

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

Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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Head Teacher: Mr Gareth Griffith



Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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.

I am delighted to be starting this journey with you (in our brand new classroom!) and looking forward to a year filled with exciting learning and growing together as a class. As always, it will be busy. 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 informally every week (without recording scores) and the Homework Books will be checked weekly. 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.

**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

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



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.

Please remember that learning times tables is a priority! Quick and secure recall of multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to  $12 \times 12$  (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. 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. 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.

**History:** We will focus on Monarchy this term, establishing what a monarch is and how the power of different monarchs evolved over the centuries. At the core of our interest will be the changing power of monarchs using case studies such as Elizabeth I and Henry VIII. We will investigate important events directly linked to monarchy over the years, like the establishment of the feudal system, parliament and Magna Carta. Understanding the concept of monarchy and its role in history is crucial for children to develop an understanding of the society we live in.

**Science:** We will be developing our understanding of Forces and Magnets. Our focus will be to be able to compare how things move on different surfaces while investigating friction, recognise different types of magnets and magnetic forces and discover poles and their ability to repel and attract. We will also be investigating uses of magnets in everyday life and testing their strength. 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 Wednesday (Dance with myself) and Friday (Football with Laura 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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