

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

“Thank you for the Harvest!” These words, which are from one of our Harvest Festival songs (“Harvest Samba”) have been resonating through the school in the last couple of weeks as we prepare for Friday, our first visit to the church for this year. If you are able to join us at St. Matthew’s on Friday, we would love to see you there but please be prepared to sing!

If you have been kind enough to donate to our own collection for the Winchester Basics Bank (<https://winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk/>) then can I also say ‘Thank you for the harvest’.

Kind regards

Mr Geraghty

SCHOOL QUIZ

Thanks also have to go to the members of the FOS who helped to organise last Friday’s school quiz night, and to the parents who made it such a fun night. There will be another quiz later in the school year and there are various ideas going around for how we can make this even bigger and better for you. And, on the subject of making events better for everyone, we are appealing for more help...

FOS - Meeting and joining in

If you do have any ideas about our events through the year, or would like to be more involved in the fun and fundraising that is organised by the FOS, then please come along to the next meeting which will be on Thursday 16th October at 7:15pm at the school. At the meeting, we will be making final decisions and discussing planning for all events this year. Please come along if you are interested in being involved or can take on the running of an event. We really do need more families involved, and the reward in smiles really does make it worth the time.

FOS – OtterFest...can you spare some time to get involved?

The first OtterFest, which took place last year, was a great success and clearly a much-loved event in the school calendar. We would really like to repeat the event this year – but in order to do so, the FOS are appealing for more volunteers. Ideally, they are also looking for someone who can offer to co-ordinate the event as there are a number of elements to draw together to make it such a wonderful addition to the Christmas celebrations.

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FOS EVENTS COMING SOON

Our incredible FOS team use WhatsApp to communicate with parents (as well as us publicizing things in this newsletter) – if you aren't yet in a group, please let us know and we will put you in touch. Here are details of the next events, which take place on the last day of the half-term.

BREAK THE RULES DAY

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

We're turning the tables for one day only! Children will get the chance to break some school rules - all in the name of fun and fundraising!

For just £1 per rule, pupils can choose which rules they'd like to break:

- No home clothes or pyjamas
- No crazy hair
- No unhealthy break time snacks
- No squash in water bottles
- No make-up or face paint

Every pound raised will go directly towards supporting the school and funding exciting new projects and resources for the children.

Parents can pay on Classlist or bring card/cash to the school gates.

Let's see how many rules we can break together - and how much we can raise!

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AUTUMN Bake Sale

Date: 24th October
Time: at school pick up
Where: on the playground

We'd love your help to make our
Autumn Bake Sale a big success!
Please bring along any homemade or
shop-bought cakes, biscuits, or sweet
treats to donate at school pick up.
Every contribution, big or small,
makes a difference.

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE THEN
PLEASE RSVP ON CLASSLIST SO WE KNOW
HOW MANY TO EXPECT**

**BRING SOME MONEY (CARD OR CASH) AND
GRAB A TASTY TREAT!**

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PLAYGROUND GYM EQUIPMENT

We sadly had a bit of an accident in school recently, so it's appropriate to remind you that the gym equipment at the end of the playground (by the orchard) is not designed for our Keystage 1 children. During the school day, use of the equipment is reserved for KS2 children only and I have to ask that young children are kept away from the equipment at pick up time too please.

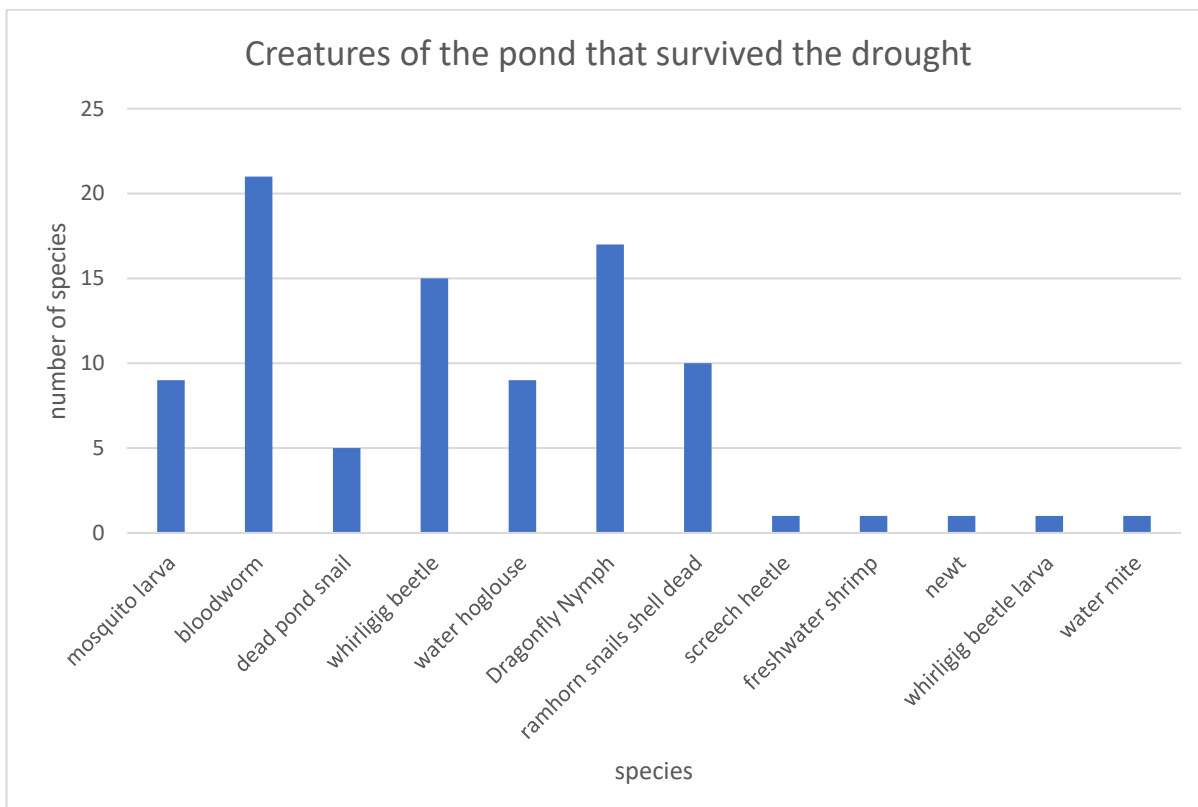
MEADOW MAINTAINERS - Update

You may remember, from our June newsletter, that the Year 5/6 children appealed for help to maintain our meadow and the surrounding areas to improve access along the path and to the pond. We were delighted when, over the summer a group of parents and volunteers, met up and worked hard to cut back, trim and clear these areas. They did a fantastic job and, last week, Year 5 noticed a huge difference when they went down to pond dip and minibeast hunt, so they wanted to say another thank you for this kindness.

Unfortunately, our pond dried out over the summer so Year 5 were keen to investigate "What has survived the drought?"

Our findings were more positive than we expected as the bar chart below, created by Jesse, shows. Year 5 children were initially excited to discover so many ramshorn and pond snails, but later realised that these were sadly empty shells that didn't survive. The number of dragonfly nymphs was encouraging though and, when more rain arrives, the signs are hopeful for a good recovery.

If you are interested in getting involved with our Meadow Maintainers action group, please contact the school.



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LEARNING IN ACTION



Year 5 surveying the species in our very low pond and woodland. They were delighted to find this tree-climbing toad!



Year 3 recalling their existing knowledge about money



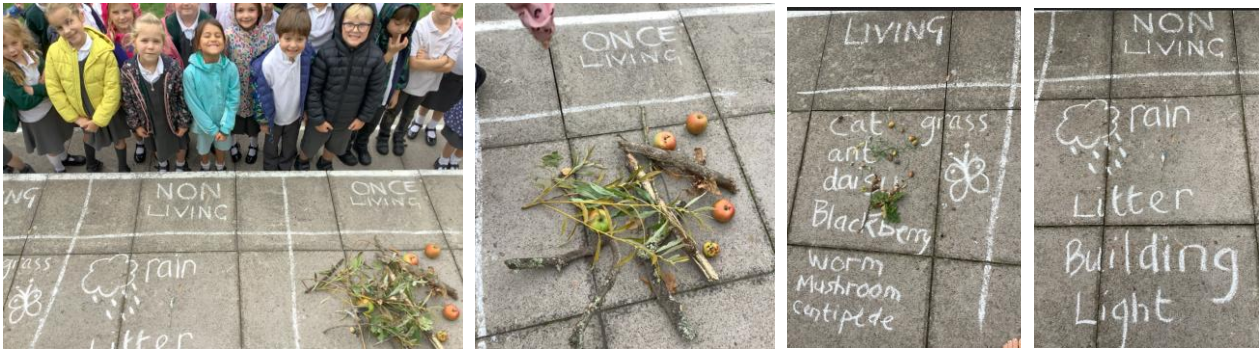
Year 3/4 reading aloud and editing their Barnabus creature non-chronological reports.

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Year 3/4 making Pictish stones



Year 2 exploring living, non-living and once living things in our school grounds.

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SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

It has come to our attention that some of our Year R children are talking about something called, "99 Nights in the Forest" and are saying they are scared. "99 Nights in the Forest" is a popular Roblox survival-horror game where players must survive for 99 days and nights in a forest to rescue missing children and defend their camp from creatures like a two-legged deer, cultists, and more powerful entities such as the Ram and the Owl.

Players need to manage their campfire, explore the forest for resources, craft items, hunt for food, and find loot. The game draws inspiration from a true story of children surviving in the Amazon and incorporates elements of the Wendigo myth.