

PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
OTTER CLASS LETTER
TERMS 1 & 2



September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We are really excited to welcome you and your child to Otter Class. We hope that you had a relaxing summer break and are returning to school eager and keen to learn. The children are busily settling in to their new class and are adapting to new routines and expectations. Mrs Shepherd and I are really looking forward to a busy and exciting year ahead, with lots of fun learning and activities taking place throughout the year through our topic based learning.

Term 1

Our topic this term is:
'Flight'

Our key text around this topic for English is 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane'. We will be looking at the main events, making predictions about the story and developing our own story writing. We will also be writing a biography about Amelia Earhart.

In maths, we will be partitioning and comparing numbers to 100 using place value grids and number lines. We will also be counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

In history this term, we will be looking at Amelia Earhart - who mysteriously disappeared on her last flight. We will also be finding out about the history of flight from the glider, through to modern aircraft. The children will also be designing and creating their own paper aeroplanes.

In science, we will be exploring living things in their environments. We will be conducting minibeast hunts, surveys of their local habitats and finding out why animals need camouflage to survive. This will include a camouflage caterpillar experiment.

Term 2

Our topic this term is:
'Explorers and Christmas around the World'

Our key text around this topic for English is 'The Great Explorer' by Chris Judge and 'The Lonely Christmas Tree' by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros. We will be looking at stories with familiar settings, recounts and poetry.

In maths, we will be continuing to develop our addition and subtraction skills and we will be looking at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

In our geography this term, we will discover famous explorers from the past and present and their journeys to the Polar Regions and deserts. We will explore how Christmas is celebrated around the world and learn some interesting facts about different countries, as we go. We will also be looking at the history of Father Christmas and the Christmas tree.

In science, we will be looking at materials and their properties. We will investigate why certain materials are used for making things and find out how we can change them. We will also be learning new investigative skills this term.

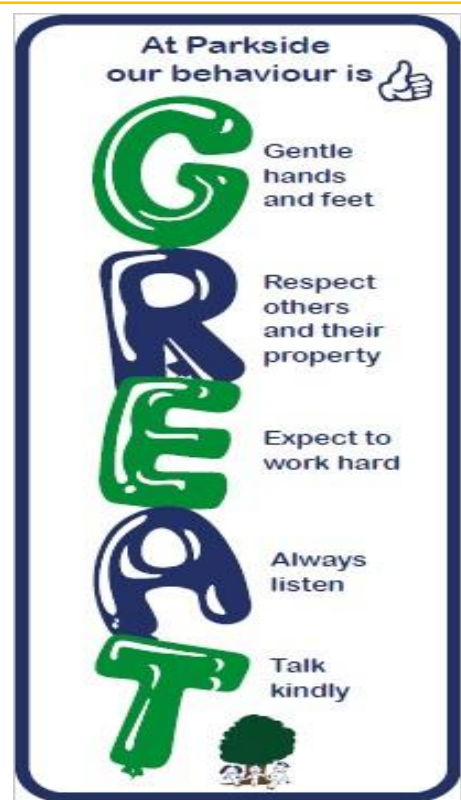


ATTENDANCE

Your child's learning is very important so please support them in making sure that they come to school every day. Also, late arrivals are very disruptive for them so please ensure they arrive at the start of the school day – which is **8.40am** and finish **3.10pm**.

UNIFORM

It is lovely to see the children are all looking very proud and smart in their uniform. Please ensure your child's school uniform and coats are all named so that they can be returned to them if they get lost. Please do ask us or the office if you have queries about the uniform or wish to purchase new items.



Dates for your diary

Wednesday 18th September 2026 – Flu vaccine

Wednesday 14th October 2026- School photos

Wednesday 21st October 2026 – Parents evening

Friday 23rd October 2026 – End of term 1

Monday 2nd November 2026 – First day of term 2

Friday 4th December 2026 – Christmas Fair

Thursday 17th December 2026 – Last day of term 2

PE will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Children are to wear their PE kit to school on those days. Please ensure that your child wears their house colour T-shirt for their team. No crocs for P: E as they are unsuitable footwear. Forest School is on Tuesday afternoons. Children need to cover their arms and legs. Please wear long sleeved tops, leggings or trousers.

As your children settles into a new school routine and throughout the term, please speak to us if you have any questions or concerns or message me on Dojo. We are available at the end of the day or you can make an appointment via the office.

REACH for the Stars



Healthy snack and lunches

Your child will be provided with a piece of fruit every day for their break time.

Please ensure pack lunches include some of the following:

- ✓ Something savoury, for example, a sandwich or wrap.
- ✓ Something sweet, for example, a yoghurt and fruit and a bottle of water.

Homework and Reading

Maths: Your child will have times table homework each week. We would like all children to learn the 10X table by the end of term 1 and 2X by the end of term 2.

Spelling: Your child has weekly spellings on Spelling Shed and the logins have been sent home for you to help them practise for a test each Thursday. Please help your child develop their literacy skills by supporting them in learning these each week. The full details have been sent to you already on Class Dojo.

Reading: Your child will be assigned a phonics reading book which they can