

High Littleton C. of E. Primary School, High Littleton, Bristol BS39 6HF

Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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Wednesday, 4th September 2024

Dear Parents,

For me, the beginning of September always brings a rather specific mixture of feelings: excitement for all the new and unknown alongside sadness for long lost slow family mornings filled with sunshine (although rather rare this year!). Nevertheless, I hope that you have all truly enjoyed every day of your summer holiday, as I did.

Mrs Gibson, who will be with us in the mornings, and I are delighted to be starting this journey with you and looking forward to a year filled with exciting learning and growing together as a class. As always, it will be busy. We are hoping to organise a visit to a Mandir in Bristol and are looking forward to our Hindu workshops to enrich our learning about Hinduism in RE. Not to forget a fantastic opportunity for Otter Class to learn to play ukulele this year in our Music lessons!

I do hope that we all (including me!) return to school life with hope and anticipation, and settle happily into the routines and dynamics of our new class. We will need time to get to know each other and be able to form a meaningful partnership, so please bear with me. Many of us find this transition period tricky.

If you are concerned in any way about your child, or would like to talk to me about anything, please do not hesitate to send in an email, contact the office to arrange a meeting or leave a message. I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible.

Reading: Although your child is becoming a fantastic, independent reader it would be great if you could still hear them read at home or ask them to tell you about the books they are reading regularly. At this stage the emphasis is on a deepening understanding and appreciation for the text, including making predictions based on what they have read and to encourage all children to develop a love of reading for pleasure. In Otter Class this year we will be focusing on whole class reading, starting with *The Beetle Boy* by M. G. Leonard.

Each child is expected to have a reading book to read at home and in school. There are many new books on our bookshelves in Otter Class: I believe that each child will find an interesting read there. As the whole school, we are using the Accelerated Reader to help each child find an appropriate book in terms of their decoding and comprehension level. Each child chooses their books independently, within the range they are placed. After completing their book, a knowledge test is available for them to check their understanding.

Spelling: Each week we will be focusing on different spelling patterns or rules. **Spelling lists and an activity/activities to apply this learning will be given out on Friday to be handed in the following Thursday.** The children will be tested every week and the Homework Books will be checked. Please encourage your child to practise daily or a few times a week to ensure sound recall of those rules and patterns. To further support them, children will also be given time in school to practise their spellings.

“Love each other as I have loved you” John 15:12



Maths: This term we will be focusing on Place Value and Addition and Subtraction units. Place Value will include: representing, partitioning, reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers, determining the value of each digit; using Roman numbers up to 100; using number lines; counting through zero and interpreting negative numbers in context; rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. Addition and Subtraction will include using formal written methods as well as mental calculations, estimating and solving two-step problems. As mathematicians we will be developing our fluency and reasoning skills daily.

Place value objectives:

Step 1 Represent numbers to 1,000

Step 2 Partition numbers to 1,000

Step 3 Number line to 1,000

Step 4 Thousands

Step 5 Represent numbers to 10,000

Step 6 Partition numbers to 10,000

Step 7 Flexible partitioning of numbers to 10,000

Step 8 Find 1, 10, 100, 1,000 more or less

Step 9 Number line to 10,000

Step 10 Estimate on a number line to 10,000

Step 11 Compare numbers to 10,000

Step 12 Order numbers to 10,000

Step 13 Roman numerals

Step 14 Round to the nearest 10

Step 15 Round to the nearest 100

Step 16 Round to the nearest 1,000

Step 17 Round to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000

Addition and subtraction objectives:

Step 1 Add and subtract 1s, 10s, 100s and 1,000s

Step 2 Add up to two 4-digit numbers - no exchange

Step 3 Add two 4-digit numbers - one exchange

Step 4 Add two 4-digit numbers - more than one exchange

Step 5 Subtract two 4-digit numbers - no exchange

Step 6 Subtract two 4-digit numbers - one exchange

Step 7 Subtract two 4-digit numbers - more than one exchange

Step 8 Efficient subtraction

Step 9 Estimate answers

Step 10 Checking strategies

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Please remember that learning times tables is a priority! Quick and secure recall of multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12 ×12 (which is expected by The National Curriculum by the end of year 4) will equip the children to confidently approach all aspects of Maths. We will be practising daily by revisiting each times table individually to begin with, completing times tables tests and practising using online programmes. It is essential that you also practise times tables at home. There are plenty of apps you can download onto a tablet that can make learning more fun. All support in this area will be greatly appreciated.

Please enable your child to access **Doodle Maths and Doodle Tables** regularly. Alongside the spellings, it's the only regular homework that I will expect to be completed. Collecting 50 points on Doodle Maths and 30 points on Doodle Tables is expected weekly (from Monday to Friday) and will be monitored every Monday. The children were given their logins and new passwords already to be able to begin this week. If you have a problem accessing a computer at home, please let me know.

Geography: This term we will be exploring the USA topic in which we will be looking into the location of the country, mastering the exact location of all fifty states, 'visiting' New York City and closely looking at its transformation and expansion over the years, learning about the variety of the USA's physical features (including the Great Canyon, main mountain ranges and Great Lakes with Niagara Falls), the USA's varied climate and the extreme weather conditions (like droughts, floods, tornadoes and hurricanes), but also looking into human processes and interdependence of farming, population density and distribution. If at all possible, please allow your child to use this Seterra website (<https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3452>), which is full of online map quizzes. Completing those map quizzes will help your child to use all the knowledge they have gathered in school.

Science: We will be investigating the human digestive system and teeth. Our focus will be to be able to label key organs and describe the functions of different parts of the digestive system, recognise different types of teeth in omnivores and discuss healthy food and drink options to support the health of our teeth and proper functioning of our digestive system. We will also produce food chains, defining producers, predators and prey. In this topic, the children will be questioning, observing, recording, analysing and setting up comparative and fair tests and drawing conclusions.

Below are just a few reminders to ensure the smooth running of Otter Class.

- **PE** will be on Monday (Dance with myself) and Thursday (Football with Mrs Mac), so please make sure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on these days.
- Please remember to bring a named and fresh filled **water bottle** to school **every day** and a fruit snack for morning break.
- Please make sure that your child has a waterproof jacket in school every day. Being an Opal school, we go outside in all weathers.

I look forward to our busy and exciting term together. I would like to create a safe and encouraging space for your children, in which they can thrive and develop. In Otter Class we always try our hardest and our best effort is always good enough.

Yours sincerely,

Ania Woods
Class Teacher

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