

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Well, that was a bit of a marathon half-term to get the year underway, so I have to start by saying well done to everyone for keeping going, staying positive and pushing through...parents and staff as well as the children! It's been a great half-term though - from the first week, when the children came back to school with great enthusiasm and an exceptional readiness to learn, to the last day where we all have the chance to break the rules (just a little bit) and enjoy the day before heading in to a well-earned break. Whatever you are doing this half-term, I hope the children have a chance to rest and recharge, and if you are in the village, there is always the FOS Autumn Treasure Hunt available to enjoy if you are looking for something else to do and want to help support the school.

When we get back from half-term we will be looking forward to the new lights and lasers show. This is replacing the annual fireworks display – something which is fast becoming a thing of the past now! The new event is far more animal-friendly but promises to be just as spectacular. If you are still wondering whether to come along and join us for the evening, please take a look at this short video which shows just a little bit of what you can expect:

<https://youtu.be/DeNom4pEfcg>

I look forward to seeing you all on the other side of the holidays!

Best wishes

Mr Geraghty

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

Jewellery in School

Can you please help us to keep children safe, and reduce the risk of upset when things get lost, by ensuring children aren't coming to school wearing rings or necklaces, and ensuring earrings are of the stud style only. Thank you.

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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

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR ANYONE VISITING THE SCHOOL

To ensure safety for all, I need to ask everyone visiting the school to follow our safeguarding procedures.

Parents - and any other friends or relatives who are part of the school routine – needing to access the school must always do so via reception where visitors must sign in. This includes everyone who enters school. If children are being collected from the Holt, this needs to be via the outside Holt door please.

If there is a reason to need to speak to a teacher, please arrange this with the school office as there is no guarantee that teachers will be available after school and it isn't right for them to be asked for a meeting without some notice or time to prepare. Please do not go directly to classrooms, either from inside or from outside after school. We will always want to work with you to support the children, but please help me to support staff wellbeing by making an appointment first.

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Wrens Worship

On Friday, Wrens led our first class worship of the year in St Matthew's Church. They delivered a very strong message about 'Belonging to a team' and they did so proudly with clear voices to an audience of children and parents. Well done Wrens!



Shoebbox Appeal – Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to all our amazing families for supporting this year's Shoebbox Appeal. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, we filled **40 shoeboxes** with toys, crafts, and other thoughtful gifts for disadvantaged children around the world. What a wonderful example of our community spirit in action! – *Community Council*



Preparing for Remembrance

We are all incredibly proud of William for wanting to help other members of the local community as they, with his help, prepared the war memorial for this year's Remembrance Service.

Well done William!

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Reasons for Absence

Please can you report absence each day using option 1 on the main school line. It is very important that we record reasons for absence as we may need to report it to the Public Health or increase cleaning in particular areas of the school. We always need to follow-up on messages that say children are 'unwell' or 'not 100%' as this isn't enough information for our absence records and doesn't give us enough information to further support the rest of the school effectively.

Celebrating Our Learning

We love celebrating children's hard work by sharing their achievements across classes. This week, pupils from Hedgehog Class visited Year 5/6 to showcase their stunning portrait artwork. Here is Rupert proudly sharing his beautiful creation with the Buzzards!



Happy Diwali!

Emali from Buzzard Class kindly brought in gifts for her classmates to celebrate Diwali, which took place on the 20th of October. We'd like to wish our entire school community a **very Happy Diwali!** We hope you all enjoyed a joyful and colourful weekend of celebration.



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Eco-Council Class Trees

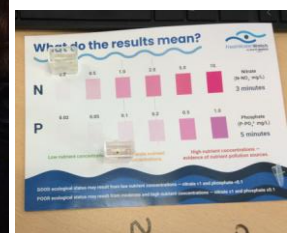
In church on Friday, Eco-Council presented a tree/ bush for each class to care for over the winter months. When the saplings grow large enough, Eco-Council will plant them in our school grounds. A representative from each class carefully carried them back to school where they were watered and given a safe place outside the classroom to grow.



LEARNING IN ACTION



Year 5/6 enjoyed another opportunity to carry out their longitudinal study into birds that visit our school grounds over the year. There was much excitement to discover buzzards, robins and black-headed gulls this time.



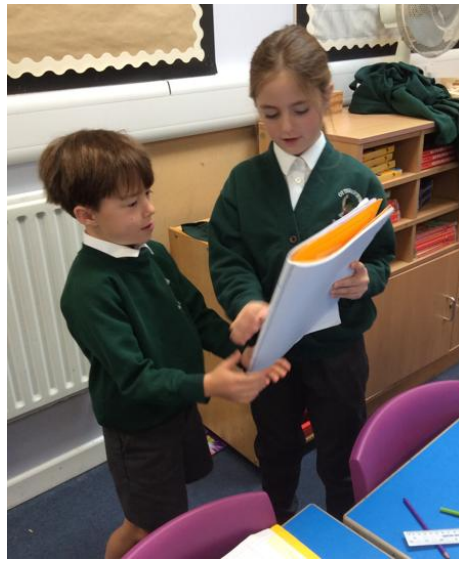
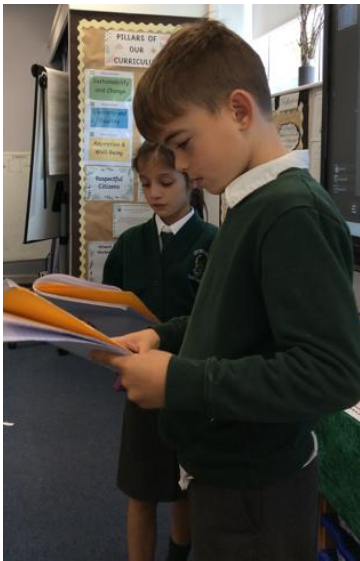
Meanwhile, Y3/4 children ventured down to see the species living in the pond and to test the water quality. It is still very low!

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Year 5 have learnt about the best equipment to use for tackling different measuring tasks.



Year 3/4 children have been writing and performing their poems to the class.



Year 1 children have been developing their muscles to music in PE

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Y3/4 children at a hockey tournament on Tuesday. They played 3 games and won 3-0, drew 1-1, and won 1-0



Year R children developing their fine motor skills as they come into school and in their classroom, and a few Otter children who have been learning about the changing seasons and finding signs of Autumn in the school grounds.



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Otterfest Winter Clothing Swap Shop

Community Council are bringing back our swap shop this year! Last year was a HUGE success. Not only did we raise money for our school but we donated a whopping 10 bags of high-quality clothing to Emmaus Winchester, who were thrilled to receive the donations.

We are now collecting items and donations of good quality, clean winter clothing can be brought in to school any time between now and Monday 1st December so please have a rummage in half term! The swap shop will take place as part of OtterFest this year, where you will be able to take home what you need (for a small donation to the school if you wish). We love the sustainable message this gives to our children about reusing and recycling, but also the different it makes in our community.

If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Simpson.

OTTERBOURNE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL'S

Winter Swap Shop

@ OTTERFEST 2025

WE ARE COLLECTING DONATIONS OF:

- COATS**
- JUMPERS**
- GLOVES**
- HATS**
- BOOTS**
- WATERPROOFS**

IN ALL SIZES

SWAP DON'T SHOP!

PLEASE BRING YOUR ITEMS TO SCHOOL BY

MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER

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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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Half-Term Events at P&G Wells Bookshop

October half term events at P&G Wells

Half term is creeping up on us, but don't be scared - if you're looking for FREE fun events in the holidays, we have something on every day! Do [take a look at our line-up](#), drop in for a story or a craft activity, and if you're coming to any of our author events, please do book in advance at [our website](#) to help us plan.

We're so looking forward to all these events; alongside relaxed drop-in stories and crafts, we have a 'choose-your-own-adventure' game with author [Emily Hawkins](#); madcap Hallowe'en hilarity from the world of Betty Steady with author [Nicky Smith-Dale](#); and a special bring-your-own-bear storytime with author [Lu Fraser](#).

25 October – 2 November

Saturday 2:00-3:00pm: Hallowe'en storytime and activities

Sunday 11:30-12:00 & 1:30-2:00pm: Hallowe'en storytime and activities

Monday 2:00-3:00pm: Hallowe'en storytime and activities

Tuesday 2:00pm: Spooky story for ages 9+

Wednesday 2:00-3:00pm: Hallowe'en storytime and activities

Thursday 30 October

10:30-11:30: **Author event: 'Spin to Survive' play-along with Emily Hawkins ***

2:00-3:00pm: Hallowe'en storytime and activities

Friday 31 October

10:00-11:00: **Author event: Betty Steady at Hallowe'en with Nicky Smith-Dale ***

Saturday 1 November

10:30-11:30: **Author event: 'The Forever Bear' storytime with Lu Fraser ***

2:00-3:00pm: Storytime and activities

Sunday 11:30-12:00 & 1:30-2:00pm: Storytime

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KEEPING
EVERYONE
UPDATED

Everyone Active Newsletter
Winchester Sport and Leisure Park



Welcome to the Everyone Active October Newsletter!

We hope you have had a good start to the School Year and are excited to let you know about what is going on in our centre in the coming weeks.

- Halloween Activities
- Swimming Lessons
- Membership Offers

Haunted Activities for Halloween Half Term:

Spooky Active Antz

Enjoy our under 5 activity sessions with a spooky twist

Saturday 25th at 10:15, 11:15 and 12:15

Monday 27th at 9:15, 10:15, 11:15 and 12:15

Wednesday 29th at 9:15 and 10:15

Friday 31st 9:15, 10:15, 11:15 and 12:15

Cursed Climbing

We have climbing sessions on Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday- try to avoid the creepy crawlies!

The Latest News from Everyone Active

Issue : October 2025

everyone
ACTIVE

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Swimming Lessons

New Spaces Available Now!

We offer swimming lessons from 4 months old to advanced adults and all abilities inbetween.

Benefits of joining our Swimming Lessons:

- Anytime Public Swimming all year round
- 6 Months free Kids Pass
- Start at any time throughout the year
- Track your Progress through our app
- Badges, Hats and Certificates

If you'd like to know more, contact our memberships team at:

winchestersportparkma@everyoneactive.com

Crash Courses 27th and 28th

September 2025:

We are offering 2-day booster crash courses this half term. You can book this course with our reception team – call 01962 848700 and hold.

Stage 1: 11:30

Stage 2: 11:00

Stage 3: 10:30

Stage 4: 10:00



Membership

We offer a variety of monthly and annual membership options to suit everyone.

- **Move+ membership:**
Unlimited gym, swimming and group exercise class
- **You+ membership:**
As above, PLUS – Health Hero, Guest passes, quarterly wellness coaching & PT and nutritional support
- **You+ Ultimate membership:**
As above, PLUS – Unlimited Squash as well as access to EA sites with Fortis, Hot yoga & Spa's
- **Other memberships;** swim only and junior 11-17 years for gym/swim.

Currently Joining Fee and 2 months free on selected memberships in centre!

Offer expires 31st October 2025

Contact the team on 01962 848700, opt 1 or winchestersportparkma@everyoneactive.com

Winchester Sport and Leisure Park

Bar End Road,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
SO23 9NR

T: 01962 848700

W: www.everyoneactive.com/centre/winchester-sport-leisure-park/

The Latest News from Everyone Active

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Supporting a Child with ADHD



Challenge the stereotypes and get practical help

Monday 13th October 10-11:30am

Tuesday 11th November 7-8:30pm

90 minute session. Recording available for 48hrs

£24.

Available to book now
facefamilyadvice.co.uk

