



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
OTTER CLASS LETTER
TERMS 1 & 2



September 2025

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.

In maths, we will be learning all about numbers – so we can order, compare and partition. We will then begin developing our addition and subtraction skills. Your children will also have their own Next Steps Folders where they will work on individual maths targets.

In history this term, we will be looking at Amelia Earhart - who mysteriously disappeared on one of her flights - and finding out about the history of flight. The children will also be designing and creating their own paper aeroplanes.

In science, we will be exploring living things in their environments which will include minibeast hunts, surveys of habitats and finding camouflaged caterpillars.

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, diary writing and recounts.

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 be looking at famous explorers from the past and present and linking these to the Polar Regions and Deserts. We will be exploring how Christmas is celebrated around the world, learning some interesting facts about the 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, finding out how we can change materials. We will be learning lots of investigative skills this term.

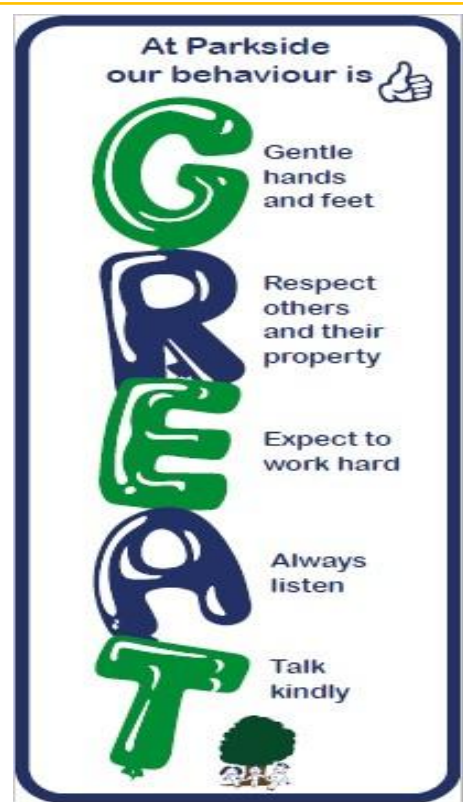


ATTENDANCE

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 24th September 2025 – Flu vaccine

Wednesday 15th October 2025- Parents evening

Friday 17th October 2025 – Last day of term 1

Monday 27th October 2025 – First day of term 2

Friday 5th December 2025 – Christmas Fayre, 2pm

Thursday 18th December 2025 – 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 and 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 times table homework each week. We would like all children to learn the 10X table by the end of term 1 and start the 2X.

Spelling: Your child has been set 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 practise at home.