

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

Finally, there is a little bit of brighter weather in the mornings, and much needed respite from the rain. It was good to see that the ground works from last year worked to take away most of the standing water, but with the amount that came down, the site didn't quite cope and I know it was an inconvenience for some. We are continuing to work with the property team at Hampshire to see what further improvements can be made for the future.

The spring term is well underway now and there are lots of great pieces of work coming to the office for me to see. The children really do like showing off their successes (and getting that shiny sticker) and it is lovely to see the pride written across their faces.

To support the classroom work the children are completing, we are constantly researching trips, visitors and other ways to enhance their learning. These 'enrichment' activities are proving to be more expensive compared to previous years as the transport costs have increased but we want the children to enjoy memorable experiences so, as much as it isn't always easy, I would ask you to come and speak to me if cost becomes a barrier to your children participating. We have a number of events lined up already and will continue to look for others, but if you think you have a skill or experience that would benefit the children, or you know someone else who does, I would really appreciate the opportunity to discuss how we might be able to collaborate. Thank you.

On the topic of experiences, the Year 4-6 children in the school choir are off to London next week for Young Voices 2024. If you are going to be in the audience, we will try to spot you...and I hope you enjoy the show. I've seen it as a parent already and it does have those goosebump moments that the event is famous for!

Best wishes for a great weekend.

Mr Geraghty

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!



We are looking forward to seeing the actors from M & M back in school on the 28th March for their version of Alice in Wonderland. These shows are really enjoyable and suitable for all ages. A voluntary contribution (£3) will be added to Scopay for this magical experience.



We would like to say THANK YOU to Mrs Asha for the gardening equipment donated to the school recently. We can't wait to get out and use it!

Crisp recycling...

Up until recently, we have always asked any of the children having a packed lunch to take everything home afterwards so that parents can see what has or hasn't been eaten. As an eco-aware school, we have changed this slightly recently and are now allowing children to leave their empty crisp packets at school. These are being collected and taken for recycling by the Eco-council. I need to give my thanks to the Eco Councillors for doing this for us.



HEALTHY EATING AT BREAK TIME.

This is always a difficult topic to raise as there is divided opinion. We all want children to eat healthily, but the main thing has to be that they are eating something to get them through the day. It would be remiss though to not mention that we are seeing a lot more crisps at breaktime and anything you can do to ensure the morning snack is a healthier option which would be appreciated. I know that many other schools are still asking for purely healthy options, and this is something that is hard to balance, so it is something I'm continuing to keep an eye on, and we still ask that children don't come to school with sweets or chocolate for break time. Thank you.

SOMETHING WE ARE HAVING TO TACKLE...

From time to time, we see certain spikes in terms of how the children (and I don't include all children in this) are playing. It's hard to say where these things come from and no doubt it can often be down to children simply copying each other.

At the moment, we are having to remind a lot of the children about 'hands-off' play as there is a noticeable increase in the number of children pulling at clothes, especially hoods, and sometimes with great force, which can easily hurt or upset others.

We are going to be focusing on this for a while and ensure there are more 'toys' out for the younger children to play with at breaktime, but please help by talking to your children about the rules at break and lunchtimes.

Thank you

FOS QUIZ NIGHT

8th March 2024

!! SAVE THE DATE !!

Join us for our first ever...

JIGSAW FESTIVAL

1 - 4pm, Saturday 10th February
St Matthew's Church, Otterbourne

We have an incredible collection of puzzles available to
buy, ranging from 500 to 3,000 pieces!
Along with refreshments, competitions
& kids' activities. **£1 entry, children free.**



St Matthew's
Otterbourne

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