

# Year 1 and Year 2 Autumn 1 Newsletter

## Welcome back!

We hope you have enjoyed your summer break and are ready for the new academic challenges that lie ahead! Firstly, can we take this opportunity to thank all of you who very kindly gave us presents, we really appreciate the gesture and it does mean a lot to us, so thank you! We welcome all the new starters to Year 1 and 2 and we are sure they will make many friends and be very happy to be part of the English Martyrs' family.

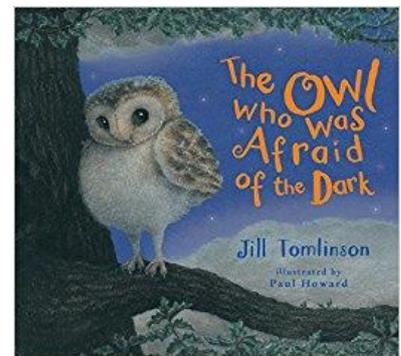


## Mission Week

To kick off the year, in our first week we will be exploring and celebrating our school mission statement (LIGHT). This will be a whole school focus with the children coming home each day with a special 'mission' to complete. This might involve them discussing or asking you some strange questions at home!

## Who is afraid of the dark?

This half term, Year 1/2 and Year 2 will be reading 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark'. Our first topic has a science focus on living and non-living this, so we will be having a special visit from 'The Owl Experience' company as part of our WOW day on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September! Please let your child's teacher know if you would prefer them not to come into contact with the visiting owls on the WOW day.



We will also be investigating the different habitats of various animals and how they compare, with a spotlight on owls. Later on in the half term, we hope to visit Trent College to explore their tree arboretum as part of our Autumn Watch Week (Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> October).

## Uniform

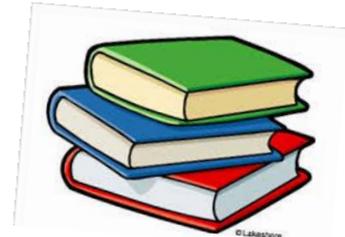
The children have all come to school very smart and are taking pride in their uniform - "Looking Smart, Thinking Smart!" Could you please make sure all names are written inside all the items of uniform. As a staff, we always remind the children to look after their belongings and are often carrying a jumper behind one or two pupils on the way out of school!

## PE

Our P.E. day will be a Thursday. Please can we ask that children always have a PE kit in school and that all items of the kit have a name in them. A gentle reminder that earrings need to be removed for PE lessons, therefore ensure children come to school without their earrings or teach your child to take out and put them back in after the PE lesson.

## Reading

The children have been given a reading book and reading diary. Time is allotted each morning for children to change books. Please try to hear your children read and make a note in their reading diary. We are happy for you to include notes about books you have read to your child or if your child has read a different book from home also. We will endeavour to listen to your child read at least twice per week but the more practice they get reading aloud the better as reading is vital in all subjects across the curriculum.



## Reading Diary

We will often use reading diaries to send messages home, please ensure you read the diary and sign it each week. If you would like to send us a message please use the diary as we will check it every day e.g. changes in how the child is getting home, appointments, changes to lunch times etc.

Homework for the half term and outcomes are attached in the front of the diary - the children really enjoy celebrating their homework with their class and we appreciate the time it takes. There are also reading and maths challenges to do over the term that do not always need to be handed in but will be tested throughout the lessons.

## Dates for the Diary

Please also check diaries for special news. Key dates will appear on the school website and whole school newsletters.

We hope your children are looking forward to this year as much as we are. Any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,

**Mrs Ellis and Miss Sweeney**