



'Learning at its heart'

NEW STREET,
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Otter Class – spring term 2 – Letter to parents

Tuesday 25th February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you have all had a good half term break, in spite of the stormy weather. Our topic for the second part of spring term is *Wanted: The Perfect Pet*.

Our School Week

Your child's teachers for this term will be Mrs Darby and Miss Coutts, assisted by Miss Haines. Mrs Darby will teach the class all day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Miss Coutts will take the class all day on Mondays and Fridays. On Thursday afternoon, the children will have a PE session with our new coach Mr Kings. These sessions may be held inside or outside, depending on the weather and on the activity - please make sure your child has their full kit with them. Please note that tights cannot be worn for PE so we suggest putting a spare pair of socks in PE bags, as well as joggers or leggings to wear outside while it's cold.

Swimming will continue on a Friday morning starting this Friday, 28th February.

If you have any concerns, questions or queries that you would like to discuss with either of us then please do not hesitate to speak to us at the end of the school day. You can also make an appointment to see us via Mrs Eckersley or Mrs Sidney in the school office.

Reading Books

The children will be given reading books over the next few days. Please could you support us by reading with your child as often as possible, ideally daily. Please talk to your child about what they have read so they can show their understanding of the text. In school, we will teach the strategies that enable your child to read for meaning, but the more your child practises these skills out of school, the more confident they will become.

Homework

The children will have spellings and times tables facts to learn each week, and these will be tested every Monday. Spellings and times tables tests will be marked and sent home every Monday, so that you can track your child's results each week, and practise any that your child got wrong. In addition to this, the children will have a 'pick and mix' style homework set each half term with a range of tasks related to the learning taking place in the classroom. This homework will help deepen the children's understanding of different areas of the curriculum as well as offering children the opportunity to make some independent choices within their learning. Children should also be encouraged to read daily at home and talk about what they have read with an adult, to support their developing literacy skills. This term, all homework will be issued in the first week of term.





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Water bottles

We encourage the children to drink water often in class. Please send your child to school with a full water bottle each day. It is important that water bottles are filled before the children come to school, so that we have plenty of time for our morning tasks. The children are welcome to refill their bottles if they finish them before hometime. Please ensure your child takes their water bottle home at the end of each day to be washed, and do not send your child in with any fruit squash - on the one hand, when spilt, it can cause damage to children's books but there is also evidence that drinking squash from water bottles can cause damage to developing teeth and gums.

As ever, we very much appreciate your support as we work together to develop your child's learning but if you have any concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to come in to talk to Mrs Darby or Miss Coutts.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Darby and Miss Coutts

