

# THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

We have just finished the week with the busiest celebration worship I can remember, and what was most exciting was the range of different talents and achievements we were celebrating. There were certificates for football with Southampton FC and cross country at Gregg School; also for children who are going to see their writing published in an upcoming collection of children's work; and there was a trophy for success in the panto at the village hall (which was amazing!). As well as this, we had our Mission of the Month awards for 'Active Listening' and a bumper collection of Star of the Week certificates.

We love celebrating success here at the school, and today was especially lovely. Well done to everyone!

As I am finishing up writing this message, I am looking out at grey skies and a very wet playground. Please be assured that when we know the weather is causing traffic problems and delays, we will always bring any children not collected at normal pick-up times back in to the office. We will then start making calls to see where you are and support you by keeping the children safe until you get here. Please don't feel any pressure to call in before 3:30pm unless you know you are going to be more than 15 minutes late. As pick-up time is the busiest part of the day for us in the office, it actually would be helpful to us to not be answering the phone as much as we do on such occasions but, of course, please do call if you want to. So, if you are running a few minutes late because of bad weather and traffic, please just get here when you can – your child will be waiting in the office.

Kind regards

Mr Geraghty

## Young Voices

This time last week, our school was just finishing rehearsals, along with 8000 other children, at the O2 in London as part of the Young Voices choir. Our excitement levels were rising and the anticipation of the parents coming in for the concert itself was building. It was a genuine delight to see how well our children joined in with the musicians and conductor as they danced, screamed, cheered, and sang in full voice. It was also lovely to see some of our older children talking to other school children who they were sat near to.

After the house lights went down and the first notes of the concert were struck, the evening simply flew by but it was such a memorable day and I hope that everyone involved had an amazing time. I have to say special thanks to Mrs Whitwham for leading the choir through all of their club sessions, and to Miss Squibb who did a simply amazing job with all of the organisation. Thanks too, to the parents who came with us to help keep our children safe.



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## Year 5/6 Ancient Greek Olympic Workshop

To bring their history to life, Year 5/6 dressed up and enjoyed an Ancient Greek day in school on Wednesday. The children had the opportunity to take part in a workshop run by the Openbox Theatre where they competed in the Ancient Greek Olympics as either Spartans, Athenians or Corinthians. They also enjoyed trying a range of Greek foods which they evaluated based on their taste, texture, appearance and smell.



## LEARNING IN ACTION PHOTOS



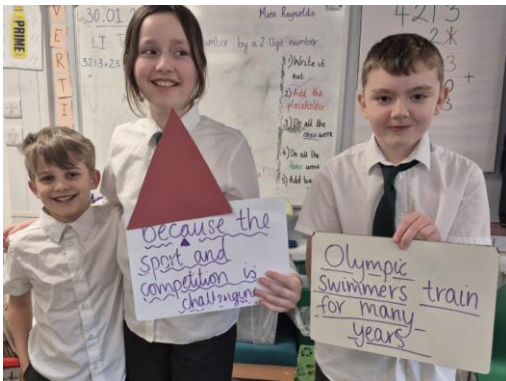
Year 5/6 enjoyed exploring how well the pond is recovering. They were very excited to find lots of newts.

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Year 5/6 have learnt about ratios in maths and used materials outside to explore and create their own ratios.



Buzzard class have been learning how to write complex sentences using subordinating clauses!



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This week, Otter Class have been immersed in learning to identify different types of birds. They have been learning about their special features, creating bird boxes for them, feeding them and spotting them within our school grounds.



Our footballers representing the school in the final round of the recent school's football tournament.

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## Pupil Parliament January 2026



### COMMUNITY COUNCIL

We have invited in members of the community to help with our 'Be Happy, Be Healthy' week - they will be running various talks and workshops with children from across the school. We will be putting on a thank you event after this takes place. We will also be organising a village wide event for World Book Day - more to come!

### CHILDREN COUNCIL

The toilets have been renovated (including the hand dryers we researched and requested) and we delivered a 'Happy Toilet Campaign' worship to the whole school to show everyone how to use them correctly.

Our JRSOs are creating some lessons for Be Happy Be Healthy about scooter safety.

### DIVERSITY COUNCIL

We have been collecting pupil voice from the whole school ready for our next EARA meeting which is taking place in February.



### SPORT COUNCIL

We are designing and creating a whole school skipping challenge for Be Happy Be Healthy week which will be a great chance for children to try out and learn a new sporting skill.

Playleading continues to be very successful.

### LEARNING COUNCIL

We have been busy continuing to create the child-friendly learning powers for Mission of the Month.



### WELLBEING COUNCIL

We are designing and creating a 'switch off' event for Be Happy Be Healthy week - this is a wellbeing circuit around the school and every child will be able to take part.



### ECO COUNCIL

We have written a letter to Mr Geraghty regarding moving the rose bush to the back of the school and replacing it with flowers in our house colours.

### WORSHIP COUNCIL

We are building a 'cross' to celebrate worship and worship tables across the school.

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## Holiday Activities



### Easter 2026

#### MUSIC PRODUCTION

The Rose Theatre, Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh

Mon 30th & Tues 31st March

9:30am – 3:30pm

Suitable for children in Years 5,6,7 and 8

£85 (both days) including lunch



*Dive into the world of music creation using iPads and GarageBand. Explore remixing, sampling, and live DJing with hands-on experience using professional gear. Discover how chords shape songs, experiment with different genres, and learn to build your own tracks from the ground up. Whether you're into beats, melodies, or mixing, everything you need is provided - just bring your creativity!*



[Click here to watch a video about the enrichment days](#)



[Click here for the sign up form](#)

### ROCK 2 THE BEAT

The Rose Theatre, Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh

Mon 30th & Tues 31st March

9:30am – 3:30pm

Performance Tues 31st at 3:30pm

£85 (both days) including lunch



*Suitable for all Years 3-10 currently playing in a Rock 2 the Beat band, or who currently learn voice, guitar, bass, keyboard or drums at Grade 1 (or above) and are able to read basic notation.*

*Come and join other Rock 2 the Beat musicians from around the county and learn a song from start to finish, building confidence through collaboration and creativity. Limited places for each instrument, places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.*

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## Holiday Activities

HAMPSHIRE  
MUSIC  
EDUCATION  
HUB

## Summer 2026 GET MUSICAL!

Five Days of Musical Theatre Magic –  
Western Style!

The Rose Theatre, Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh

Mon 10 – Fri 14 August 2026

10:00am – 4:00pm

Performance Friday at 5:00pm

Suitable for Year 4 – Year 13

£185 (includes £30 non-refundable deposit), including lunch

Breakfast Club available each morning from 8:30am at a  
cost of £5 per day



*Saddle up for an unforgettable week of singing, dancing, and acting as we bring the Wild West to the stage! Learn iconic show tunes, master toe-tapping choreography, and perform a spectacular medley at the end of the week.*



[Click here for the sign up form](#)



*Whether you're a seasoned performer or trying musical theatre for the first time, this is your chance to shine!*



### For more information



[music.service@hants.gov.uk](mailto:music.service@hants.gov.uk)



[hantsmusichub.org.uk/holidayactivities](https://hantsmusichub.org.uk/holidayactivities)

**SAVE THE DATE – MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW**

**Our Rock 2 the Beat and Music Production enrichment days will run on  
Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th August 2026.**

For queries, please contact [music.service@hants.gov.uk](mailto:music.service@hants.gov.uk)

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**ACE SPORTS**  
**HOLIDAY CLUBS**  
Action Packed Holiday Club **FUN!!**

# FEBRUARY HALF TERM <sup>2026</sup>

**@ SHERBORNE HOUSE SCHOOL**  
Chandlers Ford



**Monday 16th to Friday 20th February**

**£29 PER DAY OR JUST £130 FOR THE WHOLE WEEK!**  
**10% DISCOUNT FOR ADDITIONAL SIBLINGS!!**  
**8.30PM TO 4.30PM**  
**EXTENDED DAY PASSES TO 5.30PM**  
**HALF DAYS FOR YEAR R's UNDER 5 (Ace Mini's)**



**CHECK OUT OUR EASTER, MAY HALF TERM & SUMMER CLUBS ONLINE!!**



**Cycling Day**  
16th February  
For more info online



**Ofsted**  
Registered

**ACE SPORTS**  
HOLIDAY CLUBS

Childcare vouchers accepted!!  
**02380 379617**  
[acesportsandeducation.com](http://acesportsandeducation.com)

