such, we regularly learn and test these facts in school. However, we know that, in order to achieve fluency and rapid recall, it is essential this learning is also supported at home to allow children the time they need to secure the learning of these facts. They are regularly tested in class and your child should be bringing these tests home to you, so that you can practise securing the facts they have not yet mastered. Please support your child with practising times tables facts for their weekly tests. Children should be using Times Table Rock Stars regularly to help with recall and to build fluency. On TTRS, you will find that your child is asked to repeat the same multiplication table frequently. This is to build the speed at which they can recall particular facts. The table from TTRS below shows the recall speed required to demonstrate full mastery, with the aim, achieved through regular practise, that an answer can be recalled between 1 – 4 seconds.

This expectation is mirrored in the Department for Education's Multiplication check that all pupils take part in during Year 4. Once your child has secured mastery of key facts the programme will automatically move onto other facts as well as keeping in some previously learnt facts to ensure your child maintains the speed at which they can recall those facts.



Items from home

Please do not allow your child to bring any additional items from home – fiddle toys, soft toys etc. Only individual hand gel should be brought into school for children with specific allergies. We provide suitable hand gel for all pupils.

Thank you for your supporting your child at home with their learning.

Mrs Conway, Mr Woods (Falcons), Miss Rawcliffe (Hawks) and Miss Kellock (Owls)