



OTTERTON COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

11th September 2020

www.otterton.thelink.academy

It has been really lovely this week to see all the children back at school. They have embraced their return with real enthusiasm and as always, have made us really proud!

We have welcomed 5 new children to school in Reception and they have got off to a brilliant start. We have also welcomed a new staff member, Mr Luxa who will be at Otterton on a Monday as our specialist PE teacher.

I need to inform you that Sam Pidgeon has resigned from her post as Teaching Assistant in Otters Class at Drake's. Sam has worked for many years in Otterton and Drake's and I would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication. I am sure you will join me in wishing her the best of luck in the future.

We are currently advertising for a replacement and will let you know as soon as we have recruited.

Illness.

Please ensure that you contact the office by 9am if your child is poorly. It is always vital that this happens but especially so at the moment. You will be asked what symptoms your child has and you may be asked to take them to have a test for COVID19.

YEAR 1 to YEAR 6 parents

We will be holding Parents Meetings the week beginning 21st September. The meetings will be held either inside the school building or outside and we can also offer an online meeting.

Otterton will have meetings on Monday 21st and Thursday 24th September.

There will be very clear guidance sent out closer to the time so parents know what procedures they will need to follow. Information will be coming out next week on how to book an appointment.

PE.

Children should come to school in their PE kit on the days that they have PE. This will be on a Monday for EVERYONE and on the days below for classes:

Dragonflies - Friday

Kingfishers - Wednesday

Teacher Contact

If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher or to Mr Halford, please complete the attached form which you can also find on the school website and we will make you an appointment.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yQ0V4_Sec0WRRGeMKx2k_Sac__CWJW5Og1QLKExCGclUNTIQRfdKSVJJUTJBM0IyN1I0RFBRE9RTS4u

Dinners

Despite some initial teething problems ParentPay should now be fully up and running! Please remember that **ALL dinners, even those in receipt of Free School Meals** must be ordered and paid for through ParentPay. If your child is not in school and you have booked a dinner then the amount will be credited to your ParentPay account. If you have not yet activated your account please do so ASAP.

Dinners MUST be ordered by midnight on a THURSDAY for the following week.

Free School Meals

If you think that you may be eligible for Free School Meals please apply through the Devon Citizens Portal. Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and gets Universal Free School Meals it's good to apply as it means that school gets additional funding. To apply, go to <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals> and then follow the link for the Citizens Portal.

Early Morning Club

Is now up and running. Places should be booked in advance through the office and payment should be made through ParentPay.

eSchools

Please could you ensure that you are regularly checking eSchools, this needs to be both your account and your child's as this is where teachers will be sending things that they would normally send out on paper but are unable to due to current restrictions.

Snacks

If your child brings a snack for breaktime please could we ask that it is a healthy snack, ideally fruit.



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Reading and Spelling at Home

Dear Parent/Carer

Working within the current government guidelines, here is our reading and Spelling provision until further notice:

The children will all be involved in daily reading at school. This will comprise of discrete reading instruction, individual reading, guided reading and one to one reading.

In KS 1

To minimise items coming to and from school the children will keep a reading book in school to work from. Your teacher will guide you to a book to read at home to support their reading journey each week from one of the free online platforms we have access to.

The children will select a library book weekly to bring home.

This must remain at home and only be returned to school on a Friday. The book will then be put aside for the required 72 hours before another child has access to it. Please do not return books mid-week to support us in managing this.

In KS2

The children will have a current reading book and they will be reading from this on a daily basis. They will continue to use the Accelerated Reader Platform at school. They will no longer need to quiz at home now school is fully open.

The children will bring their reading book home each day and, like their lunchbox or drink, when they bring their book into school each day it will be kept either on their own table or in their own tray. When finished, books will then be put aside for the required 72 hours before another child has access to it.

Individual Spellings will continue to be sent home and assessed weekly. This will begin after the children have settled fully back into school and individual teacher assessments are completed. Spellings will be sent home via one of our online platforms for your child to access and work on at home. More information will follow from your child's class teacher when this starts.



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