



# Otter Class Newsletter

2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> December

Dear Otter Class Families,

The first thing I need to say is a huge well done to all the children.

First, on Tuesday, we had our “My Personal Best” morning. Year 6 did a fantastic job leading their teams, encouraging everyone and supporting the younger children. Then on Thursday, it was time for some singing. Year 5 and 6 performed beautifully at Hassingham House and Lincoln Hall. It was a really wonderful day and was such a treat to share our festive singing with members of the Hingham community. Finally, on Friday we had our Christmas shopping event. Again, Otters were fantastic helping the younger children.

A very busy week which the children handled really well. Well done all!

## **Our Learning:**

Amazingly, we did manage to squeeze some learning in last week, between rehearsing, performing, setting personal bests and Christmas shopping!

In maths we have been continuing our work on adding and subtracting fractions. There are lots of steps to think about but the children already have all the skills and knowledge, just a bit more confidence and self-belief required!

In English, we are coming to the end of our unit on *Catch It*. As a class, we’ve built a good example of a journalistic film review. The children have now watched a new video and are writing their own review, completely independently, for their hot task.

In science, we continued looking at light, completing an experiment to prove that light travels in straight lines.

## **Homework:**

As I explained last week, I will always try to update the website with homework information but this isn’t always possible. However, I did say which pages needed to be done last week, in my newsletter sent on Monday.

Homework details on the website and in the newsletter are really only there as a back-up. The homework pages are displayed in the classroom all week, giving children plenty of time to note down what they need to do. Homework tasks, and the act of completing homework, is designed to support the children, not to trip them up. They are all able to see what homework needs to be completed throughout the week, so there should really be no need for weekend panics.

Homework is set on a Monday, giving a full week to complete it. I completely understand that things happen. We are all human: things get missed/forgotten, time gets away from us, unexpected things occur. However, if the children aim to do the homework earlier in the week, rather than thinking of

it as something to do at the weekend, then I'm sure lots of the worries and issues could be solved. Your children are all very lucky to have such supportive grown-ups, and I also really appreciate the support that you give. What I would ask, and what would benefit the children most in regards to homework, is for you to also encourage them to attempt the homework between Monday and Friday if possible. I am always available to look at questions with them, prior to Monday.

None of the homework is ever beyond the capabilities of the class. Homework never relates to topics we haven't covered, so it is all doable. There may be questions that are trickier than others and I never expect everyone to be able to do everything, but everyone should be able to do something.

I know children sometimes think they will get "in trouble" for not doing the homework. As long as it has at least been attempted, there is never going to be an issue. The children do not get "in trouble" even when they don't do it, but they do know that they will need to stay in if they have not even attempted the homework for whatever reason. I do absolutely everything possible for this not to happen but if a child doesn't write down the pages/doesn't take home their book/doesn't attempt it because they're "stuck" but didn't come to see me about it/just plain forgets, then there really is no excuse. The homework needs to be completed so that they can actively participate in the marking when we mark as a class. Staying in isn't a punishment, but is necessary so that there is no missed learning.

Homework for this week is:

Grammar only – pages 11, 24, 25 and 26.

**Reading:**

Our first reading challenge came to an end today. If your child forgot to bring in their reading record, please can these be brought in tomorrow or Wednesday. After that, final stamp totals will be recorded and no further stamps will be counted.

Please continue to read regularly with your child; listening to them read, reading to them, taking turns to read when sharing a book and talking about what you are reading will all be extremely beneficial.

Our next reading challenge will start soon.

**Reminders:**

On Wednesday, during the day, we will be going to the church for a full rehearsal of the nativity. Children then need to be back at the church at 5:25pm, just before doors open to the audience. All children are expected to attend. They've worked hard on the songs and it will be a lovely, festive evening which I hope you all enjoy.

Thank you for your continued support. 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