



# Otter Class Newsletter

9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> December

Dear Otter Class Families,

Another huge well done to all children who came to perform in the nativity last week. It was a lovely evening and Year 6 set a great example to the rest of the school with their behaviour and enthusiasm.

## **Our Learning:**

As the term comes to an end, we are starting to finish lots of units of work.

In maths, we finished our unit on fractions and completed the hot task.

In English, we are using this time at the end of term to really focus on certain skills that we need to work, and accurately using them in our writing.

In RE, we have continued to think about happiness and continue to work on our understanding of Humanism.

In Geography, our learning has had us thinking about where raw materials and finished products come from and what types of goods and services we export from the UK.

**REQUEST!** Please, if you have any spare, empty kitchen roll tubes (not toilet roll tubes, thank you) or empty wrapping paper tubes that are the solid kind (not the new style where it is more like a rolled-up sheet of brown card), then please can your child bring them into school on Wednesday or Thursday. This is for an activity we are going to do in science.

## **Homework:**

No homework book pages this week, as we head into the Christmas holidays.

If you want to do something, there are some nice ideas here:

# The best festive homework ever!

The most essential thing is have lots of festive fun!

Here's your homework for the Christmas holidays.  
How many can you do?

- 1 Write a letter to Santa's elves, it's usually Santa that gets all the post!
- 2 Can you design a Christmas card and send it to your favourite person?
- 3 Make a festive decoration for around the house or to hang on the tree.
- 4 Create a homemade gift and give it to a friend or family member.
- 5 Make a list of things you really want to learn or achieve in the New Year. Remember to write a note to yourself and pack it away with the decorations for you to find next year.
- 6 Have a dance party in the living room to your favourite festive songs.
- 7 Can you find out about Christmas in another country? How does it differ to Christmas in yours?
- 8 Can you make a Christmas tree out of something different? Lego, plasticine, the choice is yours!
- 9 Can you write your own Christmas song or rap, and perform it to your family?
- 10 Have a meal with your family and talk about your favourite memories of this year and the best things that happened to you.
- 11 If you're lucky enough to receive Christmas presents, write thank you notes and send them. Can you include something you loved about the gift?
- 12 Birds can get very hungry at this time of year. Can you make a festive bird feeder out of a milk carton, box or bottle and hang it outside?
- 13 Can you make a snow globe out of an empty container? What will you put inside?
- 14 Have a family Christmas movie night, get cosy and tune in to a Christmas classic.
- 15 Can you help to bake some Christmas cookies? Or a Christmas cake?

## Reading:

Our second reading challenge has begun. This one will run longer, until Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

Remember, stamps can be earned for:

- Reading 3 times at home (for at least 10 minutes each time)
- Finishing a book and getting 80% or more on the quiz
- Finishing a home book which isn't on AR (adult signatures/initials on those from now on please to verify that the book has been read completely)
- Completing an activity in the reading record (more can be printed if it has been completed for one book and your child would like another)
- Reading for 10 minutes in the way the dice determines! – we haven't rolled the dice yet for this challenge. This will be something that is done on Friday, ready for reading over the holidays.

## TTRS:

I would love to see all children working on TTRS over the holidays. It only needs to be 5 or 10 minutes here and there but it really does all add up!

As we are aiming for accuracy and speed, I'd love to see everyone achieving at least 500 correct answers before we come back in January. That isn't as much as you would think and is often used as a target for a normal school week, so to ask for that with 20 days before the deadline seems reasonable, even taking Christmas into account. I can see people who have achieved over double that amount in under 30 minutes of activity so it isn't a lot. I know that some children do find TTRS more difficult than others, but avoiding it is not going to improve speed or accuracy and it really is a skill they need to work on, so please encourage them to spend a bit of time on there.

## Reminders for this week:

I know you've had a few ParentMails and that can be a real pain, but it's the time of year when there's lots to remember and all sorts of exciting things going on, so please take some time to read through this list and any other emails you've had. If you're unsure about anything, you can always email [otter@hinghamprimary.org.uk](mailto:otter@hinghamprimary.org.uk)

- Pasta making tomorrow (Weds 18<sup>th</sup>) – please see mail from Mr Shackleton
- Christmas Jumper Day tomorrow (Weds 18<sup>th</sup>) – normal uniform with Christmas Jumpers! As we have PE, children need to wear their Christmas jumpers with PE kit please.
- Party (Thurs 19<sup>th</sup>) – party clothes or normal uniform if preferred. As we have PE, children need to wear something that's suitable for the party **and** a PE lesson, or they need to bring something to change into, making sure both outfits are suitable for a very quick change please!
- Please send in any empty kitchen roll or wrapping paper tubes that you have, on Wednesday, if possible, or Thursday.
- We have carols on the playground on Friday (see mail from Mrs Newrick for the details).
- Children need a water bottle in school every day – I will also be reminding children to take them home as we have lots that are frequently left here!
- Please name everything so that we can return lost property to the right person quickly.

Thank you for all of your support this term. Please remember, you can catch me on the playground for a quick chat or you can email [otter@hinghamprimary.org.uk](mailto:otter@hinghamprimary.org.uk)

Mrs Moore