

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

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Dear Otter Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4. I cannot believe that we are half-way through the school year already – how time has flown! As the days become longer and warmer, we will embrace all the challenges and enjoy our learning journey together. I look forward to seeing you all during our Parents' Evenings in week 4. Also, this term will be building up to our long awaited and anticipated Residential Adventure at the start of term 5.

We are very fortunate to have Miss Hannah Mascall joining us from this term. She is a Bath SPA University trainee teacher who will gradually take on more responsibilities in Otter Class, delivering lessons, overseeing transitions during the school day, assisting with interventions and working with all children in Otter Class.

In **Maths** we will focus on fractions (adding, subtracting, using mixed numbers improper fractions and converting between them, fraction families), swiftly moving onto decimals (tenths, hundredths, dividing by 10 and 100, making a whole with tenths and hundredths, partitioning decimals, ordering and comparing them).

Because all children in Year 4 are expected to know their times tables facts up to 12 x 12, we will carry on with our twice daily multiplication sessions. Otters have been enjoying practising and have observed improvement in their recall of times tables. This term we will be focusing on mastering our 7, 11 and 12 times tables.

Our **Geography Topic** for the term is Antarctica. We will cover a wide area of knowledge: 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.

In **Science** this term we will be learning about light and shadows by identifying examples of light sources and discovering that light is needed to see and how its absence causes darkness. Children will investigate reflection on different surfaces and shadow formation, cast by various surfaces, including how different factors change the shadows observed. We will explore how shadows change throughout the day and link it to how the distance of the light source affects the size of its shadow. Finally, we will tell a story using shadow puppets.

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'

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



books to them, that would be fantastic - not only in terms of comprehension but to effectively develop and extend their own vocabulary.

Otters have already taken another Star Reader baseline test at the end of term 3. For most children, their reading range (ZPD) have changed slightly so please check that they are choosing the right books. (Updated version can be found on the front cover of their Reading Records). Although children are encouraged to choose their books independently, adults will provide some guidance in this process.

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 carry on reading a classic: *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hedgson Burnett.

Reminder of weekly routines:

PE will be on Tuesday (Outdoor Adventurous Activities with myself) and Friday (preparation for gymnastics competition with Mrs Mac). Please make sure that the children wear weather appropriate clothing, such as long leggings and tracksuit bottoms.

English homework (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.

Maths homework will continue to be Doodle Maths; within each week children are expected to get 50 stars and 30 stars for Doodle Tables. Scores will be checked on **Mondays**.

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, rainy days (which I am sure we are all fed up with by now!).

As always, please feel free to contact me if there are ever any concerns or issues you wish to discuss. Otherwise I look forward to catching up with you at our Parents' Evening meetings on the 11th and 14th of March.

Best wishes,

Ania Woods
Class Teacher

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