

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/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 with some of my favourite events of the year, like the Talent Show and the World Book Day. 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.

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). I will be allocating some assignments on Doodle Maths to help the children master these concepts and provide them with an additional opportunity to revisit our learning. Please find the list of objectives below.

Fractions

Step 1 Understand the whole

Step 2 Count beyond 1

Step 3 Partition a mixed number

Step 4 Number lines with mixed numbers

Step 5 Compare and order mixed numbers

Step 6 Understand improper fractions

Step 7 Convert mixed numbers to improper fractions

Step 8 Convert improper fractions to mixed numbers

Step 9 Equivalent fractions on a number line

Step 10 Equivalent fraction families

Step 11 Add two or more fractions

Step 12 Add fractions and mixed numbers

Step 13 Subtract two fractions

Step 14 Subtract from whole amounts

Step 15 Subtract from mixed numbers

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Decimals

Step 1 Tenths as fractions

Step 6 Divide a 2-digit number by 10

Step 2 Tenths as decimals

Step 7 Hundredths as fractions

Step 3 Tenths on a place value chart

Step 8 Hundredths as decimals

Step 4 Tenths on a number line

Step 9 Hundredths on a place value chart

Step 5 Divide a 1-digit number by 10

Step 10 Divide a 1- or 2-digit number by 100

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. May I just take this opportunity to say how impressed I am with children's fantastic improvement in their recall of times tables, with the average score as high as 22 points! It also gives me immense pleasure to see how proud the children are with their own improvement and personal bests. This term we will continue our hard work (which clearly pays off) and will be focusing on mastering our 7, 11 and 12 times tables.

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 x 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 (e.g. <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>). All support in this area will be greatly appreciated.

In **History** we will be learning about the Vikings, starting with the attack on Lindisfarne in 793 AD all the way to the battle of Hastings in 1066 AD. We will be looking into the most significant people, like Alfred the Great and William the Conqueror; inspecting what Danelaw was and why it was formed; examining evidence of the Viking society and their everyday life; and trying to understand their legacy.

In **Science** this term we will be learning about Sound and vibrations, exploring how it's made, its volume, pitch and how sounds travel. Through simple tests and experiments, we will make links between vibration and sound (for example, by observing different instruments, researching how dolphins and whales communicate under water). Children will conduct tests to investigate how different factors can change pitch and volume and present our findings in bar charts and simple result tables. We will also be looking into how insulating materials can be used to muffle sound.

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'

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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 in their Reading Records). Although children are encouraged to choose their books independently, adults will provide some guidance in this process, if necessary.

All children will have the opportunity to read in school with an adult, both individually and in small groups, throughout the term. We are very lucky to have two wonderful volunteers who read with Otter Class each week. In class, we will continue reading *Tom's Midnight Garden* by Philippa Pearce — a magical and timeless story that explores friendship, time, and the power of imagination. The children have been completely hooked by the story so far, even though we sometimes encounter unusual vocabulary and old-fashioned phrases.

Once we have finished this book, we will move on to a non-fiction text, *The Pebble in My Pocket: A History of Our Earth*. This fascinating book takes readers on a scientific journey through time and across the globe by following the story of a single pebble. The pebble's journey spans millions of years, from its origins in a fiery volcano 480 million years ago to its place in a busy modern landscape.

Reminder of weekly routines:

PE will be on **Tuesday** (OAA with myself) and **Wednesday** (Gymnastics with Mrs Beale), so please make sure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on those days.

OAA (outdoor adventurous activities) allows pupils to develop problem solving skills by planning, exploring, solving, reflecting and improving on strategies. We will focus on communication skills, working within a team, navigation skills including orientating a map.

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!) and layers and gloves/hats/scarves/snoods for the chilly days.

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.

Best wishes,

Ania Woods
Class Teacher

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