

# THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



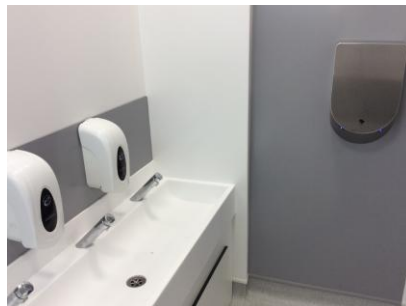
Despite the cold start to the term, your children have settled back in to school incredibly well and I have already been visited by many children who have proudly shown me their work.

The school is almost back to normal following the works that have been carried out (more of that below) but you will have noticed that the outside cladding has taken a little longer than planned. This is because the contractors found hibernating bats inside our boiler room, and we had to work alongside Hampshire's ecology team to ensure that the work can be completed whilst ensuring the bats are protected. It's very exciting, but equally not something that we have openly shared with the children as we can't compromise the bat's habitat in any way.

Kind regards

Mr Geraghty

## Happy Toilet Campaign



Last half-term, the KS1 toilets were completely refurbished and the KS2 toilets had new sinks fitted. As part of this, our Children's Council wanted to teach the children in school how to treat the toilets respectfully, so they created the Happy Toilet Campaign with the slogan: 'Make the toilets glad, not sad'. They created posters, models, stories, a mock interview (with the toilets) and acted out a short play to show the children how to best look after the toilets. This builds on the work our Children's Council did in the summer term when they researched and selected the hand dryers based on noise levels, cost, efficiency and sustainability. It was wonderful for the children in that council to see the hand dryers they had selected in the summer being installed in KS1 and they will be coming to KS2 soon, which will further reduce our need to purchase paper towels and allow us to be more sustainable as a school.

## Mission of the Month

Before Christmas, a certificate was awarded to a child in each class who had demonstrated the positive learning power of 'reflectiveness'. The focus for January is now Active Listening, and the Learning Council have created child-friendly wording to help everyone understand this month's mission:

### KS1 Active Listening:

Looking at the person talking to understand what they are saying.

Asking questions that link to what they said.



### KS2 Active Listening:

Looking at the person talking and giving your full attention so that you can learn from them.

Respond to, build and challenge the thoughts of others respectfully to explore new ideas.



Children in our Learning Council create an image to support children's understanding of each month's Positive Learning Power. This month's fantastic design was created by Gaby Bowman in Year 6.

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## LEARNING IN ACTION PHOTOS



Year 5/6 children have been creating freeze frames to explore show/not tell emotions in English linked to their class text 'Wolf Brother' by Michelle Paver.



Year 3/4 children have been creating food chains in science.



Year 6 children have been drawing bar models on the tables in maths to help them understand how to calculate percentages of amounts.



Year 1 children have been learning how to use an atlas to identify the continents of the world.

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Year R children have been exploring lots of areas of maths this week including ordering shoe sizes, using lolly sticks to make the shapes of houses, using numicon pieces to represent numbers and learning how zero can be represented.



What a cold week it has been – perfect for exploring snow and ice!



The children have been keen to discover that our pond is back to its normal levels and looked very beautiful this week covered in frost and snow.

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## NEXT FOS CATCH UP 15TH JANUARY 2026

Our next FoS catch-up will take place on 15th January at 7:30pm at The White Horse. All parents are very welcome to join us — we'd love to hear your ideas and feedback. No pressure to volunteer, just come along and be part of the conversation.

**We Need Your Help!**

### 'Be Happy, Be Healthy' 2026

We would love to hear from any parents, carers or family members who might be willing to come in and talk to the children. This could be linked to:

- Physical or mental wellbeing
- Careers related to health, fitness, safety or care
- Neurodiversity or disability awareness
- Or any aspect of living a safe, healthy or happy life

In previous years we have welcomed personal trainers, yoga instructors, doctors, dentists, artists, mental health advocates, first aiders, lifeguards, fire and police services, road safety teams and parents sharing lived experiences including around neurodiversity. Truly, anything goes if it helps our children broaden their understanding of how to look after themselves and others.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in contributing, please get in touch. Even short/online sessions/prerecorded sessions can make a huge difference.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mrs Simpson

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## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

### Roblox Security Changes - South West Grid for Learning

The introduction of the Online Safety Bill earlier this year has brought welcome controls over what we and our children can access online. As internet speeds have increased and the digital world has expanded, the ability for anyone of any age to reach almost any content has grown at a pace far beyond our capacity to safeguard against it. The risks have become unmistakable. Adults now face increasingly sophisticated attacks from hackers and scammers, while children remain acutely vulnerable to online predators.

Although some internet services initially resisted tighter regulation, the government's commitment to reducing online harms has ultimately prevailed. For children, one of the most persistent avenues for predatory behaviour has been online video games. These are spaces where young users gather, communicate, and interact, often with limited verification or oversight.

Roblox, a platform widely associated with younger players, is now beginning to address this by introducing facial analysis age checks and optional ID verification for users over 13. These real-world verification measures are designed to confirm a user's age more accurately and to restrict interactions that could place children at risk. In practice, they signal an important shift in how major platforms are starting to manage online safety and respond to the expectations set out in the Bill.

You can read more about these checks on the SWGfL website:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/roblox-announces-facial-age-checks-for-chat-features/>