

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER FROM FRIENDS OF OTTERBOURNE SCHOOL



OCTOBER NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,
Before we head into the October half term, here's a quick round-up of FOS news, recent fundraising, and upcoming events. Thank you for your continued support—have a lovely break!

PUB QUIZ SUCCESS!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the Big Parent Pub Quiz on 3rd October. It was a fantastic evening filled with laughs, friendly competition and some truly impressive (and at times questionable!) general knowledge. We loved seeing so many parents and staff come together for a good cause.

Congratulations to the winning team Otters Pocket and an honourable mention to The Boy Scouts who came last and proudly took home the wooden spoon. Also a big congratulations to Amareen who won our much coveted raffle prize of a box of chocolates!



We're delighted to share that the event raised £350 for the school. This money will go directly towards supporting upcoming projects and resources for our children and we have something big to share with you on this soon so watch this space...

Thank you to everyone who came along; to Debbie who helped behind the scenes, to the teachers for the fun questions and to Mr Geraghty for hosting the night in his spectacular sparkly jacket.



BEHIND THE SCENES OF FOS

We had our latest get together at school on 16th October, but before discussions could begin we were greeted by an unexpected visitor... a bat! Somehow it had made its way into the building, and despite our best efforts to usher it out, it kept swooping up and down the corridor. Thankfully, Emily had a bat expert on hand who managed to safely catch and release it in time for the children to return to school in the morning. Although I'm sure it would have



been great fun for them to have lessons with a bat flying overhead! Once we finally sat down, we discussed how much was raised from September 2024 to August 2025 (update below), what our funding priorities will be for the year ahead (we'll be sharing these with you very soon, so keep an eye on our newsletters), and all the events we have planned in the run-up to Christmas. Thanks to everyone who came along and shared their ideas.

FINANCIAL UPDATE



Now all the events for the last academic year have finished, and our Treasurer has counted up all the money they made, we can reveal we raised a staggering

£15,745!!

This is an incredible amount and we are so thankful and grateful to everyone who contributed towards this. There will be some big news coming soon on our funding priorities for this year but here's a breakdown of what FOS funded within the school last year.

WHAT'S COMING UP THIS YEAR

Autumn Term:

- **25th October** – the Autumn half term Treasure Hunt goes live so grab your maps and take the kids for a walk round the village in the search for some treasure
- **10th November** – the launch of our advent calendar raffle
- **14th November** – The school's first ever Laser Show and Glow Party night, tickets are live on classlist so don't forget to grab yours
- **5th December** – our very own Otterfest returns for its second year and we're hoping it will be even better than last year
- **12th December** – Secret Santa shop for the children, we'll be launching this soon.

Spring Term:

- **30th January** – Family Quiz Night
- **13th February** – Wear What You Love Day
- **13th March** – Wonder Woman shop
- **26th March** – Easter Egg Hunt

Summer Term:

- **16th May** – May Fayre
- **19th June** – Hero Shop
- Sports Day Disco (date tbc)

Please note dates may change so please use these as a guide and we'll keep you updated as we go through the year.



CAN YOU HELP?

Our events wouldn't be possible without the amazing support of parents and carers.

We're always looking for volunteers – whether it's helping to set up a stand, run a stall, serve refreshments, design posters, or simply lending a hand for half an hour, every little bit makes a huge difference. Please contact your class FOS rep to get involved or sign up to support a specific event on Classlist. You are also invited to our FOS catch up meetings. These are a great chance to share your ideas, advice and feedback, and to help shape what we do. Everyone is welcome – the more voices, the better! Dates of these will be shared throughout the year and happen every couple of months. No experience is needed, just enthusiasm!

Classlist is completely free to download and makes it really easy to:

- Hear about the latest FOS activities
- Read the information for each individual event so you have all the details
- Volunteer to help out in just a couple of taps
- Stay connected with other parents and the school community

This is a brand-new project we've been setting up to make communication smoother and to bring everyone together. We'd love as many parents as possible to join – the more of us there, the better it works!

Classlist is fully GDPR compliant, moderated and designed with privacy in mind. You can choose how much information you wish to share, there is no need to enter a phone number or home address but if you do enter them the FOS admin team will be seen by fellow class parents and the FOS administration. More information is available at www.classlist.com including the privacy notice.

Simply download Classlist from your app store, search for our school, and sign up today.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP TO CLASSLIST



MATCH FUNDING

Does your company offer match funding? If so, they could donate money to FOS at events you volunteer at – a simple way to double our fundraising! There are hundreds of companies that offer this and here's some examples:

- Abbey National
- Argos
- B&Q
- BAA
- Barclays
- BP
- British Army
- British Gas
- BAT
- Deloitte
- DHL
- Kingfisher
- KPMG
- RBS
- Southern Electric
- Tesco
- Vodafone
- PWC
- Thames Water

Please let your class rep know if your employer is able to help us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HOPE YOU HAVE A LOVELY HALF TERM BREAK.

Please look out for updates on whatsapp and social media. Thank you all for your support.





Join the adventure this
half term with our

Autumn Treasure Hunt

Hidden around Allbrook and Otterbourne are secret letters waiting to be discovered. Find them all using our special map and they will spell out a location with hidden treasure...



When: throughout half term from Saturday 25th October

Cost: £3 per map

How: maps will be emailed to you

Where: Start your search anywhere in the village and the letters will lead you to the treasure





OTTERBOURNE SCHOOL'S FIRST EVER

LASER SHOW & glow party

SNACKS | DRINKS | GLOW TOYS | MUSIC

Friday 14th
November

GATES OPEN FROM 6PM,
SHOW STARTS AT 7PM

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF LASERS, PARTYING AND FUN
ON THE SCHOOL MEADOW

TICKETS £6 EACH
KIDS 2 AND UNDER GO FREE

