A blue and yellow logo

Description automatically generatedA cartoon of a otter swimming in water

Description automatically generated Otter Class **Summer 2** Newsletter

Mrs Gould

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| Welcome back!  I hope you had a lovely summer holiday 😊  🧑‍🏫 🦦 Meet the Otter Classroom Team!  Welcome to a brand-new school year in the Otter class! We’re thrilled to have such a wonderful team supporting your child’s learning journey every week.   * **Mrs Gould** leads the class on Mondays through Thursdays, creating an engaging and nurturing learning environment full of curiosity and creativity. * **Mrs Hathaway** supports the classroom on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, helping to make those days smooth, joyful, and productive. * **Vicky** brings her enthusiasm to our team on Thursdays and Fridays, working alongside the teachers to guide and encourage the children. * **Mr Holland** takes the reins on Thursdays, with Vicky providing support—ensuring continued learning and consistency across the week.   Our goal as a team is to make every child feel confident, supported, and inspired each day. Here's to a fantastic September together! 🍁  **🟢 Green Group – *Read Write Inc.*: Get Writing!**  Green group will continue working through the Green Get Writing! books, part of the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme by Ruth Miskin.  These books provide a rich variety of writing activities linked to both Storybooks and selected non-fiction texts, including:   * Simple sentences * Invitations and letters * Descriptive and non-fiction texts   Writing tasks follow a six-step process involving oral rehearsal, role play, and structured composition. Check boxes encourage children to proofread and improve their work, building independence and confidence as writers.  🔴 Ditty Group – Red Ditty Readers  Our Reception children are beginning their exciting **Read Write Inc.** journey in the Ditty Group! Over the coming weeks, they’ll be learning **Set 1 Speed Sounds**, practicing sound-blending, and starting to read short **Ditty sheets**, which will be sent home **every Wednesday**.  📘 **In Class** Children are working hard to master all the Set 1 Speed Sounds. These early reading foundations help them confidently blend sounds to read simple words.  📚 **Home Support Matters** We kindly ask that you listen to your child read their Ditty sheet and reading books daily. Little and often makes a big difference—regular reading at home boosts both fluency and confidence.  🎥 **Helpful Parent Resource** Want to better understand how Read Write Inc. works and how you can support at home? Follow the link.  👉 [Watch this parent video for tips](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJpl_7CVitA)  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJpl_7CVitA>  📖 **Reading at Home:**  Please continue to support your child’s reading journey by listening to them read regularly at home.  - Don’t forget to sign their yellow reading record each time they read. - In school, children read daily with their RWI partner, take part in guided sessions, and are heard 1:1 by an adult in class.  🏃‍♂️**P.E. – Autumn 1**  P.E. this half term takes place on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, and is led by, our specialist PE coach.  This term, children will be focusing on Co-ordination skills and Dance.  🌍 Geography – Sensational Safari  This half term, our Geography topic is an exciting one: **Sensational Safari**! 🐘🦒the children will explore the fascinating geography of **Kenya**, learning all about the country’s **human and physical features**—from spectacular wildlife and sweeping landscapes to vibrant culture and traditions. Through interactive and fun activities, we’ll dive into:   * **Kenyan wildlife** and natural habitats * **Landscapes** such as savannahs, mountains, and lakes * **Culture and daily life** in Kenyan communities * **Comparisons** between life in Kenya and here in the UK * Growing **geographical skills** like map work, observation, and critical thinking   By the end of the unit, children will have a deeper understanding of a faraway land, its people, and the ways in which geography connects us all.  🎵 **Music – Moving and Grooving**  This half term in Music, we’re diving into our Moving and Grooving unit, which introduces the children to the fundamental concepts of pulse and rhythm.  Through a fun mix of activities, children will: - Explore and move to different beats - Use body percussion (claps, taps, and stomps!) - Develop their ability to feel and follow a steady pulse.  ➗ Maths – Autumn 1  In Maths this half term, we’re diving into some exciting topics across EYFS and Year 1, building strong foundations through hands-on learning and curiosity.  🌱 EYFS (Reception & Pre-School)  We follow the **White Rose Maths** scheme, beginning with topics like **Getting to Know You** and **Just Like Me**. Children will be exploring concepts of **matching and sorting**, developing an early understanding of similarities, differences, and patterns through engaging play-based activities.  📏 Year 1 Focus: Place Value (within 10)  Our Year 1 children are working on **sorting and grouping objects** based on attributes such as colour, size, and shape. Through practical activities and discussion, children will:   * Learn how objects can be sorted in different ways * Create their own criteria for sorting and classifying * Build confidence in recognising patterns and relationships * Develop early place value understanding   🔔 Important Reminders  To help everything run smoothly this term, please take note of the following:   * **P.E. Days**: Children should come to school wearing their **P.E. kit on Tuesdays and Fridays**. * **Forest School**: This term, Forest School sessions are held **every Tuesday**—please dress appropriately for outdoor learning! * **Water Bottles**: Each child should bring a **named water bottle** to school every day to stay hydrated. * **Waterproof Coats**: Please ensure your child has a **suitable waterproof coat** for unpredictable weather—don’t forget to **label it with their name**. * **School Access**: For safeguarding reasons, **parents should not enter the school building** unless a meeting has been pre-arranged.   Thank you for your continued support and cooperation—it makes a real difference  ✏️ Spelling & Homework – Year 1  To support learning at home and reinforce key skills, **Year 1 children will receive weekly spelling and homework tasks**. These tasks are designed to complement what we’ve been exploring in class and help build confidence and independence.   * **Homework and spelling books are due in every Tuesday** * Spelling words will focus on phonics, common exception words, and key vocabulary from our topics   We appreciate your support in helping children complete these activities—it truly enhances their progress!  🍂 Looking Ahead  September is all about fresh starts, new friendships, and exciting discoveries. As we settle into the rhythm of the term, we're looking forward to many magical learning moments together in Otter Class.  *"Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together, they make this world a beautiful garden."* 🌼  Here’s to a fantastic term of growing, exploring, and thriving!  Mrs Gould |