



This Week's Theme

This week we are reading the story Owl Babies. The story is one of our favourites in Reception as it is fun for the children to learn and re-tell. It also lends itself well to lots of discussion about families.

We will also be finding out all sorts of information about owls and nocturnal animals. If you have a chance, please talk about birds with your child, and maybe go bird spotting and look at bird books. Also, please do let your children bring in any owl related stories or toys to put on our topic table and show to the class.

Phonics

We have started our formal phonics programme, **Essential Letters and Sounds**. Please see the school website for more information. We will start by focusing on the sounds *s a t p i n m d*. The children will learn to blend the sounds to read words with these letters. Next week we will be sending home reading books containing these sounds so that the children can practise what they have learnt.

We will do lots of creative activities centered around the owl babies, including making these fluffy owls.



Maths



In maths this week, the children will be encouraged to quantify sets of objects by subitising, rather than counting. When subitising, children can say how many there are in a small group of objects by 'just seeing' and knowing straightaway without needing to count. For example, knowing the amount of dots on a side of a dice by just looking.

Class Web Page

Please make sure you check out our class web page. We put on a copy of the newsletter and curriculum maps so you know what we're doing.

Also, we will soon put photos up, which we will update regularly.

Understanding our world

A large part of the early years curriculum centers around lessons to help children understand the world around them, the physical world and their community. These lessons may be based on science, history, geography and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education). For example, for a theme like owl babies we will be focusing on science; learning about nocturnal animals and birds.

Thank you for your support. Mrs Clarke, Miss Tonkyn and Mrs Upfold.