

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

Thank you to the many, many families who filled the pews at St Matthew's Church last week for the school's annual Harvest Festival. It was a wonderful way to introduce the new vicar, Patrick, to the school and such a brilliant service delivered by our Worship Council. If you did attend, I hope you enjoyed the more upbeat Harvest songs, which included the school favourite 'Harvest Samba'. I thought the children were in great voice! I will be taking your very generous donations to the food bank this week – THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR KINDNESS.



We will be in church again for Remembrance in a few weeks' time, although the mood will somewhat more reflective. Following the whole school church service, the Year 6 children will visit the Otterbourne memorial as we pay our respects to the fallen, and you are most welcome to join us.

Kind regards

Mr Geraghty

Our Harvest Festival



New Parent Tours

We are coming to the end of our series of tours for parents looking for school places in September. If you know of anyone who might still be deciding, please let them know they can still register for tomorrow (Friday 17th) at 9:15am or Thursday 23rd at 2pm. We have also invited current parents with siblings starting in September 2026 to let us know about having a tour of the school, which we will put in the diary once we've gathered the feedback. Thanks to those of you who have responded already.

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Trip Focus: River Itchen

Last week, Year 5/6 children visited the River Itchen at Compton Lock to support their geography enquiry: Is the River Itchen unique? This trip was supported by The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Trust (HIWT) who shared their extensive knowledge of chalk stream habitats and ran a stream dipping activity to discover the range of species that live in the River Itchen. In addition to this, the children took a range of measurements to calculate both the depth and velocity of the river. It was an action-packed morning where the children were immersed in their learning and excited by all the discoveries they made. They were intrigued to see how popular the river is for dog walking, swimming and fishing and many members of the public and the HIWT commented on the children's superb listening and good manners. We look forward to welcoming the HIWT trust back into school in November for a further talk on the environmental challenges facing chalk streams, which will inspire their next English unit.



Hampshire Illustrated Book Awards

Last week, Year 5 children had the opportunity to contribute to the Hampshire Illustrated Book Awards by reviewing six different illustrated stories from well-known and new children's authors, which have been shortlisted by the School Library Service. The aim of the award is to promote enjoyment of reading, to develop children's visual literacy skills and critical abilities whilst drawing attention to the genre of picture books for older readers. The children worked together in groups and discussed their views on each book before voting. The children's two favourite books were 'The Café at the Edge of the Woods' by Mikey Please and 'The Wild' by Yuval Zommer.



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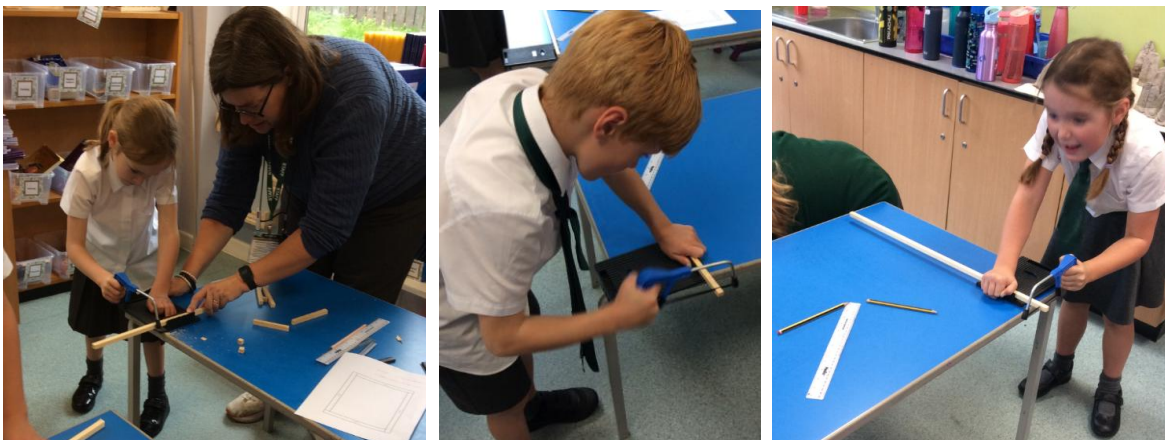
LEARNING IN ACTION PHOTOS



Squirrels class have been busy playing lots of counting games.



Hedgehogs Class competed in their own Strictly Come Dancing after being inspired by the story Giraffes Can't Dance.



Year 3/4 children have been learning how to use a saw safely to create picture frames.

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Year 3/4 children have started their longitudinal study exploring how many species can be found in our school grounds.



Year 5 children have been helping to judge the Hampshire Illustrated Book Award 2025



Year 5/6 have been developing their coding skills using Scratch to make choices and explore variables.

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Year 6 enjoyed the opportunity to draw rectangles on the desks to help them calculate area and perimeter.

Sporting News

The year 5/6 Girls football team played a league fixture against Western Primary School which ended 11-6 to the visitors. The girls played excellently and kept trying hard and encouraging each other right the way through the game. Well done! A special well done to Summer who scored a hattrick, as well as Evelyn and Layla chipping in with goals too.

FOS NEWS

The first meeting of the year is this evening, in school from 7pm. Please come along to learn more about what the FOS are doing to support the families and children with fun and fundraising throughout the year.

Our next FOS event...

Friday 24th October - Break the School Rules Day - including an after-school bake sale. Details are available on your FOS WhatsApp groups, and there is more information on the next page.

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Keeping safe this Halloween

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has published advice on How to keep children safe this Halloween. Here is their website introduction:

Halloween can be an exciting time of year for children, dressing up and going out after dark. But, whilst Halloween is supposed to be spooky there are some horrors that families will want to avoid. So, here are our top tips for a safe Halloween that you can remember for all the right reasons.

https://capt.org.uk/halloween/?utm_source=capt&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=presentsoct25&mc_cid=376a41f0ed&mc_eid=d72f37d350

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BREAK THE



RULES DAY



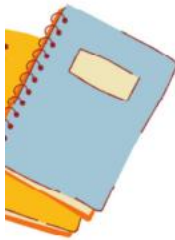
FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

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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KINGFISHERS
Colden Common Preschool

Scarecrow
Festival
Sunday 19th
October 2025
Drop in
10am-3pm



Family fun!

£5 per child
- includes
trail, arts
and crafts,
drink and a
biscuit

Also
available:
*Raffle
*Teddy
Tombola
*Sweet
treats

Starting at Colden Common Community
Centre, S021 1UU

PIC•COLLAGE

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Over 30yrs professional experience

SINGING & VOCAL COACHING

sessions with
Emily Hawkins

Unlock your child's
potential and discover
the joy of singing!

Learn to sing in a fun,
supportive, and
confidence-building
environment

- ★ Vocal control techniques
- ★ Confidence in singing
- ★ Technical skills
- ★ Strength & Range



Sessions to be held in The Owl
(the woodland lodge next to the school car park)

Small groups, up to 6 children, aged 6+
3.30pm-4.20pm Separate KS1 and KS2 groups
£45 per child, per half term

Contact Emily: 07504 450650 or Emily@singitback.co.uk
or the school office 01962 712020

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WINCHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Winchester Cathedral and
The Pilgrims' School

Saturday 15th November Be a Chorister

This fun event is open to any boy in years 2-4 who love to sing. No experience needed and choral scholarships available to attend The Pilgrims' School in Winchester, one of the UK's top prep schools.

Experience Day for boys age 6-9

Winchester Cathedral's Choral Scholarship offers a 40% reduction on school fees with additional bursaries available.



SCAN HERE

More Information

choirs@winchester-cathedral.com

winchester-cathedral.org.uk/choirs-music

01962 857200