



Year R - Otter Class - Autumn 2026 Newsletter

What a big week it has been for our Otter families! Every single Otter has made us proud with their ability to adapt to their new surroundings, the new expectations and the new routines. We hope you are brimming with pride too. We have so many lovely experiences planned for your children this term as we explore the changing seasons and get to know the school environment. We will be exploring what makes the children special, unique and important through different texts and giving them opportunities to share with their peers some of their favourite things.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **Library Books:** Once the children become more settled in school, we will visit the library on a **Tuesday**.
- **PE:** Children need to have a fully labelled, complete PE kit in school every day.
- **PE days:** The children will do PE on a **Wednesday**.
- **Reading:** Reading diaries and reading books need to be brought in each morning and taken home each evening. You will have access to online books which support the children's phonic learning. More about this at the Phonics Information Evening (**Tuesday 15th September 2026 3.45pm**)

KEY DATES

- Phonics Information Evening – **Tuesday 15th September 2026 3.45pm**
- Otter Class Nativity – **Monday 7th December 2026 2.30pm**

THE PILLARS OF OUR CURRICULUM

This term, will be focusing on:

Diversity and Equality - The children will learn what makes themselves special and the importance of value differences in each other.

OVERVIEW OF LEARNING IN YEAR R THIS HALF TERM

For more detailed information, please visit the [Our Curriculum](#) pages of our website. The .pdf version of this newsletter also includes links to some subject pages.

Communication and Language ([click here](#))

- Speaking skills
- Listening skills
- Recognising names
- Letter formation
- Introduction to phonics

Physical Development

- Gross Motor Skills – obstacle courses, riding bikes and trikes, chalking, large scale painting, parachute games
- Fine Motor Skills – playdough, threading, beading, tweezers, scooping

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

- Self-regulation – the children will try hard to pay focused attention and meet simple goals.
- Managing Self – the children will try to be brave and confident when trying new things, showing resilience and perseverance when faced with challenges.
- Building relationships – the children will get to know the new children and adults around them.

Maths ([click here](#))

- Subitizing
- One-to-one correspondence
- Composition of numbers
- Comparison language

Understanding of the World

- Families, festivals and friends: We are all special in our own way!

Expressive Arts

- Sounds of Autumn
- Colours of Diwali
- The Nativity performance!

RE

- Creation