



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
OTTER CLASS LETTER
TERMS 5 & 6



April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all enjoyed the Easter break and are eager and excited to be returning for the summer term. The summer term is always a busy and exciting time of year. This term, we will be learning about the history of British castles. We will investigate Dover Castle as an example of a concentric castle design and The Tower of London as a simple Motte and Bailey design. We will also be learning what it was like to live in one and how castle designs have changed overtime.

Term 5

Our topic this term is:
'Castles'

This term we will be using a range of non-fiction and first-hand experience to explore what a castle is and who would have lived in them in the past. We will be writing information text and recounts about our trip to The Tower of London as well as delving deeper into our historical past.

In maths, we will be working hard fractions. The children will learn how to find a half, quarter and third and what the 'whole' represents. We will also be learning to tell the time using analogue and digital clocks.

In geography and history, we will be continuing with our Castle topic. We will be designing and making a tapestry, labelling the parts of a castle and constructing castles out of junk modelling materials.

In science we are going to be learning about animals including humans. This term we will be finding out how we can keep fit and healthy by thinking about our diet and the amount of exercise we need as well as our personal hygiene.

Term 6

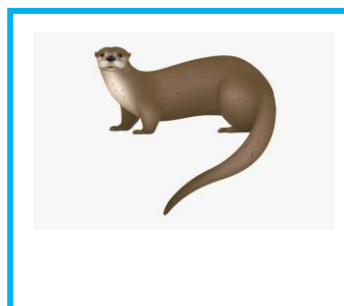
Our topic this term is:
'Mapping our world'

Our key text in English is 'The Secret of Black Rock' by Joe Todd-Stanton. This is a beautiful modern text with an environmental message for all ages. We will be writing our own sea inspired stories, non-fiction texts including clean beach leaflets and exploring the. We will also create seaside clean-up posters using persuasive writing techniques.

In maths we will be learning about statistics and position and direction. The children will be learning how to calculate statistics and understand how to find different directions.

In our topic this term we will be looking closely at maps, both local to school as well as maps of the world. We will be creating our own maps and learning how to understand a key and map symbols.

Our science topic is plants, we will be learning about seeds, parts of a plant, plant life cycles and growing our own plants to find out what plants need to grow healthily.



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**. We offer a free breakfast club so please make use of this, especially if you find it difficult to get your child to school on time.

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 see Class Dojo for updates

Monday 4th May, Bank Holiday, school closed

Friday 22nd May, Last day of term 5

Monday 1st June, Start of term 6

Wednesday 15th July, Open evening for parents

Friday 17th July, End of term 6 for pupils

PE is on Wednesday and Thursdays. 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 regardless of the weather. Please ensure your child is suitably dressed and has their legs and arms covered. We will provide wellington boots and wet suits.



REACH for the Stars

Resilience

Effort

Aspiration

Courtesy

Honesty



Healthy snack and lunches

Your child will be provided with a piece of fruit and a bagel for breaktimes.

We are a healthy school and as such 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. Your child should now be confident recalling the 2, 5 and 10X tables and now should be learning the 3X table.

Spelling: Your child will bring home spellings linked to our phonics on Mondays. Please help your child by helping them to practise them for a test on Friday.

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 is to be returned once read.