



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
OTTER CLASS LETTER
TERMS 1 & 2



September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We are incredibly excited to welcome you and your children to Otter Class and hope that you have enjoyed your summer break and this glorious weather. Both I and Miss Barret are really looking forward to a busy and exciting year with lots of fun learning and activities taking place.

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 our topic 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 making their own plane- perhaps they can whisk you away on holiday once it is completed!

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:
'Christmas around the World'

Our key text around this topic for English is 'The Lonely Christmas Tree'. 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 topic this term we will be looking at 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

The children are all looking very 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.

At Parkside our behaviour is GREAT

- ❖ **Gentle hands and feet.**
- ❖ **Respect others and their property.**
- ❖ **Expect to work hard.**
- ❖ **Always listen.**
- ❖ **Talk kindly.**

Dates

Craft and Assembly dates- TBC

Tuesday 26th September 2023- Flu vaccines

Friday 6th October 2023- Harvest Festival at All Saints, time tbc.

Wednesday 18th October 2023- School Photos and Parents evening

Friday 20th October 2023 – Last day of term 1

Monday 30th October 2023 – First day of term 2

PE will be 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 Tuesday afternoon. Children need to cover their arms and legs so they should 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. We are available at the end of the day or you can make an appointment via the 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.

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 times table homework each week. We would like all children to learn the 10X table by the end of term 1.

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 which can be accessed online via a tablet, phone or laptop. Login details to follow.