

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



*** COMING UP NEXT: OTTERFEST on FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER ***

Dear Families

You will be aware that work is underway at the school to upgrade the children's toilets, which is part of a Hampshire-wide improvement plan for older schools. Having such work completed in term-time isn't ideal but this is out of our control, and we have done everything we can to minimise disruption for the children. Please do let me know if you have encountered any problems with this.

The weather has taken a turn for the worst now, and not every child was prepared for the cold-snap that we saw earlier this week. Please make sure children come to school with a coat suitable for very cold weather and gloves, hats and scarves if possible. We had many children in school without any protection from the weather and don't want to have to keep children indoors at break times for this reason if we can avoid it. Thank you!

Kind regards

Mr Geraghty

GOOD NEWS

Miss Whitbread, our SENDCo and one of the teachers in Wren Class, will be away from school for maternity leave some time in the Spring Term for up to a year. We are all very excited for her and her partner Josh, but the school will feel very strange in her absence. It's still a bit of a way off at the moment, but the children are starting to ask questions so we wanted to let you know the wonderful news. We already have plans in place to cover Miss Whitbread's responsibilities and will be contacting families who are supported by her directly over the coming weeks. I am sure you will want to join me in congratulating Miss Whitbread and Josh on their good news.

In case you missed it, our Sports Council, supported by Mr O'Dowd, are bringing back our always fun (and always muddy!) 'Cross Country Week' next week - beginning Monday 24th November. This all takes place at lunch time each day and children will need their PE kits (trainers, shorts/leggings, t-shirt and a jumper) in school next week. It might be a good idea to send your child with things you don't mind being a bit muddy too please.

Monday is the KS2 competitive run for anyone from Year 3-6 who would like to 'try out' to represent the school at a cross country event against other schools. Then the participation races are diarised as follows: Tuesday - Year 3/4, Wednesday - Year 1/2, Thursday - Year 5/6, Friday - Year R and Buddies

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Author Visit

Year 5/6 had a very exciting visit from the Crookhaven author, J.J. Arcanjo, this week at the Otterbourne Village Hall. Children from Scantabout and Compton Primary School also joined us for this fantastic event where we were given an insight into Joel's journey to becoming an author of a series about a school for thieves, which is set to become a BBC series in the new year. The children asked some fantastic questions and can't wait to start reading their signed copies of his books. We would like to say special thank you to Charles Oldham who gave up his time to help set up the technical equipment in the village hall for this event and to The Village Hall for helping us with the venue.



Lights and Laser Show

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Lights and Laser Show last Friday; it was great to see so many people attending and making our school glow! An extra special thank you to all the volunteers that gave up their time to make it such a success...



...and to Clancy for their generous donation of 'Marshall' jackets (and the big light) which helped keep everyone safe on the night.



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Be Bright, Be Seen



Continuing on the theme of all things bright, our JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers) had a dazzling job deciding on who were the brightest children in our school on Friday and who had designed the brightest helmets. Prizes and certificates were awarded in church and this event highlighted the importance to all of us of being seen during the darkening days. Well done to all who took part.



Robin Class Worship

Robin Class led a thought-provoking worship in the church on Friday and delivered a wonderful message around the importance of 'giving'. All of the children in Robin Class delivered their lines confidently and with clarity. Well done Robins!

The 'Buddy Bench'

I recently shared with you that Mrs Graveling had generously donated a 'Buddy Bench' to the school. Well here it is in all its glory being used by, who else, but Buddies from Year R and Year 6. It is such a wonderful addition to our playground and we are incredibly grateful for this kind gift, which is used regularly by the children.



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LEARNING IN ACTION PHOTOS



Year 6 children took to the roads on their bikes last week when they undertook their Bikeability training, where they learnt how to ride safely to school.



Hedgehog Class have been busy making apple crumble in their design technology lessons.



Otter Class have been learning all about hedgehogs this week and in their Forest Schools session they have been looking for places that hedgehogs might hibernate and beginning to make warm, cosy nests using leaves a

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This week the Y5/6 boys football team played and won against Knightwood Primary School. In our collective worship on Tuesday, we talked about our Christian value of humility and one of the team members were commended for showing fantastic humility towards the other team. Great work boys!



Classlist

Have you joined Classlist yet?

The Classlist app is a new way to keep everyone up to date with all things FOS... and we're thrilled to let you know that our school is now registered with the Classlist app!

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 recent project 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. 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.

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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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Otterfest is coming!

In exchange for a non school uniform day on Friday 5th December, we would really appreciate the following donations please. Thank you for your continued support!

Key Stage 1 - Chocolate raffle donations



Key Stage 2 - Bottle Tombola raffle donations



Please drop off in the School hall on the day!

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Friends of Otterbourne School present

Otterfest

5th December 3:45 pm-6 pm

Come along to our indoor
Christmas Fair

SANTA'S GROTTTO

FESTIVE STALLS

WINTER SWAP SHOP

MULLED WINE

CAROL SINGING

PIZZA & MUCH MORE!



Book Santa's
Grotto on Classlist

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SECRET SANTA

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER

Let your child experience the joy of giving this Christmas!

Children will visit our Secret Santa Shop during school time to choose a special gift for someone they love – all beautifully wrapped and ready to surprise.

Each gift costs £3, and you can purchase as many as you like.

Please pay on Classlist by **8pm on Thursday 11th December**, stating how many tickets you need, your child(ren)'s name, and their class.

We'll send labels home the week before. Please return them filled in on the day, along with a bag for your child to carry their gift.

£3 PER TICKET ● TICKETS AVAILABLE ON CLASSLIST

**BRING NAME LABELS AND A
CARRIER BAG ON THE DAY!**



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Celebrate the joy of Christmas!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Meet Santa in his grotto and shop our festive local market

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
12 - 3PM. OTTERBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

ADMISSION: ADULTS £1, CHILDREN FREE

SANTA'S GROTTTO, MARKET, BOTTLE & CHOCOLATE TOMBOLAS, RAFFLE, CANDLE MAKING, KIDS' GAMES, FESTIVE FACE PAINTS, HOT DRINKS, HOT FOOD, AND CAKES GALORE!

St Matthew's
Otterbourne

WWW.CHOBENEFICE.CO.UK

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 **Merry Christmas!** 

December Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Decreasing Depression	1 DEC 10am
Raising Self Esteem	1 DEC 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	2 DEC 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	2 DEC 7pm
Autism - Improving Communication	8 DEC 10am
Improving Family Communication	8 DEC 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	9 DEC 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 DEC 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	15 DEC 10am
Understanding Anger	15 DEC 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 DEC 10am
Facing Defiance	16 DEC 7pm

Please remember that we have school membership for FACE. Please ask for details.