

Hello Otter grown-ups and children!

Another week has flown by and half term is just around the corner!

A shorter newsletter this week as we have been continuing the learning in all subjects that I've already told you about.

### Reminders

- Spare shoes/wellies and coats – please can all children ensure they have these in school every day. With changeable weather and Autumn well and truly here, we never know when the rain might come down. A spare pair of socks may also be useful, just in case!
- Water bottles – all children should have a bottle of water in school with them every day. We've had lots of children forgetting them, sometimes on a daily basis. While we do have some cups that they can use in the classroom, it causes difficulties taking a drink to PE for example, which is a time when they really need it with them.
- Kit – swimmers need their things on Mondays. Girls football come in kit on Monday and need a packed lunch. After school footballers need their things on Friday. PE days are Wednesday and Thursday.
- Inhalers – if your child uses an inhaler, please ensure they have one in school, clearly labelled and that you have completed the relevant form with the office.

### Dates to remember

- Cross Country (9th October) – we have some children heading to a cross country competition on Wednesday. You will have received a separate parent-mail if your child has been selected. Please check that for what they need to bring and wear on the day.
- Wear Yellow for World Mental Health Day (10th October) – YoungMinds asks everyone to wear yellow on World Mental Health Day each year, to raise particular awareness to young people's mental health. As we have PE on Thursday, Otter children will need to make sure that whatever they wear is appropriate for PE (yellow team have got it covered!).
- Attleborough Academy Taster Day (11th October) – I'm really pleased that all children are coming along to Attleborough on Friday, regardless of which high school they may be planning to attend next year. It will be a great experience and a chance to see what high school will be like. We had a brilliant time there last year for castaway day so I'm looking forward to returning and seeing what they have planned for us. Please remember that all children need a packed lunch.
- Wymondham High taster morning (14th October) – We also have our session at Wymondham High next Monday. I know not everyone is going to that one as we have people who would rather stay so they don't miss swimming/girls football which is fine. Those who are going won't be back at school until the end of lunch so will again need a packed lunch.

### Homework

- Homework was set late this week as I was on a course on Monday. It is therefore not due in until Wednesday but I will set this week's on Monday so that we get back to our normal Monday to Monday routine.
- Reading – I really can't stress enough how beneficial it is for children to read regularly. Please encourage your child to read at home as often as possible, whether this is to you, another adult, a

sibling, themselves or even to a pet! All children have an AR book that they are reading in school and they are welcome (and encouraged) to take this home each night.

- TTRS - our current maths topic is multiplication and division and this really has highlighted where the gaps are in our multiplication knowledge. We work on this at school using things like last person standing, reciting times-tables, multiplication masters and extra times-table question races. This isn't enough though where gaps in multiplication fact recall already exist or where things have been forgotten. We use these facts in so many areas of maths and it really does make a huge difference when children are confident and can rapidly recall them. I have tried to not make TTRS compulsory this year, as the children are getting the other homework, but there are definitely many children who would benefit from regular time on there. Please encourage your child to spend some time on it this week.

Enjoy what's left of the weekend and I will see everyone tomorrow morning.

Mrs Moore