

# THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

If you are one of our Year 6 families, I hope you are looking forward to the stories from Fairthorne, as the children return from their residential today. I was with the children on Wednesday and I know just from talking to them through the day, that there are many successes and many examples of fears and challenges being overcome through determination and an incredible sense of team spirit. It really was lovely to hear the children talking so animatedly about how their friends either showed great resilience or gave much-appreciated encouragement. I am very proud of how the children showed respect to each other and the staff at Fairthorne. I hope you have enjoyed seeing the daily photos, which are available on the website for anyone to get a taste of what could be in store for all of our children as they reach Year 6.

I am sure you will want to join me in expressing my appreciation to the team who organised such a wonderful week and stayed with the children throughout. Thank you Mrs Holland, Mr O'Dowd, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Armstrong and also the team who supported our Year 5's, who managed a change to their routine with maturity and positivity. Well done to all involved.

Next week, life in school gets back to normal (whatever that looks like on any given week) but in the meantime, I hope you have a lovely weekend, and enjoy taking a look through the photos in this newsletter, which are just a sample of some of the great work and achievements we have seen across the school.

Kind regards

Mr Geraghty

## LEARNING IN ACTION PHOTOS



Year 5 bird watching as part of their science longitudinal study



Ordering numbers in Year 2

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Learning how to organise work into paragraphs in Year 3/4.



Discovering new books in Y3/4 as part of our reading recommendations session



Buzzard Class proudly presenting their finished class birds in art.

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Just a taste of what Year 6 have been doing at Fairthorne Manor this week

## FOS – QUIZ NIGHT

Just a reminder that it's the first event of the new school year next week, as we kick things off with the Big Parent Pub Quiz on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. If you've not yet downloaded the 'Classlist' app, this is the best way to stay informed about all things related to the FOS and the amazing work they do to support the school.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL AND FOOD DONATION

If you are able to join us at St. Matthew's Church on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October, we will be holding our Harvest Festival from 2:45pm. We are also taking donations in school from Monday 29<sup>th</sup>, if you have any tins or dry foods (rice, cereals, biscuits etc) that you would like to bring in for us to send to the local basics bank. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026?

We have a series of school tours available to parents of children looking to start in the Reception Year (our 'Otter Class') in September 2026. If you know someone who might be interested in coming for a look around, please let them know that the dates are available on our website under 'parents/carers' and they can call the school office to book on one of the tours.

## AEROSOLS IN SCHOOL

It is lovely to see the children thinking about their health and hygiene, but could I please ask that where they are bringing in deodorant, this is of the roll-on variety and not aerosols. Thank you.

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## Supporting Children's Needs – a new free subscription for parents – reminder and new dates

As a school, we have attended a number of the sessions delivered by FACE over the last couple of years, and have included the details of what is available to parents in the regular school newsletter. This year, we have taken the decision to support parents further and now have a school membership agreement with FACE, so that you can access their online events free of charge.

There are many different topics available, and there is always something new to learn, especially with the real-life examples that are often discussed. If you would like to join any of the online sessions, please contact the school office for the discount code that will make it free for you to attend. We would like to keep a record of the events attended by parents using the code, so please do get in touch and, if you are happy to, please provide us with some feedback about what value you get from the sessions.

|  <b>October Timetable</b> |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long   |                     |
| <b>£24 each or FREE with School Membership</b>   |                     |
| Book online at <a href="http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk">facefamilyadvice.co.uk</a>                          |                     |
| Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)  |                     |
| Understanding The Teenage Brain  | 6 Oct 10am          |
| Supporting Healthy Sleep   | 6 Oct 7pm           |
| Supporting A Child With ADHD   | 13 Oct 10am         |
| Understanding Addictive Behaviour  | 13 Oct 7pm          |
| Autism Improving Communication   | 14 Oct 10am         |
| Improving Family Communication   | 14 Oct 7pm          |
| Supporting Healthy Screen Use  | 20 Oct 10am         |
| Facing Defiance  | 20 Oct 7pm          |
| Anxiety Based School Avoidance   | 21 Oct 10am         |
| Understanding Anger  | 21 Oct 7pm          |
| <b>FREE - Raising Self-Esteem</b>  | <b>23 Oct 7-8pm</b> |
| Anxiety Explained  | 27 Oct 10am         |
| Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness  | 27 Oct 7pm          |
| What Is ACT?   | 28 Oct 10am         |
| Introduction To OCD  | 28 Oct 7pm          |

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## Are you struggling with a defiant child?



### Facing Defiance

A six part online course for parents that you can complete in your own time.  
A step by step guide through a specific strategy aimed to support parents of children aged between 5 to 12 who are displaying very challenging behaviour, including children with ADHD, ODD and PDA.

go to [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Book online £48

on the **Online Parenting Courses** page

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**R&R**  
SPORTS COURSES

Rewarding & Inspiring



**OCTOBER HALF TERM 2025**

**Monday 27th to Thursday 30th**

Halterworth Primary School SO51 9AD  
⚽ football & ⚾ multi sports course

Otterbourne Primary School SO21 2EQ  
⚾ multi sports course

**1 DAY £24 / 2 DAY £42**  
**3 DAY £60 / 4 DAY £79**

BOYS & GIRLS - YEAR R TO YEAR 6

CLOSING DATE THURSDAY  
BEFORE THE COURSES START

9am - 4pm EACH DAY

**R&R SPORTS BIRTHDAY PARTIES**  
WE COME TO YOU AND DELIVER A PARTY TAILORED  
EXACTLY TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

Please contact R&R sports for more info or to make a booking.



Follow us @R&R Sports

To book a place or for more information please contact R&R Sports on  
T: 07515 881 574 or E: [info@randrsportscourses.co.uk](mailto:info@randrsportscourses.co.uk)

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## Life's Better by Bike – free cycling activities in Eastleigh!

This autumn, families are invited to take part in CycleTogether Eastleigh - an initiative offering free cycling activities across the borough. Organised by Eastleigh Borough Council in partnership with Sustrans and supported by Hampshire County Council's [Life's Better By Bike](#) campaign, CycleTogether Eastleigh aims to make cycling accessible, safe and fun for everyone.

Activities include:

Bike safety checks

Guided rides

Skills and confidence sessions

Trailer trials

You can book your free place at [CycleTogether Eastleigh events](#) and enjoy a great opportunity to get active and explore the area by bike.

 Hampshire County Council  
Library Service

## Warm & Welcome Event

Winchester Library  
Thursday 23 October  
1pm - 4pm

Struggling with energy bills and the cost of living?

Please drop-in to speak to local organisations who can provide help and advice.

No appointment needed.

**THE ARC**



Our libraries are:

-  
-  Free
-  Warm
-  Welcoming
-  Safe

  @hantslibraries

[hants.gov.uk/library](https://hants.gov.uk/library)