



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
OTTER CLASS LETTER
TERMS 3 & 4



January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed a well-earned rest. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for our cards and gifts, they were lovely and very much appreciated. We hope you are really looking forward to a busy and exciting 2026. We have lots of fun and exciting activities taking place over the next two terms and we are eager to welcome you all back to Parkside.

Term 3

Our topic this term is:
'The Great Fire of London'

Our key text is Toby and the Great Fire of London. We will be focusing in the history of the fire and writing diary entries using Samuel Pepys extracts from the time. We will be investigating how the fire started and taking part in a theatre company fire workshop. We will then make our own houses and setting them on fire!

In maths: we will be learning about money. Looking at the value of coins and notes and how to add and subtract using different denominations. If your child has a piggy bank then this is the perfect time to practice counting pennies etc. We will be ordering money from the smallest value to the highest and paying and giving change.

Towards the end of the term we will be moving onto multiplication and division so please encourage your child to learn their 10X, 2X, 5X tables in preparation.

In science: we will be continuing with our materials topic and investigating what materials things are made from and the best material to use to make certain objects.

Term 4

Our topic this term is:
'The Dark'

Our key text is 'The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark.' This is a geography lead topic where we will be focusing on different locations and habitats and what 'nocturnal' means in greater detail. We are planning an exciting experience around owls so that the children can fully appreciate what one is up close.

In English, we will be writing non-chronological reports about owls and other nocturnal animals. We will be focusing on writing in paragraphs and using sub-headings for our information texts and reports.

In maths: we will be continuing to develop our multiplication and division skills and understanding the inverse of multiplication. We will also be learning fractions before moving onto measurement – length/height.

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

Please ensure your child attends school every day in their school uniform. All uniform, boots and coats should be named so that it can be returned to them in the event that it gets lost. Please do ask us or the office if you have queries about the uniform.



Dates for your diary

Monday 2nd February 2026 - Year 2 school trip to The Museum of Kent Life to learn about the Great Fire of London and Owls.

Friday 13th February 2026 - Last day of term 3.

Monday 23rd February 2026 - First day of term 4.

Thursday 5th March 2026 - World Book Day

Wednesday 1st April 2026 - Parents Evening

Wednesday 1st April 2026 - Last day of term 4.

PE is on Thursday. Children are to wear their PE kit, which they will wear all day. T-shirts in your child's house colour are available from the office. Forest School is on Wednesday morning. Children need to cover their arms and legs so they should wear long sleeved tops and leggings or trousers and is on a two week group rota.

As your child settles back into the school routine, please speak to us if you have any questions or concerns or alternatively, message me via Class Dojo. We are available at the end of the day or you can make an appointment via the school office.

REACH for the Stars

Resilience

Effort

Aspiration

Courtesy

Honesty



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

Homework and Reading

Maths: We would like all children to learn the 10X, 2X, 5X tables by the end of term 4. Please encourage your child to learn these in order to develop their mental recall of X table facts.

Spelling: Spelling Shed weekly spellings which your child has a login to learn their weekly spellings for a test on Thursdays. Please help your child practise every week so that they can become fluent readers and writers.

Reading: Your child will be assigned a phonics reading book in class and heard read 3 times a week. The book will then go home for extra reading practice and then should be returned once read on the following Monday. Some children may not have a book home but please be assured they are reading with an adult in school.