



Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome your child to Barn Owls this week and are looking forward to an exciting year of learning and discovery together. This year, Mrs Wood will be teaching on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternate Wednesdays, while Mrs Lyall will teach for the rest of the week.


We are beginning the term by learning all about ourselves and our class animal, the owl. Next week we will be reading *Owl Babies* and creating owls for our display, as well as making real nests in the woods. This topic provides a wonderful opportunity for the children to talk about their families and share their experiences.

As we plan to spend lots of time outside in all weathers, please ensure your child has a pair of wellies and a warm, waterproof coat in school each day. **On Mondays** the children will take part in Forest School and should come to school wearing jogging bottoms and a long-sleeved top (a school jumper is fine). **On Tuesdays** we will have PE, and children should wear their PE kit to school (shorts or jogging bottoms, a red T-shirt and trainers/daps).

Every day your child should bring a named water bottle filled with water only, as we are a healthy school. Most children also like to bring a healthy snack such as fruit or chopped vegetables for morning break. In the afternoon the children will be offered free fruit. Children under five are also entitled to free milk. Before their 5th birthday, you will receive details from the School Milk Service about continuing milk provision if you wish.

During the first few weeks, each child will complete a baseline assessment through fun, play-based tasks in early literacy and maths. Later in the term, the children will begin bringing home books. Each week they will receive a decodable reading book, carefully matched to their phonics knowledge, which we ask you to read with them at least three times to support fluency and understanding. They will also bring home a storybook of their choice for you to enjoy together. ***We will be holding an information session for parents to explain how we introduce phonics and our approach to reading on the afternoon of Tuesday 23rd September from 2.30 - 3.00pm***

You can support your child at home in a variety of ways such as sharing a story every day, talking about characters and making predictions, practising counting through rhymes or everyday routines like setting the table, and encouraging independence with putting on coats and fastening zips or buttons.



As space in the classroom is limited and children are expected to carry their own belongings, we ask that they do not bring large backpacks. A school book bag or small bag which fits into their drawer will be needed once reading books are sent home. We also recommend that each child keeps a small bag with a spare set of clothes on their peg in case of accidents or messy play.

We will keep you updated with class highlights through our online learning journal, Tapestry, which you will be able to access from home. Please do take time to look at the photos, add comments, and share any photos of learning at home. If you have not already returned your consent form, please complete and hand this in to the office as soon as possible.

Finally, we would like to invite you to our Harvest Service at Iron Acton Church on **Friday 10th October at 2.00pm**. This will be a lovely opportunity to come together as a school community and celebrate the season.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us or contact us via email.

Best wishes,
Amy Lyall and Alice Wood