

# 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



Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 2! I hope you have all enjoyed the well-deserved (and much needed!) half-term break. It was wonderful to be able to meet so many of you in person during our Parents' Evenings. I hope that being able to see your children's work books and their classroom helped you to understand better what we do and how we work together. I will be contacting you this term with regards to any queries you might have made during your meeting.

As always, it will be an eventful and busy term. Traditionally, children will be sitting their first NFER tests in this academic year. We also begin the countdown to Christmas! We have so much to look forward to: a theatre trip, Christmas Art Day, carol concerts, parties, Christmas service and, of course, our beloved nativity. Mrs Bright-Paul, who is a Bath SPA Trainee, will continue to work with us.

**Reading:** Otters will take another Star Reader baseline test this week. Their reading range (ZPD) might change slightly so please check that they are choosing the right books. Each child is expected to have a reading book to read at home and in school within their ZPD range (I have written them on the front cover of their Reading Records). Children are encouraged to choose their books independently. Adults will, however, assist some of the children in this process. After completing their book, a comprehension test is available for them to check their understanding. It is recommended to take the comprehension test as soon as possible after completing a book at home or in school.

Although all children will have the opportunity to read in school to an adult: in small groups and individually throughout the term, please ensure that you hear your child read at home regularly. As often as possible, please encourage your child to talk to you about the book they are reading, ask them questions about the chapter/passage they have read to you. This shared interest will help towards developing their love of reading for pleasure. In class, we will be reading *The Lion Above the Door* by Onjali Q Raúf.

**Spelling:** We will carry on with focusing on different spelling patterns or rules each week. **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 handed in 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. It is also a fantastic opportunity for all Otters to gather Dojo points.

**Maths:** This term we will be focusing on Measurement and Multiplication and Division units respectively. Measurement will focus on area including calculating the area of rectilinear, compound and irregular shapes as well as comparing area.

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



Multiplication and Division, which will continue into term 3, will include multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100, multiplying by 1 and 0, dividing by 1 and itself, multiples, factors and factor pairs. We will specifically be looking into 3, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times tables. We will also be practising the written multiplication method up to 4-digits. As mathematicians we will be developing our fluency and reasoning skills daily.

Please remember that learning times tables Year 4 is paramount! 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 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 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.

**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:** This term we will be learning about Movement and Nutrition in animals, including humans. We will be exploring the role of a skeleton, recognise the main bones in the body, explain how muscles are used for movement, investigate how food is an essential energy source for animals, identify the main nutrient groups and their simple functions and understand what makes a balanced diet.

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

- **PE** will be on Wednesday (Gymnastics with myself) and Friday (Netball with Mrs Mac), so please make sure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on those 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 next busy term together. It has been great to be able to get to know all the Otters and I can't wait to continue this exciting journey. It is time to, again, try our best, bravely take on new challenges, make more marvellous mistakes, learn and develop even further.

Yours sincerely

Ania Woods  
Class Teacher

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