



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
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Owls Class Newsletter – Summer term 1, 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome back, we have already had a wonderful start to the term with our 'Animal Fundraiser' and our trip to the 'Suffolk Farm Fair' last week. Thank you to all our families who helped with these fantastic events and enabled us to provide memorable events for the children.

We are looking forward to a fantastic Summer term and hope we can continue to make the most of the warmer weather – long may it continue.

This term, we are introducing 'Class Collective Worships' across the school. Owls Collective Worship will be a time to celebrate their music achievements this year, please watch this space for a confirmed date later this term.

This half term the 3 week blocks that we will teach are on **Design Technology** and **PSHE**. In **DT** The aim of this topic is for children to understand and use mechanical systems. Children will have the opportunity to observe, explore and investigate existing gears, pulleys, cams, levers and linkages. Children will use their knowledge of how these mechanical systems work to build their own moving toy based on a specific design criteria.

In **PSHE** our topic is changing me; bodily changes at puberty are revisited with some additional vocabulary, particularly around menstruation. Sanitary health is taught, including introducing pupils to different sanitary and personal hygiene products. Conception and sexual intercourse are introduced in simple terms so the children understand that a baby is formed by the joining of an ovum and sperm. If you would like more information on this, please read our topic overview on the school webpage or contact us directly.

In **Maths** Pupils will be working on their understanding of decimals in Year 4; recognising tenths and hundredths as fractions and making links between fractions and decimals. Year 5 will be improving their skills in measurement and position and direction; building on their skills in finding perimeter and areas of shapes and learning about co-ordinates and symmetry.

In May, our Year 4 pupils will be taking their 'Y4 Multiplication Check'. Please encourage your child to continue to practice their multiplication skills via 'Times Tables Rock stars' daily, in preparation for this. Times Tables Rock Stars is a fantastic programme to develop deeper knowledge and fluency in their times tables which is a life skill for the future!

In **English** pupils will be writing a 'Developed Short Story'. We will be including extra sensory detail and figurative language techniques, in order to produce a story with more depth and meaning, therefore being more engaging for the reader. After writing our draft, there will be a heavy focus on editing and how important this process is when presenting a finished piece of work. We will be working through several editing workshops, including direct speech, setting description and punchy introductions.

We will continue to practice and improve our key reading skills in Guided Reading, as we read War Horse by Michael Morpurgo: a novel that focuses on empathy, the brutality of conflict and

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the bond between humans and animals.

Our **P.E.** focus this half term is swimming. We are looking forward to our weekly sessions on Thursdays, starting on Thursday 30th April – all information needed was in the swimming letter but please reach out if you have any questions.

Home Learning Will continue to be given in the same format on Fridays, we will continue to set some activities online using the platforms – Spelling Shed, Times Tables Rock Stars. If you have any queries, please do contact us. Thank you to those pupils who are also reading regularly at home; this is having a massive impact on your progress. It has been lovely to hear the children sharing so many book recommendations. We are excited to find out our new class novel for this term is 'Greenwild: The World Behind the Door' by Pari Thomson – an enchanting, multi-award winning fantasy with an environmental twist.

Thank you all for your continued support – If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mrs Lockwood Miss Tyler Ms Robson