

# Owls Newsletter



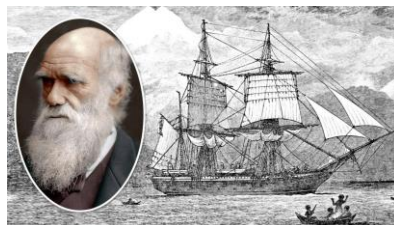
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. This term brings us new topics to learn about as well as the introduction of Atom Learning to support with homework. Details are included in this newsletter and an additional letter will be sent out with a step-by-step guide to enable parents to set up their account.

## Our Topics

In term three, we will be working on our topic, 'All Change'. During this topic work, we will be finding out all about Charles Darwin and his work on evolution and inheritance, including Darwin's travels to the Galapagos Islands, which were a key factor in developing his theory. We will also find out about the amazing Galapagos Islands and some of the living things which can be found there. The class will draw upon their prior learning of volcanoes to understand some of the geographical features of the islands, located off the coast of Ecuador.



Our science work this term looks at living things and their habitats. In this unit of work, we will look at the classification system in more detail. The children will be introduced to the idea that broad groupings, such as microorganisms, plants and animals can be subdivided. They will classify animals into commonly found invertebrates (such as insects, spiders, snails, worms) and vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals), discussing reasons why living things are placed in one group and not another. They will also identify how some animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment.



## Spellings and TT Rockstars

We are continuing to use Spelling Shed as our spelling programme. Due to timetabling changes, new spellings will now be given every Wednesday and tested the following Tuesday. A list of the spelling rules/patterns which we will study during the year, along with exemplar words, is available on the class page of the school website for your information. You can also find the year 3/4 and 5/6 statutory spelling word lists on our class page.

All children are encouraged to strengthen the speed and accuracy of their time tables knowledge using TT Rockstars.



## Reading

In Year 6, we continue to use the Accelerated Reading programme. All children have retaken their STAR assessments and have a sticker in their reading record showing their updated ZPD.

Please use the following link to sign up for email notifications for Home Connect. You will then receive an email each time your child complete a quiz in school. You will also be able to find out how they are doing with their termly reading targets.

<https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/studentprogress/homeconnect?t=6706259>

We have an accelerated reading session each day in class, so please ensure your child brings their reading book and reading record into school every day.



## P.E

Our PE day will continue to be **Monday**. If the need arises to change the PE day at any point during the year due to other events taking place, you will be notified in advance. Please ensure your child wears suitable P.E kit on this day. In line with the policy, small stud earrings may be worn in school but must be removed for PE lessons. Long hair should be tied back for PE lessons.



## Atom Learning – Y6 Homework

This term we will begin to use Atom Learning to set online homework for year six pupils. The homework will take the form of revision tasks to build confidence as we work towards our statutory key stage two assessments (SATs) in May. The homework will be optional. However, in addition to helping prepare for the SATs tests, completing the homework regularly will also help to develop time-management and organisational skills which are essential for a successful transition to secondary school. More details will be sent out this week. All pupils have been given their username and password (stuck into their reading record) and have had the opportunity to log in and complete questions. Homework will begin from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

Many Thanks,

Miss Davey