



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School

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Owls Newsletter – Spring term 1, 2026

Dear Parents,

We've started the year off with a bang – snow galore, and three new members of the Owls staff raring to go! Mr Gilbert, Mrs Lloyd and myself have been so excited to work with you all and are looking forward to an amazing Spring term.

This half term the 3 week blocks that we will teach are on **History** and **Art**. In **History** our topic is Invaders and Settlers. Pupils will understand the Saxon and Viking period, sequencing these against other historical periods. We will explore what Britain was like before the Viking invasions and how these effected the lifestyle of people settling in Britain. We will learn about historical figures such as Alfred the great and explore what Viking life was like in Britain. We will explore when England became a unified country exploring the end of the Saxon/Viking era in Britain. In **Art** we are focusing on the artist Gustav Klimt, and his key style indicators.

In **Maths** Pupils will be working to improve their use of formal written methods. Specifically focussing on multiplication and division of 3 and four digit numbers. We will also be enhancing our recall speed of multiplication facts up to 12×12 .

In **English** we are continuing with our Writing for Pleasure approach, focusing on Character driven stories. The children have already come up with some amazing character ideas, have read examples 'as writers' focusing on what they want to include in their work, and thought about what they want their end product to include. They will follow the planning, drafting, revising and editing process, using their amazing ideas, straight from their own loves, inspirations and imaginations. I can't wait to see the finished products.

Our **P.E.** lessons will be on Monday this half term, with extra lunchtime PE on Wednesday and Friday. We will also have our weekly **violin tuition** on Fridays. Please ensure pupils have everything they need on these days.

Home Learning Will continue to be given in the same format. Maths will be handed out on Friday and will be expected in on Wednesday the following week. Spellings will also go out on Friday, to be learnt in preparation for the next Friday. We have launched a new reading challenge for 2026: 'All around the World'. The children will be given the bookmarks based on this theme, and have the opportunity to gain 2 stars, initialled by an adult, each day. One will be achieved at school, the other will be when they read at home. As part of their Home Learning, Owls children should be reading for at least 3 times a day, for 20 minutes. Consistency and frequency at home and school, is vital for their development as writers as well as enabling their love of reading, and key reading skills to flourish.

If you have any queries, please do contact us. We are so pleased to be teaching your children.

Kind regards,

Mrs Lockwood, Mr Gilbert, Mrs Lloyd and Ms Robson

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