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Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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Tuesday 3rd November 2026

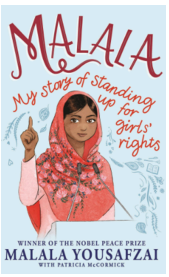
Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 2! I hope you have all enjoyed the well-deserved (and much needed!) half-term break despite the rather wet spells. 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 workbooks and their classroom helped you to understand better what we do and how we work together. I will be contacting you this term regarding any queries you might have made during your meeting.

We are very lucky to have Miss Mabley, the BST student, with us in Otter Class. She will be expanding her practice and will be teaching more lessons as the term progresses. Some of us are really looking forward to it!

As always, it will be an eventful and busy term. As we begin the countdown to Christmas, we have so much to look forward to: Hinduism workshops with Indira Misty, Christmas Art Day, Christmas Fayre, a theatre trip, carol concerts, parties, Christmas service and, of course, our beloved nativity.

Reading: Please ensure that your child is choosing the right books, in line with their ZPD levels (I have written inside of their Reading Records). Each child is expected to have a reading book to read at home and in school. Please make sure that all children also bring in their Reading Records to school daily.
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 continue reading *The Beetle Boy* by M. G. Leonard (we are nearing the exciting end!) after which we will start *Malala: My Story of Standing Up for Girls' Rights* to inform our independent writing this term. And to fill the Christmas season with the right spirit, wonder and a touch of magic, we will be also reading *A Christmas Carol* by Tony Mitton (a lovely retelling of Dickens' classic, a poetic and gentle version of the story) and *Fir Tree* by Tove Jansson, one of my favourite Christmas stories.

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

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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 Tuesday to be handed in the following Tuesday.** 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.

Maths: This term we will finish the Addition and subtraction unit and then focus on Area, Measurement and Multiplication and Division units respectively.
Multiplication and Division will continue into term 3. As mathematicians we will be developing our fluency and reasoning skills daily. Below, you can find the full list of objectives for each unit of work.

Addition and subtraction	Area	Multiplication and division A
Step 6 Subtract two 4-digit numbers - one exchange	**Step 1** What is area?	**Step 1** Multiples of 3
Step 7 Subtract two 4-digit numbers - more than one exchang	**Step 2** Count squares	**Step 2** Multiply and divide by 6
Step 8 Efficient subtraction	**Step 3** Make shapes	**Step 3** 6 times-table and division facts
Step 9 Estimate answers	**Step 4** Compare areas	**Step 4** Multiply and divide by 9
Step 10 Checking strategies		**Step 5** 9 times-table and division facts
		Step 6 The 3, 6 and 9 times-tables
		Step 7 Multiply and divide by 7

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		Step 8 7 times-table and division facts **Step 9** 11 times-table and division facts **Step 10** 12 times-table and division facts **Step 11** Multiply by 1 and 0 **Step 12** Divide a number by 1 and itself **Step 13** Multiply three numbers

Times Tables
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 ×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 websites and apps you can download onto a tablet 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.

It's been wonderful to observe how much the children have improved their recall of times tables already, in such a short space of time. It fills me with hope that by June all Otters will be able to pass their Multiplication Tables Check.

Enabling and encouraging your child to access **Doodle Maths and Doodle Tables** regularly will most certainly benefit the children. Collecting 50 points on Doodle Maths and 30 points on Doodle Tables is expected weekly 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.

History: Otters will find out what happened in Britain after the Romans left in the 5th century. Using the mysterious burial ship at Sutton Hoo as a basis, we will explore where the Anglo-Saxons came from, how they came to settle in Britain, who the Picts and Scots of the north were, how Christianity became the predominant religion. We will be examining the legacy of place names and names of the days of the week, while trying to understand what daily life looked like for them and how the society was arranged.

In **Science** Otters will learn 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). Children will conduct tests to investigate how different factors can change pitch and volume and we will be looking into how insulating materials can be used to muffle sound.

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

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- **PE** will be on Tuesday (Gymnastics with myself) and Friday (Netball with Mrs Beale), 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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