

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY



When you see a hundred brightly-coloured bonnets bobbing along outside your window, you really can't help but smile and appreciate how each day in a primary school brings something different...and in the case of today, something magical.

All of the children were outside together at breaktime today as the younger children paraded around the playground, with their older friends applauding the fabulous efforts. Well done everyone for getting involved in bringing more than just a splash of colour to the school today. At the time of writing, we haven't had the parade for parents, but hopefully (by the time you receive this) you will have been equally impressed.

It has been quite a unique term for everyone, what with that little visit that you may have been aware of, and I think it is only right to give a message of thanks and appreciation to the wonderful team at the school. The staff here really do keep your children at the centre of all that they do, and we strive to give the children as many experiences and opportunities as possible. For the extra time, energy and effort that goes in to this, I want to express my unending gratitude. To them, and to all of you, I wish a Happy Easter, and an enjoyable break.

I look forward to seeing you all in the Summer Term.

Best wishes, Mr Geraghty



EASTER SERVICE WITH THE WORSHIP COUNCIL

My thanks to Mrs Welch and the Worship Council for preparing and delivering this year's Easter Service. If you were in church today, I hope you enjoyed seeing the children taking a leading role.

The Community Council in Action




My thanks also to Mrs Barham, our Chair of Governors, for organising an Easter decorating activity with some of our children and a few of the residents of BrendonCare in Otterbourne.


It was a lovely way to end the term, strengthen the community links, and in the words of one of the children, "Know that we are making a difference."



This year, the Drama Club includes around 80 children from across Key Stage 2. Rehearsals are well underway and the standard of the individual performances is incredibly impressive already...as is the choir! You can now buy tickets for either (or both) performances to enjoy an evening of entertainment in Old Baghdad.

 Date(s)
Tue 17 June 25,
Wed 18 June 25

 Production Company:
Otterbourne Church of England
Primary School

 Ticket Prices: <https://thorndenhall.ticketsolve.com/shows/873670809/events>
£5.00 - £7.00

OTTERBOURNE C.O.F.E PRIMARY SCHOOL

17 & 18 JUNE



MORE EASTER FUN...

I really hope that the children enjoyed taking part in our Easter egg hunt, this week. It was a new addition to the calendar, and by the excited reaction of the children, it's one to repeat next year. Again, thanks to all involved in arranging this event, including our amazing FOS team, Miss Squibb and Ms Qureshi.



ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?

Sadly, our incredible outside classroom, 'The OWL' has suffered from the effects of weather and time, and the decking area by the meadow is in need of some attention. It's a cheeky ask but I wondered if there are any parents in the community who would be interested in helping with it - either to rebuild a deck or help create a gravel path. If you think you can help with this, please call or drop in to take a look. - Thank you in advance.

MISSION OF THE MONTH - REASONING

This month, the children will be focusing on the skill of reasoning. KS1 children will, 'Work out how to solve a problem using what they already know', and in KS2, they will, 'Think logically in order to solve problems'



WEBSITE 'CONCERN' FORM

We have added a form to the safeguarding page of our website. This is another way of children sharing with us anything that is bothering them, in a safe and confidential way. If your child comes home with concerns we need to be aware of, you might find this an empowering way for them to contact us directly. Thank you.

THE MAY FAYRE IS COMING

After Easter, we will be in the final run up to our annual big event, and our incredible FOS will be working hard to make this a fun day for everyone. A lot of the messages from FOS, and those requests for donations that really do help the school, will be via the FOS WhatsApp groups and their own newsletter, as well as in my weekly bulletin. If you aren't yet in a group and would like to stay informed, please do get in touch and we will help arrange that for you.

I really do look forward to seeing you at the event...and then being thoroughly soaked through by children hurling wet sponges at the end of the day!

AROUND THE SCHOOL (OR OUT AND ABOUT)



Well done to all of the children who participated in the recent cross-country event. You represented the school brilliantly, and there were some fantastic results.



One of our Wild Worships, as the older children share important messages with key stage 1 children, in our woodland.



Some of our Year 5/6 children enjoying their survival star party.

Spring FunDay



Saturday 26th April 25

10am - 12.30pm at St Matthew's Church



tombolas and raffle
treasure hunts
competitions
face painting
glitter tattoos
lucky dip
arts and crafts
and yummy cakes!

Entry £1 per child, adults free



St Matthew's
Otterbourne

www.chobenefice.co.uk



St Matthews Church Otterbourne

Try All Stars Cricket



- ★ A fun-filled first cricket experience for 5-8 year olds
- ★ Personalised t-shirt, bat, ball, and backpack included
- ★ Designed to support a wide range of abilities

SIGN UP TODAY

www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars



Try Dynamos Cricket



- ▶ Exciting way for kids aged 8-11 to play, learn, and make new friends
- ▶ Personalised New Balance t-shirt included
- ▶ Girls only sessions available

SIGN UP TODAY

www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamos-cricket

Girls only Cricket



- ♀ Get involved at your local club today
- ♀ Over 35 clubs with girls only opportunities in Hampshire
- ♀ U11-16 teams

FIND YOUR NEAREST CLUB

www.utilitabowl.com/cricket-board/women-and-girls/girls-cricket/



Courtside

@courtsidehampshire



Tennis Coaching

AT OTTERBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Every Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 7:45 - 8:45

A mixed-group before school club where fun and learning continue whilst developing essential skills such as agility, balance and co-ordination - all overseen by our fully-qualified coach.



courtside.uk/hampshire/coaching

EASTLEIGH ACTIVE

TRY SOMETHING
NEW THIS
EASTER

AERIAL
AGES 12-16

OLYMPIC WEIGHT LIFTING
AGES 8-16

HOCKEY
AGES 5-14

FOOTBALL
AGES 5-16

SKATEBOARD /SCOOTER WORKSHOPS
AGES 5-16

CROSSFIT
AGES 11-16

NERF BATTLES
AGES 6-13

TENNIS
AGES 5-16

JUNIOR GYM
AGES 11-16

FREE SWIMMING
AGES 5-16

GOLF
AGES 5-16

PRICE: £3.50*

*£1 concessions available to residents receiving qualifying benefits

TUESDAY 8 APRIL – THURSDAY 10 APRIL
TUESDAY 15 APRIL – THURSDAY 17 APRIL

An online talk by Jane Keyworth

Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes, offering practical support and explaining more about this condition

Thursday 3rd April 10 -11:30am

Tuesday 29th April 7 - 8:30pm

Talks are recorded and available to watch for up to 48hrs after the session £24



Book online
facefamilyadvice.co.uk
go to **PARENTS**
on the **Homepage**



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

THE OTTER

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

Here are some of the important items from previous newsletters.

EASTER EGG HUNT

THURSDAY 3RD APRIL
3.40PM

Every child will receive an
Easter Egg at the end and will
also be entered into a raffle to
win a prize!



TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ON
[HTTPS://WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/FRIENDSOTTERBOURNE/](https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsotterbourne/)

£2 per child





Easter Courses 2025

4 day courses for boys & girls - Years R to 6

Closing day to book your place, the Thursday before course starts.

Courses are 9am to 4pm each day!

(Please circle the No. of days you wish to attend)

Week 1: Monday 7th April to Thursday 10th April

Halterworth Primary School, Romsey (SO51 9AD) - (Multi Sports & Football course)

Otterbourne Primary School, Otterbourne (SO21 2EQ) - (MS Course)

4 Days £79 3 Days £60 2 Days £42 1 Day £24

4 days 3days 2days 1day

4 days 3days 2days 1day

Week 2: Monday 14th April to Thursday 17th April

Halterworth Primary School, Romsey (SO51 9AD) - (Multi Sports & Football course)

Otterbourne Primary School, Otterbourne (SO21 2EQ) - (MS Course)

4 days 3days 2days 1day

4days 3days 2days 1day

Confirm dates/days wishing to attend on 1, 2 or 3 day bookings:

(Please circle the detail that is relevant to your booking)

Please circle the week you wish to attend: Easter week 1 or Easter week 2

Please circle the Venue: Halterworth (MS + Football course); Otterbourne (MS Course);

Dates/Days wishing to attend single days: _____

Note: Please do indicate if you wish to do the football or multi-sports on the Halterworth Courses.

Children will be grouped in school year/age appropriate groups;

Equipment & rooms will be cleaned end of each day.

Please provide a Packed lunch & drink each day.



Follow us @R&R Sports



Booking Details



Child or Children's name/s:	Age:	Yr. Group: (Please circle) R: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6
Address:		Post Code:
School:		Parent Contact Number:
Email Address:		
Illness/Allergies or Disabilities:		
(R&R will occasionally take pictures of the course & attendees for future marketing/promo use, please circle NO if you do not wish to have them taken of your child/ren: NO)		

Payment Details: Place confirmation by text or email from R&R Sports

Method	Details	Where to send
BACS	Account Name: R&R Sports Courses Acc. No: 699 651 09 Sort Code: 09-01-28	Ref: Halt1 or 2 & (Your child surname) Ref: Ott1 or 2 & (Your child surname)
CHEQUE	Payable to: R&R Sports Courses Ltd	Please contact for further details via the contact information
CASH	In a sealed envelope marked for R&R Sports	School Office Let R&R know to allow them to collect
CONTACT INFO	Send via email: mail@randrsportscoaching.co.uk ENQUIRIES: Contact Robbie 07515 881 574	Send via email: mail@randrsportscoaching.co.uk

Please note that once an application has been processed refunds cannot be given. I understand that no liability in respect to loss or damage to personal property or effects (eg: mobile phones, electrical devices or trading cards/stickers) is accepted by the course organisers or their servants whilst the above named person/s are attending the course.

Signed: _____ Parent / Guardian



If you're in need of a professional massage then R&R Sports Massage can provide this for you. To make an appointment or to find out more information then please contact R&R sports.

R&R SPORTS BIRTHDAY PARTIES

From just £70 per hour, we come to you and deliver a party tailored exactly to your requirements.
Please contact R&R sports for more info or to make a booking.

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Course
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2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

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Spanish4Kids

AND ADULTS!

Did you know Spanish is in the TOP 3 most spoken languages?

Spanish Lunchtime Club – Monday's – Summer Term 2025

We will be continuing to run our Spanish Lunchtime clubs at Otterbourne Primary School on Monday's from 12 noon – 12.30pm (KS2) and 12.30pm – 1pm (KS1)

If you are interested in signing up your child, please click on my booking link <https://spanish-4-kids.classforkids.io>, selecting the relevant school club to secure your child's place.

Alternatively, if you wish to book a TRIAL lesson to give your child a chance to try a Spanish club, please feel free to using the above link!

If you have any questions, please do feel free to get in touch with me direct.

Many thanks,
Pippa Chia

www.spanish4kids.co.uk

spanish4kidshants@gmail.com

07971 213619



FUN RUN

**Wednesday April 9th
10.30am – 12.30pm**

The Carroll Centre Community Park,
Somers Close, Winchester SO22 4EJ

Run and support us - Celebrating 20 years!

How it works: Run, walk, or toddle as many 0.5km laps as you like – get sponsored and help make a difference!



All ages welcome: Flat course suitable for everyone – toddlers, teens, family & friends

Register NOW - it's FREE:

✉ info@home-startwinchester.org.uk ☎ 01962 851177

Send names & ages of participants to receive your FREE sponsor pack.

PLUS - Meet Super Seb Stannard

Seb, running the 2025 London Marathon for Home-Start, will share tips & cheer us on.

So join us for a fun-filled morning and help us celebrate 20 years of Home-Start Winchester!



**HOME
START**

**Winchester
and Districts**

Registered Charity 1108170

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX



Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



The National College