

AUTUMN Term

Dear children and parents of Yr. 3

Welcome back to an exciting school year as the children move into Year 3 and become Amazing Otters!

We hope you all had a good summer holiday and are looking forward to the busy term ahead.



For the first half term, our focus will be on supporting the children in their return to school with changes to the layout of the day- now that they are in key stage 2!

So as we begin a new school year, let us explain to you about how the new academic year will be structured and what the children can expect from the autumn term.

Mrs Warner – Class Teacher from Monday and Tuesday

Mrs Wreathall – Class Teacher Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

We are very excited about school life returning to 'normal' with lunches and assemblies in the hall and full use of the school facilities.

English

In English this term, we will be reading Great and The Giants as part of our daily comprehension lesson.



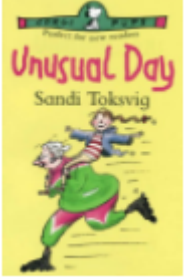

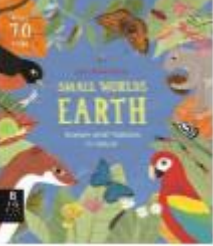

In reading comprehension lessons, we will be using Greta and the Giants written by Zoë Tucker. Greta and the Giants includes a biography about Greta Thunberg and provides the children with a fantastic combination of fiction and non-fiction.

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. 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. 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.

Year 3 Recommended reads:

This is an example of age appropriate books. It is not an exhaustive or exclusive list!

	<p>Unusual Day by Sandi Toksvig</p> <p>Jessica brings her granny to school because she can spin plates. Told to come back next week, Jessica’s granny leaves—only to surprise everyone by returning later as a firefighter. A great group reading text for year 3.</p>
	<p>Who’s in the Loo? by Jeanne Willis</p> <p>There’s a queue for the loo – who is taking so long? Is it a hamster? Is it the wombat? Or is it the rhino? A very funny easy reader suitable for the less able, and a good text to help struggling writers develop ideas.</p>
	<p>Small Worlds: Earth by Lara Hawthorne and Camilla De La Bedoyere</p> <p>This spectacularly realised illustrated non-fiction guide to the micro-world of undergrowth, meadows, foliage, forest floors, caves and more, features eye-catching graphics and precise natural history and ecological observations. The language is refreshingly not dumbed down and there are over 70 card flaps with information on the creatures displayed. Lifting them reveals what they get up to and how they interact with the ecosystem. This book would make a wonderful present for a KS2 child interested in the natural world. Also in the series is Small Worlds: Water.</p>
	<p>Mrs Pepperpot Stories by Alf Proysen</p> <p>Mrs Pepperpot has a secret – she can shrink to the size of a pepperpot – and when she does she can talk to animals. This imaginative text can provide a good starting point for creative writing, particularly when looking at settings and character descriptions with younger children.</p>

Maths

Our focus in Maths will be place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. Our teaching will include reviewing learning and identifying gaps, teaching new content and challenging children within these areas. There will be daily multiplication quizzes as well as homework based on recapping learning, stretch and challenge.

Children are encouraged to use their TTRockstar accounts as regularly as possible to improve fluency and recall.

Curriculum Subjects

In **science** this term our topic for autumn term is Rocks, these are the 3 main questions our study will focus on:

Rocks

Can I compare and group together different kinds of rocks?

Can I describe in simple terms how fossils are formed?

Can I recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter?

In **Geography** this term our topic for autumn term is Fieldwork and Map Skills, these are the main questions our study will focus on:

Fieldwork and Map Skills

Can I use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries?

Can I use the eight points of a compass?

Can I use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area?

In **History** this term our topic for the autumn term is Changes from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, these are the main questions our study will focus on:

Stone Age to the Iron Age

What were Palaeolithic times like? How do we know?

What were Mesolithic times like? How do we know?

What were Neolithic times like?

When was the Bronze Age? What was the Bronze Age like?

How was the Bronze Age different to the Stone Age?

PE routines & PE kit expectations

For this term, Otters class will have **double PE** on a Wednesday. One of these sessions will be outdoors with Premier Sport and the second session will be gymnastics in the school hall.

Children need to have the correct school PE kit uniform, as in accordance with our uniform policy. We recommend children have shorts and t-shirt for gymnastics, as they will get warm inside, then a tracksuit they can put on over the top as they move outdoors for their second session.

Playtimes

Where possible all playtimes will be on the field, we have a wide range of new equipment for them to enjoy and the space for them to run around and have fun. As the weather changes it is essential the children have an outdoor pair of trainers or wellies, which they can leave in school. A coat for wet weather and waterproof trousers or a spare pair of tracksuit bottoms they can slip over the top of their school clothes to avoid getting their uniform dirty. We have new welly racks for all classrooms, this will allow for us to store all outdoor shoes neatly.

Homework

Homework will continue with the weekly requirements of spellings, times tables and reading. We encourage the children to read every day even if it is just for a short time. This will improve their fluency and will lead to a greater comprehension of the books they encounter both at home and at school.

The children will be continuing with their Times Table Rockstars work this year. This was really successful last year, and the children seemed to really enjoy the interactive nature of the scheme. The children will do four timed tests at the beginning of each maths lesson and will have some time for the computer-based activities at a point in the week.

Meanwhile, if you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. I hope that this year will be an exciting, enriching and rewarding year for everybody in Otters Class and I very much hope that you will join us in helping to make this happen.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for all your support

Mrs Warner and Mrs Wreathall