Freethorpe Primary School

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AIM Federation: Small schools, big opportunities

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Dear Parents and carers,

A Happy New Year to all our families, we are really pleased to welcome our Barn Owls back! It was fantastic to see all the snowmen on the playing field!

Our first topic this term is Let's Explore, we are looking at what it means to be an explorer, and what skills we need to become explorers ourselves. We will learn about famous explorers of the past, and less known explorers of the present.

Our English will also be based around this topic, and we will be practising many skills such as using adjectives to describe and conjunctions to join, while focussing on our sentence composition, letter formation and presentation. We will use our FOCUS Five to support and inspire the children to aim high, improve their own work and master important habits that will not only help in school, but in wider life.

Little Wandle Reading Scheme

We will continue using the Little Wandle reading scheme for phonics and reading. We will have small group guided reading sessions each week, reading a decodable book together. We will be sending home a copy of the book we have read together. We will also send a second book of your child's choice home for them to share with you.
Please support your child to read these books over the week as it will help to develop fluency within their reading. You may like to take the opportunity to use the mobile library, have a look in the library in Acle or perhaps in Norwich.

Your child will also bring home a Reading Record. Please make a note of this when your child reads to you, as they get rewarded with a house point for each day they read.

Each week one child from the class will bring home our class Owl “Biscuit” (a name chosen by the class) to listen to your child read and/or share a book with them. If your child would like, they can draw a picture of themselves sharing the book with Biscuit, or a picture of the shared book itself, or maybe even a photograph or two. It would also be nice if they could write a sentence or two about the book, why they chose it and what they enjoyed about it.

Routines and Reminders

- Please bring your communication books each day and use them to note who will be collecting your child, as well as any other information that will be beneficial.
- I am also available at the beginning or the end of the day if you would like to discuss anything in person.
- Please ensure school dinners are ordered online in advance. It is helpful to discuss the choice with your child and note the choice of meal in your child’s communication book for their reassurance.

Please be mindful of the unpredictable, cooler wetter weather at the moment, and be sure to send your child with a coat every day. We will often go out if it is raining lightly. PE will be on **Monday** this term. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed in their PE kit with appropriate footwear.

Best Wishes,
Michelle Short
Year 1/2 Teacher