

Wow! It's been another brilliant week in Otter class and we've crammed lots in!

Before I tell you about this week, I have to mention the residential. The children were all incredible! I had an amazing time and I really hope they all did too. Willersley Castle is a beautiful setting and we were provided with so many amazing experiences while we were there. Everyone found something tough: for some it was an activity, for others it was something else like the need to be independent, a worry about the food or missing home. However, every single one of them overcame whatever it was and went on to have a fabulous time. This is the learning that we need to remember and bring into every single day: no matter how difficult or scary something may seem, they absolutely have it in them to get through it and do something amazing! We were all so proud of all of them, including the children who stayed behind, who we've heard brilliant things about and seen some great independent learning from.

There are photos from the residential and a write up on the class page of the website if you haven't already checked it out.

Prefects, team captains and school council

Yesterday in assembly, Mr Shackleton announced the names of our team captains, prefects and school council members.

Team captains have been chosen to lead their colour teams and be role models for all children at school. Prefects are also role models and have been assigned a year group that they are attached to. School council members will support Mrs Spencer in running the council and making sure every child has a voice and is heard.

Congratulations to all the children who were given a role, including the previously chosen reading champions. For those not yet chosen, more prefects can be chosen, so there is still time to demonstrate the behaviours that Mrs Newrick and Mr Shackleton are looking for and get that perfect badge!

Homework

Reading and maths homework are due on Monday. Some children have also been asked to do some work on TTRS, and many need to do their September gig to check their progress.

In addition, some children have been asked to finish their reading book and do the quiz on AR, or do 2 article quizzes if that's not possible.

Reading

All children should really have finished at least 1 book and quizzed by now but not everyone has. Reading is such an important skill to develop. Research shows that reading can be linked to better progress through school; better empathy, better social skills, mental well-being and strong relationships; more imagination and creativity, and can even link to longer life expectancy and better employment prospects.

If you can encourage your child to read at home, it will only benefit them in the long run. Reading aloud is particularly beneficial so asking them to read to you is a great thing. Additionally, listening to stories is really good, so reading to your child still is a lovely thing. I know life is busy and it's not always possible to find time for everything but finding time to read together, even for 5 minutes, will have so many benefits (in busy evenings I get my children to read to me while I'm cooking dinner).

Have a restful and enjoyable weekend. I will see everyone on Tuesday. I'm on a course on Monday so Mr Shackleton will be with the children for the day.

Mrs Moore

P.S. I promised last time that I wouldn't always write long newsletters but I've failed again with this one! So there's actually more below about what we've been doing this week!!

Maths

We finished off our place value work with some rounding and completed the hot task. We now move on to work on multiplication and division. Please continue to encourage your child to spend some time on TTRS. Rapid recall of multiplication facts is vital in year 6.

English

As a school, our big focus this year is writing. Year 6 are really going back to basics, making sure that all our sentences are sentences. That may seem like a step back, but to be a great writer, the fundamentals must be there. We're continuing our focus on picture books using Art and Max and are writing really good sentences about the beautiful illustrations in the book.

We're also continuing our spelling, punctuation and grammar work each morning and within our English lessons.

PSHRE

This week we talked about habits – good and bad! What is a habit, what does it take to make a good habit and how we can make it part of our everyday routine until it does become a habit?

All children thought about a good habit they would like to have so I wonder if you can spot them working on that this weekend.

We've also continued our work in:

- *Music: evaluating music, thinking about how music can depict something and make us feel a certain way. Moving on to working on pitch, dynamics and texture, following a conductor.*
- *Science: we continued our work on classification*
- *RE: our work on creation took us to look at the big bang theory. Does it mean we don't need to believe in the existence of God, or do the two work together?*
- *History: Vikings and the great heathen army.*
- *Computing: Taking something already made and changing it, using scratch. Looking at this as another way of working with someone online.*
- *PE: our first session with Dance East. We have a dance instructor on zoom, working with the children combining dance with PSHRE. This year we thought about the idea of community, uniqueness and the use of negative space in dance.*
- *French: sentences describing how we feel about sport. All the children did some brilliant translating.*
- *Art: sketching and shading with Mr Shackleton*