

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

Wow, what an amazing start to the summer term! We have already had a wonderful class worship by our Panda Class children, Year 2 have visited Windsor Castle and Year 5/6 stepped back in time to World War 2 at Manor Farm...and we're only a week in!

I'm not sure where the sun is hiding at the moment though, and all we can hope is that it will join us for the annual May Fayre on the 18th May.

This newsletter is dedicated to the May Fayre and I hope you enjoy looking ahead at all of the wonderful things that will be happening on the day. If you've never been before, there is the promise of some traditional May Fayre favourites such as the Maypole and Tug-o-war and a chance to see some of the children showcase their talents in the main ring. For those who have attended in recent years, you might be pleased to know that the day will once again end with the children having the opportunity to throw wet sponges at me!

Of course, none of this is possible without the incredible support of the FOS and an army of volunteers—but we really do need more help to make this a safe and memorable event for everyone.

Please take a look through the newsletter to see if there is anything you are happy to donate, or any time you are happy to give. Anything you can do to help us is greatly appreciated.

With best wishes

Mr Geraghty

Do you have a gazebo you can spare?

In order to protect stalls and volunteers from the elements, we would be very grateful if you could loan yours for the event. These can be brought to school at any time between now and the event or we can collect them nearer the time if that is easier.

MAY FAYRE

OTTERBOURNE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

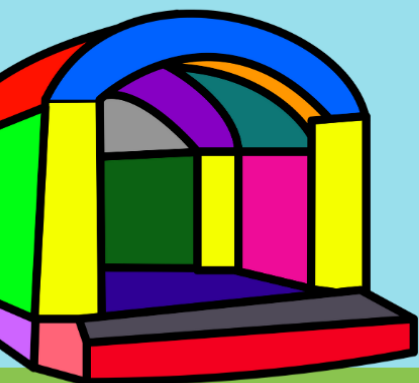
SATURDAY 18th MAY
11.45am-3pm

Fayre opened by our May
Queen and King at 12pm

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- bouncy castle •
- fun games •
- maypole dancing •
- BBQ •
- BAR •
- entertainment •
- yummy food •
- and much more!





We Need Your Help

Firstly, thank you for all the volunteers who have already come forward to offer their help with this year's May Fayre. One thing we are very keen on this year is seeing new faces on the friendly FOS team. We understand some parents are unable to commit to FOS all year round but any help that can be given towards the biggest fund raising event in the calendar is great.

If you are happy to help, there will be a timetable available outside the school office from tomorrow. Volunteers are needed for setting up, helping with the BBQ, bar, stalls etc. Please put your name down where you are able to help. Hopefully, by working together, we can ensure the event is enjoyed by everyone and raises as much as we can for the children and the school!

Thank you in advance,

FOS

MAY FAYRE



Cake Competition

CAN YOU OR YOUR CHILD BAKE A CAKE OR SWEET TREAT?

THIS YEARS MAY FAYRE COMPETION IS THEMED

'WONKA'

THE MAY KING AND QUEEN WILL CHOOSE THE WINNERS

DONATIONS TO BE BROUGHT IN BEFORE THE FAYRE ON SATURDAY 18TH MAY. ONCE JUDGED CAKES WILL BE SOLD.

MAY FAYRE

HELP



COULD YOU JOIN THE BBQ TEAM AND HELP THEM IN ADVANCE OR ON THE DAY?

OR

DO YOU HAVE TIME TO VISIT BOOKERS WITH A LIST OR A SUPERMARKET TO COLLECT ANY LAST MINUTE ITEMS?

IF YOU CAN HELP WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE, PLEASE LET THE SCHOOL OR YEAR GROUP WHATS APP KNOW



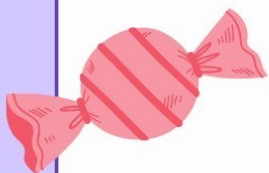
MAY FAYRE

ITEMS TO DONATE HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**YOU CAN HELP US AHEAD OF THE FAYRE
BY GATHERING ITEMS TO DONATE**



DONATE A BOTTLE TO OUR TOMBOLA



**SWEETS - A CUP WILL COME HOME A
WEEK BEFORE THE FAYRE TO BE FILLED
WITH SWEETS AND RETURNED TO
SCHOOL**

**IF YOU CAN HELP WITH EITHER OF THE ABOVE
PLEASE BRING TO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY 17TH
MAY
THANK YOU**

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2023-24

April

*****Friday 26th - Leopard Class Collective Worship at St. Matthew's Church (2:45pm) - Parents of children in Leopard Class are invited to join us at church.**

May

Friday 3rd - Mission of the Month - our monthly presentation of certificates to children who have demonstrated fantastic learning skills (in school, children only).

Thursday 9th – Ascension Day Church Service (2:30pm) - upper school service (not for parents).

Friday 10th - Koala Class Collective Worship at St. Matthew's Church (2:45pm) - Parents of children in Koala Class are invited to join us at church. *This is one of our new Year 1 classes*

Monday 13th to Thursday 16th - KS2 SATs week.

Friday 17th - Pentecost Church Service (2:30pm) - school service (not for parents).

*****Saturday 18th - MAY FAYRE*****

*****Monday 20th - Walk to School Week**

Friday 24th May - INSET Day. School will be closed to children for whole staff training. End of half-term

June

Monday 3rd - Final half-term begins.

Monday 3rd - Mission of the Month - our monthly presentation of certificates to children who have demonstrated fantastic learning skills (in school, children only).

Wednesday 5th - New Year R Information Evening (4:00pm) - An opportunity for new parents to our school to learn more about starting school and life in Early Years.

Thursday 6th - Science Fair (more information to come).

Friday 7th - Penguin Class Collective Worship at St. Matthew's Church (2:45pm) - Parents of children in Penguin Class are invited to join us at church.

Friday 21st - Year 6 Leavers' Service at Winchester Cathedral - A very special event in the school calendar as our school will join many other Church of England schools for a service from the Bishop.

Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th - Drama Club Performances at Thornden Hall.

Wednesday 19th - Year 6 Legoland Trip - An annual event for the Year 6 children.

July

Monday 1st - Transition Morning. Children will be with their next-year teachers and classmates for the morning.

Monday 1st - Zebra Class Wild Worship - Some of our Year 6 children will lead an outdoor worship with a small group of younger children. Parents of children in Zebra Class are welcome to attend but these will be outdoors so be prepared. Timings will be confirmed nearer the time (in school grounds, parents welcome).

Thursday 4th - Whole School Reading Picnic. Parents are invited to join the children from 3pm to share some reading time. Please feel free to bring a light tea with you.

Tuesday 9th - Year 6 Leavers' Performance in the Village Hall (evening) - an annual 'tear-jerker' as the Year 6 children perform to their families.

Friday 12th - Sports Day - A very special occasion in the school calendar. We encourage all children to participate, and the highlight (the buddy race) is something that stays long in the memory. Last year, the day turned in to evening of entertainment thanks to the FOS, so keep the date free and join us if you can.

Monday 15th (5-8pm) – Summer Concert in the Church - details to come nearer the time.

Thursday 18th - Our termly award ceremony at St. Matthew's Church. Nominations are made by all adults in school and parents of the children to receive an award will be contacted about attending.

Friday 19th - Year 6 Church Leavers' Service (2pm) - A farewell event in the church, to the school and parents of Year 6 children. Tissues at the ready!

Friday 19th - End of the school year. Happy Holidays!

Monday 22nd - INSET day - School will be closed to children on this day.

Tuesday 23rd - INSET day - School will be closed to children on this day.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

The following pages include extracts from previous newsletters, just in case you missed some of the more important messages we are trying to share.

THE VILLAGE CAR PARK AND VOLUNTARY ONE-WAY SYSTEM

Thank you for the positive responses regarding the voluntary one-way system, which was first mentioned in the previous newsletter. It's becoming clear that it is something that would be beneficial to a lot of families. If you are happy to start following it, you will help to keep the flow of traffic moving safely in the mornings and afternoons.

FROM LAST NEWSLETTER: A few years ago, there was a voluntary one-way system that essentially meant Cranbourne Drive was a one-way road at school drop-off and pick-up times, with the entrance being the junction nearest to the school. It ensured that everyone who followed the system could safely turn left in to the car park, and then left out of the car park before following the road round to the junction at the far end (from the school).

My understanding is that most parents stuck to this, and then residents were informed so that they could do the same, which ensured that they too, were less affected by school traffic.

I have been in contact with the local council about this, and they are going to discuss it further, but for now, could you please send to headteacher@otterbourne.hants.sch.uk any thoughts or comments you have about this idea. In the meantime, these things do have a tendency to change organically, so if you choose to follow this route anyway, then things should improve!

Spotlight on School Attendance

Driving up attendance and tackling persistent absence is at the centre of new stronger measures launched today as pupils return to school.

- The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP and the DfE (January 2024).

*It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. **It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.***

The NHS have produced the following guidance for parents: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

From a letter by The Chief Medical Officer and leading health professionals.

Across the county, there are changes being put in place to help families where persistent absence is an issue that needs further support; there are also indications that the penalty system is being reviewed.

Our school attendance currently exceeds the national average which, by comparison, is excellent but the impact of lost learning is something that is felt by children, families and school staff so it is something that we will continue to work with families to improve, where necessary. Where we have a concern about the level of attendance, starting with children with an attendance figure of 95% or less, we will be in touch to see what help we can offer to support children and families.

SIGNING IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

It is important to make clear that it is not just a day away from school that can affect a child's attendance. Late arrivals, those children who arrive at school after the register has closed at 9:05, receive a 'late' mark. We are also being asked to monitor...but **not yet** report on... 'early leavers' and we need to follow the appropriate procedures for safeguarding children who are attending alternative venues, for any reason, during the school day.

If your child is regularly being taken out of school early, we will need to understand the reason for this as well as undergo a risk assessment with the appropriate organisations (which might involve us having to visit them ourselves).

If your child is to attend a medical appointment, I need to encourage you to try and make these after school or during holidays.

We are currently exploring remote options for signing children out of school, but for now I must ask you to come in to the school to sign children out. This needs to be a parent/guardian as the process of signing out means that the children are then out of our care and control.