



Dear Parents and Carers of Otters 2020-21,

Welcome back, we hope you had a restful summer holidays and are ready for a new year. We are looking forward to a busy year. In this letter we hope to cover a few details that will make transition into Otters a bit easier.

P.E.

We have our P.E. slots on Monday and Thursday afternoons. However, due to the nature of the school week sometimes it needs to be moved around due to trips or visitors in need of the school hall. So, with this in mind, please ensure the children have a named P.E. kit, including trainers, in school from Monday morning until Friday afternoon. If the children have an after-school club or match that requires them to wear school P.E. kit, please ensure that it is back for the next day.

Equipment & Uniform

Other than P.E. kit the children are only asked to ensure they bring named clothing appropriate for the weather. We expect all children to have a waterproof coat at school during the winter terms, and we think it wise to have it in during summer months as well, just in case. Also, please ensure that **all** parts of the school uniform are named clearly to prevent mix ups during changing for P.E.

For the classroom, all stationary will be provided. If, however, the children wish to bring a pencil case, we ask that they only bring one which they will be able to store in their desk trays and that does not have too many distractions built in.

Homework

Topic homework often consists of a project set in the first week of the term. The children are given a range of options and decide which one they would like to create and have the full term to do so. Also, spellings for the term will be sent home at the start of the term and broken down into weekly/fortnightly sets. Some weeks, an activity will be set alongside home practice. Children will complete a dictation at the end of the period of time set, where they will be expected to write a paragraph as dictated, which includes a selection of the spelling words. This supports their learning the spellings as words, rather than just a list, as well as practice of their handwriting and punctuation.

As well as termly homework, children will be expected to read a high-quality text for 15-20 minutes every day. This should include reading aloud to an adult, regardless of the child's ability. Reading aloud ensures children discuss new vocabulary and ideas that arise from texts, as well supporting their speaking and listening skills.

The expectation for any other homework will be discussed with the children at the beginning of the new term and repeated through the year.

If there is anything else you are not sure about, please feel free to ask.

We look forward to meeting you all and are excited to get to know the new Otters.

Kind Regards,

Mr Freeman, Mrs Follett and Mrs Walter