

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

Well, what a bright and cheery sight your children were as they came through the gate this morning...and what a miserable day to need such a dazzling, glowing start! If you are joining us for the laser show this evening, you will no doubt have been keeping an eye on the weather. We are still going ahead, so please wrap up warm and we look forward to seeing you there - hopefully we will have a few photos to share in the next newsletter.

By contrast, the start of the week carried a different mood, and I have to share with you that the respect shown by all of the children as we held our Act of Remembrance at St. Matthew's Church was exceptional. I was incredibly proud of them for their understanding of the significance of the occasions and the way that they conducted themselves. If you are walking past the church and the memorial, you will be able to see the individual poppies with messages from the children, for as long as the weather will allow!

Kind regards

Mr Geraghty

Picking up from The Holt

We had a near-miss in the car park recently, at The Holt pick-up time. If you are arriving unavoidably late, please let the team know as we would rather everyone gets home safely. Please note that the car park isn't particularly well lit at night.

Remembrance Service



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Keeping up-to-date on social media

Our wonderful FOS team are currently working very hard on our forthcoming events and activities, including the Laser Show and Glow Festival this Friday, Otterfest (December 5th) and the Advent Raffle. To keep up-to-date with events and fundraising initiatives that support the school, please follow their Facebook and Instagram pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofOtterbourneSchool>

<https://www.instagram.com/friendsofotterbourneschool/>

Trip Focus: Otterbourne Play Park

Hedgehog Class became park surveyors on Thursday 7th November when they visited Oakwood Recreation Park to carry out geography fieldwork to investigate how safe, clean and enjoyable the park is to its visitors. As part of their fieldwork, they spoke politely to adults to find out their views about what they liked and what could be improved. They also carried out a litter survey and checked the location of the bins. The highlight, of course, was trying out the equipment itself and checking it was all safe! The children will now evaluate their findings and create a map with their recommended improvements.



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Outdoor Learning Day

We are so lucky to be blessed with incredible school grounds and Thursday last week was outdoor learning day, which meant we were able to spend more time learning outdoors than normal. It was very busy on our playground, in our woods and field as children were hunting and investigating. There was lots of measuring and fractions problem solving going on in maths, performing outdoors in English and bird watching and lichen hunting in science.



LEARNING IN ACTION PHOTOS



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During outdoor learning day, Year 3/4 went to investigate how many different types of lichen they could find in our school grounds. They were able to identify a range of varieties, including pollution sensitive ones and could conclude that we have very good air quality in our school grounds.



Year 3/4 have been learning all about the digestive system and were set the challenge of creating it outdoors using objects from the classroom. Didn't they do a great job!



Squirrel class have been collecting and testing acorns in order to find out which would be best to plant.

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Otter class have been learning about festivals of light including fireworks night and Diwali. They have had a wonderful time exploring the bonfire role play area where they have dressed up safely to play with the sparklers they have made. They have also constructed bonfires of their own and investigated light made by torches.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK ACTIVITIES

WEAR BLUE TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR WORLD DIABETES WEEK!

The children looked fantastic in their blue accessories on Thursday to raise awareness for diabetes week.



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MORE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

We are really pleased that we are next on Hampshire's schedule for upgrading the children's toilets across the school. There will be some internal disruption, but there is a good plan in place, ahead of the works that are scheduled to start on Wednesday 19th for up to 6 weeks.

Part of the upgrade is to install low-noise, energy efficient hand-dryers. We are aware that some children might find the change in routine to be challenging, and for some children, we will need an alternative to hand-dryers. If you haven't shared your concerns with us already, please do email the school on admin@otterbourne.hants.sch.uk

England Rocks – Times Table Rockstars Event

Next week (18th to 20th November), our pupils are able to take part in **England Rocks**, a national Times Table Rock Stars competition! The challenge encourages children across the country to practise their times tables in a fun, fast-paced, and competitive way. By playing regularly, pupils not only improve their recall speed but also build confidence in their maths skills which essential for success in all areas of the subject. Please encourage your children to join in at home!

How does it work?

Learners will try to answer as many multiplication and division questions correctly as they can. The winning school and class will be based on the highest average number of correct answers per pupil.

Rules:

1. Every correct answer that a student gives, in any game type, between the hours of 7:30am GMT to 7:30pm GMT each day will contribute to their class and school score.
2. There is a 60-minute limit playtime per player, per day.
3. Each class has a minimum player count of 10. If fewer than 10 in the class play in the competition, their total will be divided by 10 regardless.

EVENT DETAILS	
START DATE:	November 18th 2025
END DATE:	November 20th 2025
TIME:	Daily 7:30am to 7:30pm
LOCATION:	England
DAILY CAP:	1 hour per player

DAILY LIVE COMPETITION UPDATES ON YouTube

SAFEGUARDING FOR PARENTS

We are all aware of the challenges associated with the safe use of IT, and how easy it is for children to quickly see things that we might not want them to. Two things that we are very aware of at the moment are that some of the YouTube videos that first appear to be safe for children then move into different content in a seamless way. We will keep you informed of anything specific that we hear about within our community – and we would appreciate your sharing anything you are worried about at home! The second thing we are noticing more of is the upset that '99 nights in the forest' is causing to some of our children, so we just wanted to let you know that this is something to be more aware of at homes. Thank you!

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Hampshire Santa Letter – FOS Fundraiser

The Hampshire Santa Letter is Back! The Hampshire Santa writes personalised letters and certificates to children for them to open on Christmas Day. It was a scheme FOS supported last year and it's being run again this year.

Order by midday on 5th December to get yours in time for Christmas. They will be delivered to the school office in plain envelopes for you to collect. For every order made FOS will receive 20% back as a donation.

For an individual child:

Santa Letter - £8 With a 'nice list' certificate - £10.50 For siblings (up to 3 children): Santa Letter - £10

With a 'nice list' certificate - £12.50

To place orders, and to find out more, please visit

<https://thehampshiresanta.my.canva.site/order>

The Hampshire Santa

***20% back on every letter purchased!**

FUNDRAISING FOR HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY SCHOOLS*!

PERSONALISED CHRISTMAS LETTERS AND CERTIFICATES FROM SANTA - DELIVERED TO YOUR SCHOOL!

ORDER BY MIDDAY 5TH DECEMBER!

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FRIENDS OF OTTERBOURNE SCHOOL

Advent Raffle 2025

Support our school and win amazing prizes!

A new prize revealed each school day in December, with winners announced on Classlist.

Buy as many tickets as you like before 12pm on 28th November.

First draw: 1st December.

Good luck!

TICKETS - £5 EACH
AVAILABLE ON CLASSLIST

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OTTERBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRESENTS OUR FIRST EVER

LASER SHOW & glow party

SNACKS | DRINKS | GLOW TOYS | MUSIC

Friday 14th
November

GATES OPEN AT 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



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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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R&R
SPORTS COURSES

Rewarding & Inspiring



MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER & TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER
NEW TIMES 8.30AM - 4.30PM EACH DAY

Christmas Sports Courses

HALTERWORTH SCHOOL,
ROMSEY, SO51 9AD

🏈 MULTI SPORTS & ⚽ FOOTBALL COURSE

HILTINGBURY INFANT SCHOOL,
CHANDLERS FORD, SO53 5NP

🏈 MULTI SPORTS COURSE

OTTERBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL,
OTTERBOURNE, SO21 2EQ

⚽ FOOTBALL ONLY COURSE

1 DAY
£25

2 DAY
£43

*sibling
discount
10%

BOYS & GIRLS YEAR R TO YEAR 6 | CLOSING DATE THURSDAY BEFORE THE COURSES START

R&R SPORTS BIRTHDAY PARTIES
WE COME TO YOU AND DELIVER A PARTY TAILORED
EXACTLY TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

Please contact R&R sports for more info or to make a booking.

*10% sibling discount is applied for the second or third child from the same family.
To book a place or for more information please contact R&R Sports on
T: 07515 881 574 or E: info@randrsportscourses.co.uk



Follow us @R&R Sports

1-2-1 sports coaching

Interested in private one to one coaching for your child? Please contact us