



4th September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome Back

I hope you have all had a lovely holiday. It has been lovely to meet the new Otter Class and fantastic to see the way that they have started to get back into school life. I look forward to getting to know all of you as the year goes on.

Below you will find some information about the routines for Otter Class this year. This information will also be placed on our class page on the website, so that it can be accessed throughout the year.

Teaching works best when it is done in partnership with the parents, so please do get in touch if you have any questions or need anything. Due to Covid restrictions we are limited in our ability to meet face to face. I am happy to set up telephone conversations and I would encourage you to email me if you need anything: he@newclose.wilts.sch.uk

Thank you in advance for all your support.

Miss Elson
Otter class teacher

Teaching

Miss Elson is the Otter Class teacher and Mrs Cundick is our class TA. Miss Dixon will be covering planning time on Wednesday afternoons.

PE kits

For now, we are asking children to wear their full PE kits to school on the days when they have PE. This year PE days are Tuesday and Friday.

PE kit is: red t shirt, black shorts/tracksuit bottom/PE skirt, trainers and a school jumper/cardigan. No hoodies please. It is important that the children have the correct kit as they will be wearing this as their uniform for the day.

Homework

Homework is: reading, spellings, learning times tables and completing curriculum based tasks. Homework is designed to support your child's learning and help them to revisit skills taught in class. We aim to keep these tasks as simple as possible but children will benefit from some support at home to complete these tasks. All homework will be set on a Friday and should be handed in the following Wednesday.

Reading Expectations –

All children will have a book from our Oxford Tree Reading Scheme. We will be allocating your child a level and book by the end of next week. For children who are on red or blue book level, it is expected that they

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should be reading to an adult at least once a week and to themselves every day, writing a comment in their Home/School diaries (6 entries in the home/school diary). We will be checking this at the end of the week. For children on all other colours within the scheme, they should be reading to a parent/carer five times a week and a comment written in the home/school diary. It is important that all children work towards these expectations in order to make good progress in their reading and learn to read for pleasure.

Reading Races-

Last year we introduced reading races, encouraging children to read at home for pleasure. Your child will bring home their first reading race when they get their new book. Every time your child reads at home they can colour and date a spot and complete activities at key points. Completed reading races should be returned to school and children will receive a reward.

Spellings –

From next Friday your child will receive weekly spellings, which will be tested every Wednesday. Your child is expected to practise these daily, writing words on their sheet and returning it to class on a Wednesday.

Times tables

Your child will be asked to practise set times tables or mixed tables to support their fluency in maths. These will also be tested every Wednesday.

Curriculum based homework

From Friday 18th September your child will be given either an English or maths homework (on alternate weeks). Homework will be set on a Friday and should be returned the following Wednesday. Homework will be set each week on the website (see our class page). If you are unable to access this, please ensure you inform us in advance. Children will have a homework book to record their work in. In addition, there will be an optional long term topic related project set each term, which will be due in on the last week of term.

Children will receive house points for working hard on all aspects of their homework. For those who do not return their homework, they will be required to attend a homework catch up session on Wednesday lunchtime.

Website

We will be using the website this year as a way of sharing information with you, including homework. Please check our class page weekly for updated information.

Welcome Meeting

Sadly it is not possible to hold our welcome meetings in person this year. Instead, we will be filming a welcome presentation and will post it on our class page on Wednesday 9th September, for you to view in your own time. Should you have any questions about anything you have read in this letter or from the presentation then please contact us via email and we will respond as soon as possible.

No Nut School

A reminder that we are a no nut school. We have several children in school this year who are severely allergic to nuts. Please ensure that any food items coming into school have no nuts or nut products in them. We appreciate your support in this matter.