

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

What a healthy and happy week we have had here in the school! With a focus on wellbeing, healthy eating and different ways to look after ourselves, plus a little bit of scootering on the playground, the children are hopefully ending the half-term in a very positive way – despite the rain!

My thanks have to firstly go to Mrs Simpson for co-ordinating our 'Be Happy, Be Healthy' week, and making it so rich and varied, and to Mrs Simmons who organised today's engaging carousel of outdoor wellbeing activities that were led brilliantly by some of our Year 6 children. None of this would have been possible, of course, without the help and support of our parents and visitors who kindly gave up their time to talk to the children. THANK YOU!

There is more on this later in the newsletter.

I hope that you enjoy the half-term break when it arrives. Our Christian Value this term has been 'Hope' and I'm sure we are all *hoping* for a little more sunshine.

Kind regards

Mr Geraghty

Uniform expectations reminder

In order to maintain a strong sense of identity and belonging, we ask all pupils to adhere to the uniform policy. There are days in the year (such as today) where we relax this so that the children can enjoy wearing their own clothes but at other times there is an expectation that children come to school in full uniform. At the moment, we are seeing a new 'fashion' of the older children wearing branded sports leggings and white branded sports socks. This isn't part of our policy and we will be talking to children directly about it so that they understand what they need to change. Please support us in this by talking it through over the half-term holidays. If you do need new items of uniform, please check with us first as there is a good supply of pre-loved uniform available.

The school uniform includes plain black, white or grey socks and grey, black or bottle-green tights. Socks and tights should not include logos such as Nike emblems and socks of a different colour should not be worn over tights/leggings.

Please can we also remind you that, for safety reasons, wearing any type of jewellery is discouraged and earrings should only be stud. Due to health and safety reasons, all long hair should be tied back and, where accessories are worn, these should be in school uniform colours. We appreciate your support with this.

Fidget Toys and Rubik's Cubes

We have seen a number of Rubik's Cubes and 'Fidget Toys' coming into lessons which have been brought in from home. Please can we remind you that any Fidget Tools are to be agreed by the SENCo and to be provided by school, not home. Many thanks for your support.

Trip Focus: Hedgehog Class visit the Sea City Museum

To support their learning in history and English, Year 2 took a step back in time when they visited the Sea City Museum last Thursday and stepped aboard the Titanic. They discovered incredible real-life Titanic tales before doing a range of exciting and engaging hands-on activities including dressing-up and handling a range of objects. I was delighted to hear some feedback from the venue, who said that our young Hedgehogs were a curious and delightful group of children, who were 'a credit to the school'. What a lovely thing to hear!



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More about “Be Happy, Be Healthy Week “ by Mrs Simpson

This week has been a truly special and important one in our school as we focused on raising awareness of both mental and physical health. Wellbeing is one of our core school pillars and it is carefully woven throughout our curriculum and how we support the children’s personal development.

Throughout the week, our children from Year R to Year 6 have taken part in a wide range of workshops and activities, all designed to raise awareness of the importance of mental and physical health. These experiences have been thoughtfully planned to support this key pillar, ensuring that our children understand not only how to stay physically healthy, but also how to look after their minds and wellbeing.

We have, once again, been so fortunate to welcome many generous volunteers who gave their time to speak with the children about a variety of topics, sharing expertise, experiences and practical advice. The children listened carefully, asked thoughtful questions and showed genuine curiosity and maturity throughout the week.

I am particularly proud of our JRSOs who led fantastic scooter safety sessions for KS1 and Years 3 and 4. It was wonderful to see such leadership and responsibility in action. Meanwhile, Mrs Barham helped to organise a secret staff wellbeing project with the children in Wellbeing Council which was a lovely surprise for our school staff.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped make this week such a success:

- Mrs Purvis – Mental Health Nurse
- Ellie King – Paediatric Dietician
- Rus Mockford – Bike Safety and Maintenance
- Terry Cook – 5 Ways to Wellbeing Public Health England
- Lucia Bertacchini – Elite Athlete
- Francine Davies – GP
- NSPCC Team
- Jessica Reynolds
- Mrs Simmons and the Pupil Parliament
- Our JRSOs

Finally, thank you to all of our staff for their flexibility and commitment in making the week run so smoothly, and to our children for their enthusiasm, respect and engagement throughout.

Aspiration and Well-Being

An aspiration is something you hope to achieve.

Well-Being means to feel healthy and happy.

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Be Happy, Be Healthy photos



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LEARNING IN ACTION PHOTOS



Year 3/4 children have been learning about the Water Cycle in geography and carried out an experiment to be able to observe the water cycle in action through the windows of their classroom.



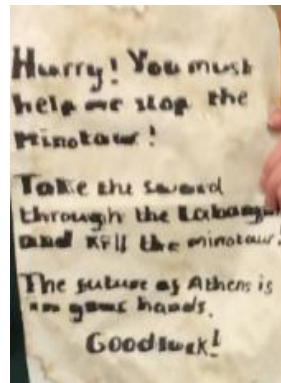
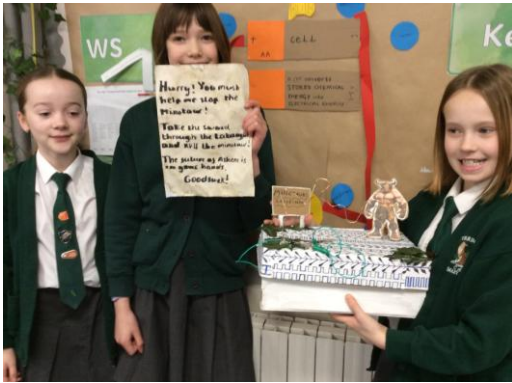
There's been more action in our school pond again this week when Year 3/4 went to discover food chains within the pond in winter. The newts came out to play again and the children learnt about producers, herbivores and carnivores and created their own food chains based on the species they found.



Year 2 have been learning how to weigh objects in maths.

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In English, Y5/6 have been exploring the story of Theseus and the Minotaur. They have then used their scientific knowledge of electrical circuits this half-term to help them make a Minotaur alarm in design technology. Theseus needs to travel through the maze to the Minotaur without setting the buzzer off! The children have also used our positive learning power of collaboration to make this happen.



Year 5/6 children representing the school at the Sports Hall Athletics

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Our girls' football team playing Knightwood Primary School this week.

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AT THE HILT
(COMMUNITY CENTRE)

TABLE
TOP
STALLS

FEB²²_{ND}

11 AM
TO
3 PM

ENTRY FREE!

IN SUPPORT OF FUNDRAISING BY OTTERBOURNE PARENTS FOR THE 'BREAST WALK EVER' CHARITY

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5th March 2026



Celebrating with

WORLD
BOOK
DAY



This year's theme is:

Bedtime Books



Wear pyjamas, bring a favourite
bedtime book and blanket (optional)

Plus, join in our

Design a Book Mark Competition

Changing lives through a love of books
and reading

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In the lead up to World Book Day, we are running a 'Design a Bookmark Challenge' and we would love for you to take part!

You have the freedom to design your bookmark in any way you like but it should promote the message that 'books make us feel good' building on our school pillar of:

- **Aspiration and Well-being**

Your bookmark can be any shape or size that you choose. It can be one sided or double sided.

Entries need to arrive no later than Tuesday 3rd March 2026 and can be handed into the office. Please ensure your name and year group is clear.

There will be an award for the best bookmark in each year group and these will be judged by our Learning Council.

Some of the bookmarks will be copied and made available in our school library.

Winners will be announced during our Friday Celebration Assembly.

We are really looking forward to seeing your designs.

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Online FREE talk by Jane Keyworth

Anxiety Based School Avoidance

March 26th 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

go to PARENTS - Live Talks page

All 16 parent talks **FREE** with our School Membership

