

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to an exciting school year as the children move into Year 3. And welcome to your new class...Otters! The year is sure to be otterly amazing as we have named ourselves Outstanding Otters.



I hope you all had an excellent summer holiday and are looking forward to the busy term ahead. I am certainly looking forward to teaching our topic this term and I hope that the children enjoy the learning I have planned for them.

We are also extremely lucky to be part of the Apple Project where each child has an iPad in class. This will help to support and enrich the children's learning, preparing them for the technically world we are living in.

### Reading

Reading in school can take many forms and children in Otters class will be reading on their own and as part of a group on a regular basis as well as reading comprehension activities. A big emphasis is placed on encouraging children to become confident independent readers who can read a wide range of literature and gain a secure understanding of what is being read. Excitingly, we are getting new books for the children to read and there will be more information on this to follow. They will not be using the colour bands from previously and for now it is encouraged that the children read books from the school library as well as their own books from home. The children will then be asked to talk about the book that they have read to an adult.

The most effective way for your child to progress in reading is to read at home as often as possible, ideally every day. It is also important that the children choose a book that they are interested in reading to help enrich their learning. Please encourage your child to read at home and discuss what they have read with you regularly and record any reading in the Reading Record Book.

If the children want to find out more about the Stone Age then these are some books for the children to read around our topic; Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age by Raymond Briggs, The Stone Age: Hunters, Gatherers and Woolly Mammoths by Marcia Williams, How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth by Michelle Robinson and Kate Hindley, The Boy with the Bronze Axe by Kathleen Fidler, Defenders: Pitch Invasion by Tom Palmer or The first Drawing by Mordicai Gerstein.



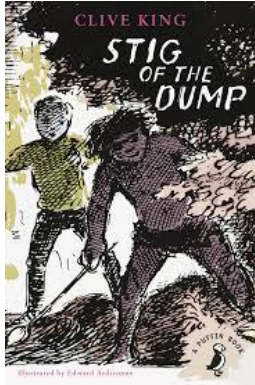
There is also a list of recommended reads on the school website under our class page.

### Homework

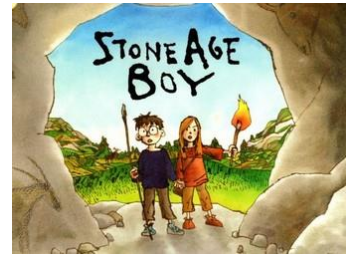
Children are expected to read and use TTRS (Timestable Rockstars) regularly to continue to improve their fluency and accuracy of their times tables. All children should be confident with their 2,5 and 10 times tables as we will now be learning our 3, 4 and 8 times tables in Year 3.

### Our question for the term – *What was prehistoric Britain like?*

We will go on a journey through the Stone Age to the Iron Age in most of our lessons



including our English lessons. I am looking forward to sharing our class books with your children, the first book we will read, enjoy and study is 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. This is a picture book that will take us on a journey to the Stone Age to inspire the children's creative thinking as well as informing us about what it was like in the Stone Age. Would you have liked to live in the Stone Age?



Following on from this book to continue our creative thinking and understanding of the Stone Age we will read 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King. The children will have the opportunity to imagine being in a cave with a cave man and design their own cave.

### Topic

As Historians, Children will learn about the Stone Age and its significance in the development of the human race. They will investigate what prehistoric Britain was like and compare it to other ages in history, such as the Bronze Age. They will also learn about one of the world's most famous monuments – Stonehenge, as well as creating their own model of Stonehenge.

In Geography children will learn about early settlements and small cities and discover how they became cities. They will also consider how the location of the settlement would affect diet and lifestyle, looking at how land could be used for farming and produce. Children will be given clues and try to find locations looking at features on a map.

As Scientists the children will explore the field of geology identifying, grouping and comparing the rocks that make up the foundations of the Earth. Furthermore, we will ask ourselves what is soil? We will also discover the secrets of animals trapped inside rocks that form fossils. The science knowledge organiser for this term, for the children to check their understanding of the scientific terminology is on the school website on our class page.

In Art and Design, the children will be studying and researching cave paintings and using different techniques to create their own in the style of the 'Stone Age boy'. We will experiment with natural resources, as we are in the Stone Age! We will also look at using warm colours to create a piece of art including Stonehenge. The children will also have the chance to study and make their own Iron Age jewellery and pots.

In Music the children will look at what instruments were around in the Stone Age and create their own pieces of music about the Stone Age.

### R.E.

We will be leaning about Hinduism in our R.E. lessons, looking at; the founder and where Hinduism is practised, places of worship, special Hindu festivals, the Holy book and Hindu symbols.

### Enrichment

To celebrate our learning about the Stone Age we will have a Stone Age day in school, where the children will carry out a number of Stone Age activities from designing tools to creating a Stonehenge.

To enrich the children's learning about Hinduism we are planning to go to a Hindu temple with Year 4 to bring their learning together.

This year the whole school will be going to the pantomime in Bury St Edmunds, 'oh yes we are!'.

### **French**

French will be taught by a specialist language teacher Madam Moden, who will be coming in on a Wednesday morning in Autumn 2. The children are fortunate to be taught a foreign language by a specialist French teacher.

### **PE**

For this term, Otters will have PE on a Wednesday and Thursday. Wednesday's session will be with Premier Sports for the first half term and inside with gymnastics teacher Hannah for the second half term. Thursday's session will be outside with myself where we will focus on games that involve throwing, catching, bouncing, kicking and striking as well as using a variety of games equipment. The children will also be introduced to the competitive nature of games and will begin to participate in opposed practice. The children are very fortunate to have both a specialist gymnastic teacher as well as a PE company to teach a range of sports.

For indoor PE lessons the children must have shorts and t-shirt, it gets very warm inside and particularly for gymnastics jumping and stretching in tracksuit bottoms is not easy. As the term progresses, jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt are essential for outdoor sessions. Please note that all PE kit must conform to the uniform policy. Furthermore, earrings are to be removed or not to be worn on PE days and long hair needs to be tied back. Finally, as always, please ensure that every item of PE kit and school uniform are clearly named and in a small bag that does up to avoid the kit falling out of the carrier bag or rucksack on to the floor. Ideally a drawstring bag is best.

### **Spellings**

Spellings this year will continue to follow the same pattern sounds for each year group as previous but the way in which we teach them will be slightly different. We will be sending further details of this to you very shortly.

### **Reminders**

Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	Outdoor PE Kit (1 <sup>st</sup> half of term) Indoor PE kit needed (2 <sup>nd</sup> half of term)
Thursday	Outdoor PE Kit needed
Friday	
Important Dates	Otters Class assembly – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November Pantomime – Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December

### **Final note**

I hope that this will be an otterly wonderful year with the children having exciting, enriching and rewarding lessons. If you have any queries, concerns or questions, please come and see me at the end of the day or equally drop me a message on 'Class Dojo'.

**Miss Jolland**