

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY



We are nearly at the end of the Spring Term, which means **IT'S NEARLY EASTER...**

...and it also means the question in every child's mind is, "When can we go on the field?" It happens every year, and I've already been asked a few times this week, so it must nearly be time.

We will have lunchtimes on the field as soon as possible, because it is the unofficial start of summer in many ways, and I do love watching the children enjoy the extra space - and the occasional skipping challenge (although I've never mastered the hoop!).

The reason for bringing this up at the start of the newsletter is that the question that always follows is, "Can we do handstands?" I personally believe that handstands (and cartwheels) are really important to children's physical development, so we do allow children to do these on the field, but we limit it to a particular area and ensure there is adult supervision. If you don't want your child to be doing this at school, please speak to them directly about it. If anyone thinks they have the skills to teach a 50(ish) head teacher how to finally nail a handstand, I'd love to hear from you !!!!!!!

Best wishes, Mr Geraghty



EASTER SERVICE WITH THE WORSHIP COUNCIL

Hopefully, you are aware of our Pupil Parliament and the councils that sit within it. The Pupil Parliament has been created to give children a voice in the school and it is a key aspect of the approach to personal development which was recently described by Ofsted as 'exceptional'.

The Worship Council, one of 8 different councils in the school, helps to promote the Christian ethos of the school, and to give the children of the council a focus activity, we are pleased to announce that our Easter Service has been created by the children, with the help of Mrs Welch, and the children will be leading the service in St. Matthew's Church at 2:30pm on Friday 4th April.

I hope you can join us.

If you would like to read more about our approach to personal development, please visit the school website.

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



OTTERBOURNE'S GOT TALENT...

...and what a wealth of talent it is!

The showcase event of the year saw children from across the school demonstrating their skills with enthusiasm, positivity and just a little bit of 'roasting'. Everyone who auditioned should be immensely proud of themselves for putting themselves forward.

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THEM!

WHAT A SHOW!!

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.

TOYS IN SCHOOL

This is another one of those things that comes up from time to time as we notice a change across the school and, by coincidence, I was asked by a parent recently to talk directly to their child about it at the start of the day. I hope you understand that we can't have toys from home being brought in to school because they could easily get lost or broken and this isn't something school can be held responsible for. An exception to this will always be 'fidget' toys that are needed for concentration and regulation, but these will be provided by school. Please keep toys at home.

The unofficial one-way system

This topic also comes up periodically, especially when traffic builds on bad weather days. There isn't a great deal school can do, and please believe me I have asked the appropriate people, but in the past there has been parent support for an unofficial one-way system that has helped to ease the traffic pressures around Cranbourne Drive. The direction of the one-way system is clockwise with traffic entering Cranbourne Drive from Main Road near to the school/by the car park, and then travelling around Cranbourne Drive to exit at the mini-roundabout via Coles Mede. If you can help the traffic situation by following this system, that would be a great help.

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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/friendsofotterbourne/)

£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.

Free Online Courses

Fully Funded School Support Course

Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3

*Go to our website for more detailed information.

6 Week Course
Mon - Fri
Daily sessions
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

www.studysmartuk.online



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