

April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to back Year 5 Otter Class! It is hard to believe that we are two thirds of the way through our year of learning, but we still have lots to cover. I am confident that this last term will be our best one yet and can't wait to get stuck into some new topics and hands-on activities, taking advantage of the warmer and brighter days.

Teachers

As per the previous terms, myself (Miss Clegg) will be teaching Otter class on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Day will be teaching on Wednesdays.

Curriculum

This half-term we are looking at the Maya in history and asking the question 'In what ways were the Maya different to the Anglo-Saxons?', building off our year 4 learning. This will be supplemented by a trip to the MAA for workshop all about these fascinating ancient Mesoamericans. This leads us nicely into our Geography unit all about life in the canopies of the rainforest. In science, we will be looking at lifecycles and habitats. We have already begun to grow some of our own food in the classroom and are excited to be heading to the Zoology museum for an expert-led session on Darwin after half-term (more on this in due course). In RE, we will be looking at Hinduism alongside continuing our work on Christianity. Finally, in music, we will be learning to compose our own blues music.

Reading

We get asked regularly 'how can we help at home?' READING is the key! There is a strong correlation between children's reading ability and their writing and spoken language abilities.

In KS2, we encourage children to adopt healthy reading habits at home. Therefore, all children have access to their class book corner daily and are able to change books when ready to do so. In addition to this, all the children have weekly access to the school library on Thursday afternoons, where they can change their books and explore the wonderful collection that the space has to offer.

Please encourage your child to read regularly (ideally 5 times a week for at least 10 minutes) and take time to discuss with your child what they are reading. If your child wants to access reading material from home, they are welcome to bring it into school to read.

I would encourage parents/carers to challenge pupils to go beyond their normal books and into things with more challenge or from a different genre, including poetry. Exposure to age-appropriate news articles would also be helpful and enriching. The broader the range of writing a young person reads, the better they can write for different purposes. Reading really is the key to developing writing!

Homework

In the coming week, your child will be provided with a homework pack which will include a homework diary and a reminder of St Paul's homework expectations, which are as follows:

1. Pupils should read every day for a minimum of 10 minutes
2. Pupils should use Spelling Shed, 3 times a week for 15 minutes
3. Pupils should use Numbots/Timestable Rockstars, 3 times a week for 15 minutes

We ask you to please initial your child's diary to show that they have completed their core home learning. I will gather in the homework packs and check through diaries on a Friday.

Home Learning Ideas - These activities will provide a menu of possible extensions for your child to carry on with their learning at home. They do not need to be 'handed in' formally, but please do encourage your child to share their efforts with their teacher if they would like to. I would love to celebrate their hard work in class.

St Paul's C of E Primary School

Life in all its fullness

PE kit and uniform

In order to enable the children to use the full PE sessions each week for physical activity our class will continue to wear their PE kits on their PE days for the whole day at school.

On Wednesday and Friday, please send your child in the school PE kit for the day. They do not need their normal school uniform on that day.

P.E. Kit

- plain white t-shirt
- plain navy blue or black shorts or navy blue or black tracksuit bottoms
- trainers or plimsolls

Children should then wear their school jumper on top of these items.

School uniform

- a grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers or shorts (no leggings, jeans or tracksuit bottoms)
- a royal blue check dress can be worn for the summer
- a white shirt or a white or royal blue polo-shirt
- a royal blue sweatshirt, zip-through, V-neck sweater or cardigan *preferably with the school logo
- black shoes (no shoes should have high heels)
- white or grey socks or tights

Jewellery and nail varnish must not be worn in school. The only exceptions are watches and studs for pierced ears or medical bracelets. These items must be removed during lessons involving physical exercise. Long hair should be tied back.

Please ensure that your child's name is on every item of clothing.

Lunches

It saves lots of time in school if you are able to do your child's lunch choices before school. You are able to do a term's decisions at a time so can log in now and do all the choices until Christmas! We are not able to do this and have to instead do them daily which takes time in the mornings. If you have forgotten or misplaced your login details, please contact Mrs Carillo in the office who can provide you with a reminder of your login details.

Snack

Children may bring in a **healthy** snack at playtimes, which is usually a piece of fruit or vegetable. Please remember we are a nut and sesame free school, please consider all items your child brings in to eat as nut and sesame products are in many things you might not realise: sesame topped bread, sesame rolled sushi, Kinder Bueno products, Nutella products, many hummus products contain sesame oil. Many thanks for your support protecting our children.

Water Bottles

Please provide your child with a clearly named water bottle each day. Please use a permanent marker or label with your child's full name and class.

We will keep a small supply of school water bottles available for children who have forgotten theirs/or until a bottle is brought into school.

This change takes place after careful consideration of the various issues around providing them. Thank you for your cooperation with this and if you have any concerns around providing a bottle please do come in and speak to us.

Parent and staff communication

Please hand any notes to me in the mornings, these can be passed directly or your child can pass them to me. I must be informed if your child is going home with someone else on a particular day, unless it is a regular arrangement that I am already aware of. I will not allow any child to leave with any other adult, including extended family members, unless you have informed me.

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Please do speak to me if you have any concerns or queries or contact the office who will forward your message to me or email otter@stpauls.cambs.sch.uk

Kind Regards,

Miss Mollie Clegg