

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

Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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Dear Otter Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back to Term 3! I hope that you all enjoyed your Christmas break and would like to thank you so much for all the kind Christmas cards, wishes and generous and thoughtful gifts; all much appreciated. I am still dusting away all the Christmas magic and excitement, while enjoying the last few days of our Christmas tree. Although it's a relatively short term, it will be busy and filled with exciting learning opportunities. I am looking forward to the next chapter of our journey!

In **Maths** we will focus on **Multiplication and division**, including mental and formal written methods, multiplying and dividing by multiples of 10, correspondence and scaling. We will also explore **Length and perimeter**, including measuring in km and m and exploring equivalent lengths, calculating a perimeter of rectilinear shapes and polygons; before we move onto **Fractions** (which we will continue in term 4) to investigate unit fractions, non-unit fractions, improper fractions, mixed numbers, convert between them, and also add and subtract fractions.

Please remember that learning times tables in Year 4 is paramount! 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 and 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 or a different device 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. 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. If you have a problem accessing a computer at home, please let me know. This is the only Maths homework for Otter Class this year and, like all the other pieces of homework, will be rewarded with Dojo points.

In **Geography** we will be exploring the largest and coldest desert in the world: Antarctica, covering a wide area of knowledge, including its location, place knowledge, climate, physical and human features, interdependence, including the burning issue of climate change causing the shrinking of the ice caps. In addition, we will also look into Time Zones, latitude and longitude around the world.

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



In **Science** this term we will be learning about States of Matter. We will learn how to group materials into solids, liquids or gases, and conduct simple experiments with water to show its different properties in changing forms. We will also observe how different materials change when heated or cooled. We will remind ourselves about the stages of the water cycle and identify the effect of temperature on the rate of evaporation and climate change.

Reading: We are still aiming for children to read regularly at home (hopefully they are choosing to read for pleasure on a daily basis) so please do continue to listen/read to them regularly. Any 'book discussion' will also help to deepen their comprehension skills and if you can challenge your child further by reading 'tricky' books to them, that would be fantastic - not only in terms of comprehension but to effectively develop and extend their own vocabulary.

Otters have taken another Star Reader baseline test at the end of term 2. Their reading range (ZPD) might have changed slightly so please check that they are choosing the right books. I have updated them inside their Reading Records.

All children will have the opportunity to read in school to an adult: in small groups and individually throughout the term. In class, we will finish *The Beetle Boy* by M G Leonard. Next, we will read *Shackleton's Journey* by William Grill to support our learning in Geography.

Reminder of weekly routines:

PE (will be on Thursdays, when Otter Class will be swimming in the afternoon. The children will be transported on the coach, accompanied by the teachers and TAs. Children will need a swimming costume (not bikini) and swimming trunks (not baggy swimming shorts), goggles and a towel. We will provide a swimming cap that your child will need to bring to every swimming lesson.

Spellings will be given out on **Fridays** to be handed in the following **Thursday**. The children will be tested every week. Please encourage your child to practise daily or a few times a week to ensure sound recall of those rules and patterns.

Please remember to bring a named and fresh filled **water bottle** to school **every day** and a fruit snack for morning break.

Wet weather gear. Please ensure your child has wellies and waterproofs for those wet, cold rainy days.

As always, please feel free to contact me if there are ever any concerns or issues you wish to discuss.

Best wishes,
Ania Woods
Class Teacher

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