

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

Thank you for supporting the teachers to keep to the 10-minute time slot for the parent consultations this week. It really did help manage their time, and also ensure your time was respected. If there is anything you would like me to be aware of following these meetings, please do contact me.

Kind regards

Mr Geraghty

Umbrellas

A conversation at the gate this morning prompted more thought about the children bringing umbrellas in to school. It is really lovely to see the children looking after themselves in this persistent rain but if we let children bring umbrellas in, there won't be enough space and inevitably there will be breakages which we want to avoid. If your children are bringing in an umbrella, please have them hand it to you at the school gate so you can take it back home with you. Thank you.

Lost property

We continue to gather a lot of lost property each week, that is unnamed. This means it is practically impossible for us to return it to the rightful owner. We will always sort through and return named items and do our very best with the rest, and we will also be leaving unclaimed lost property outside for pick up time as much as possible given the weather. Each week, any remaining unnamed items will be put away in bags and stored for a short while before being given a new home. We will always endeavour to return items where we can and this would be made much easier if all items are labelled clearly. Where items have come from the pre-loved uniform, or handed down, please check for, and remove, any old names to avoid any confusion.

Are you looking for a few hours work?

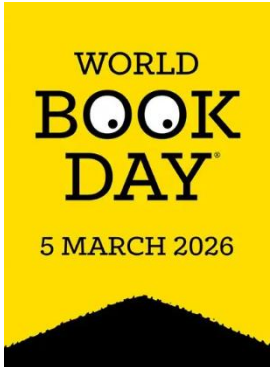
I want to try and do even more to make lunchtime play an engaging and exciting time for the children, so I am currently looking for **Lunchtime Controllers** who can be in the school from 12am and 1pm each day to be on the playground/field supporting the children with play activities. If you are interested, please contact the school office, and please remember us if you are speaking to people in the village too.

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World Book Day



Thursday 5th March is World Book Day. Following the theme of bedtime stories, children are invited to come into school wearing pyjamas, with a favourite bedtime book to share. They can also bring a blanket if they wish. At some point in the day, the bell will ring for 'drop everything and read' and the children will get the opportunity to create a cosy reading spot to enjoy a book or share one with a friend. During the day, the children will get chance to enjoy stories from different teachers and they will hopefully come away buzzing with new recommendations. Each year, we also have our traditional World Book Day assembly where the children enjoy a picture book story, adapted by children's council, featuring all the class teachers turned into humorous characters.

Book Swap

We will also be offering our annual book swap on the playground on this date. If your child has any books they would like to donate, please bring it into school on Thursday morning. Please ensure all books are suitable for 4 - 11 year olds and in a good, readable condition.

Design a bookmark

We have already started to see some great designs coming into school for our 'Design a Bookmark' competition which is open to all year groups. Children have the freedom to design their bookmark anyway they would like but it should help to promote the message that books make us feel good. All entries need to be in school by Tuesday 3rd March. Please ensure they are named, include the child's year group and are handed into the school office.



Guess the Bedtime Teacher Reader

In our lead-up to World Book Day we have set the children a challenge of guessing which of their teachers is enjoying reading a book in bed.

More to come...

We want the children to fully embrace World Book Day and develop that strong love of reading that is so important to development and wellbeing. We are still working on a few other ideas, so please 'watch this space'.

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FOS AGM

The FOS AGM is taking place on Friday 6th March at 2:00pm. All parents are welcome to attend and find out more about how the committee is run. This is a particularly important meeting as they are looking to appoint a new Chair and Treasurer.



Latest FOS Information

Please follow these links for the latest information on class lists.

School Uniform donations:

<https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1371800935>

General donations:

<https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1426070654>

FOS AGM expression of interest:

<https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1445120669>

Pupil Voice



Our **Children's Council**, one of the eight councils in our **Pupil Parliament**, have created and led a 'Happy Playtimes' assembly this week. They created role plays and gave advice to their peers about how to make playtimes safe and happy and for everyone.

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LEARNING IN ACTION PHOTOS



Red Kites enjoying PE in the sunshine this week as they launched their new netball unit.



Hedgehog Class have been matching homophones.



Otters have been embracing spring this week as they have read, 'That's not a daffodil, that's a...'

They have been planting summer bulbs, hunting for daffodils in the school grounds and learning how to draw them and make their own. They've also been enhancing their learning through digging in their mud kitchen.

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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



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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FACE	
March 2026 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)	
Improving Family Communication	2 Mar 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	2 Mar 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Mar 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 Mar 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Mar 10am
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	10 Mar 10am
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Mar 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Mar 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 Mar 10am
What is ACT	17 Mar 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Mar 10am
Decreasing Depression	23 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Mar 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	24 Mar 7pm
FREE Anxiety Based School Avoidance	26 Mar 7-8pm

All of our families have access to these sessions with our school membership. Please contact the school for the code.

What our parents are saying about FACE:

"I listened to the FACE talk on Supporting Healthy Screen Use earlier and it was so informative and helpful, I wish every parent could listen to it! So I wanted to thank the school for giving us free access to these talks, and I wondered whether perhaps you could highlight them a bit more prominently in the next school newsletter."

Thanks again and best wishes, Fiona (Trussell)

I hope that this is highlighted enough Fiona!

If you do join one of these sessions, please let me know how useful it was to you. Thank you.

CHILDREN AND SMARTPHONES

It is never too soon to be considering when or how to introduce phones to children. This important topic is once again in the news headlines, and it continues to be a topic of conversation in the local community too. If you are unsure about what route to take when considering options around phone use, we would always be happy to talk about it with you.

You can also speak to other families, by joining the local Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp group, which is organised and managed by Fiona Trussell on behalf of interested families. This QR code will take you to the group...



As a school, we continue to monitor phone use and will work with families where necessary. As a member of the Chandler's Ford Cluster of Schools, we work in unison with other local schools when considering our approach, including our policies and procedures, related to phone use.

At the moment, we don't have a ban on the use of Smartphones in school. The only children permitted to bring phones in to the school are Year 6 children who walk to and from school. Phones are to be turned off at all times when the children are on the school site, and are stored safely in the school office during the day.