

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

It's hard to believe that a week has gone by since the FOS Quiz Night, but there is something to be said for getting home on a Friday before midnight! There is a little more about the event in the newsletter, but I need to start by saying a big "thank you" to all involved. Hopefully, we can repeat the event at some time in the winter.

It's been a fortnight of trips here in the school, and what is always uplifting is when we hear from members of the public telling us how well-mannered and well-behaved the children are when they are out of school. It has happened again in the last two weeks - twice! This really is something to be proud of...well done children!

Of course, the big news of the past week or so is that the Ofsted Inspection Report is finally available to read. Thank you for all your comments about the report and the judgements we received from Ofsted. We are very happy with the outcomes. If you haven't yet had a chance to read the report, it is available on the Ofsted website and the school website.

Best wishes

Mr Geraghty

MISSION OF THE MONTH - COLLABORATION

This month, we will be focusing on the skill of collaboration as we help the children understand more about how to be successful learners.

In KS1, we are 'working well together by helping others and using a bit of everyone's ideas.'

In KS2, we are 'working positively together and respecting everyone opinions' and 'developing our skills of compromising, building and challenging'

Thank you to the Learning Council for creating these great descriptions. Mission of the Month is our approach to developing vital learning skills, as we prepare children for a life beyond school.



Next month's learning skill will be "Reasoning"

OTTERBOURNE'S GOT TALENT

This is now a showcase event, along with the Science Fayre and Art Exhibition, rather than a competition and the talent we have seen during the auditions has been of a fantastic standard - picking a winner would have been incredibly difficult...so thankfully we can all just sit back and enjoy the wide variety of fantastic performances next week which include comedy, music and a few surprises.

Well done to everyone who found the confidence to put themselves forward to the auditions, and to those who will perform again for the school during our Comic Relief "Sparkle and Shine" Day. The children performing in the final event have already been informed, and we look forward to see them on....


Friday 21st March


This is going to be EXTRA special as we celebrate **40 years of Comic Relief** with a fabulous day full of sparkles and fun! We invite all the children to dress up in their **favourite party outfits**. Think colour, glitter, sparkles and fun!

Donations: Of course, Comic Relief is all about raising money for people in need. If you would like to make a donation, you can do so via our Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd25-otterbourne-church-of-england-primary-school>

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



Will You Be In Church for Mother's Day?

It is always a lovely occasion to be part of, and each year, we teach the children a little poem to share with the congregation. If your children are going to be in church with you on Mothering Sunday (March 30th 2025) and they would like to take part with us, please let me know by dropping in to the office or sending an email to headteacher@otterbourne.hants.sch.uk - Thank you.



Last Friday saw the return of the much-anticipated Big Parent Pub Quiz which was met with great enthusiasm as parents came together for an evening of trivia, laughter and friendly competition. It was certainly a highlight of the school's social calendar!

The school hall was buzzing as teams put their knowledge to the test across a range of categories, from general knowledge to music, history, and some special school-themed rounds. It was a great chance to meet other parents and try your hand at guessing a dingbat or what a Year R child drew as their career ambition. Competition was fierce as teams eagerly battled for the coveted title of Quiz Champions and a massive congratulations goes to the winning team, Liquorice Allsorts, who claimed victory!

A huge thank you to FOS who brought the quiz to life and the teachers who put together some eye-opening school trivia rounds. Also, a big thank you from me to everyone who joined in – your enthusiasm made the night a success. The total amount of funds raised for the school will be announced soon.

The unofficial one-way system

This topic comes up from time to time, 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.

AROUND THE SCHOOL (OR OUT AND ABOUT)

Some of our Year 5 children recently represented the school at the Gregg Maths Challenge where there were 20 schools in attendance. Our children were fabulous at the event, enjoying the challenge—and one of them placed 3rd in the competition.



An impressive World Book Day effort in Year 6



Enjoying the World Book Day assembly!



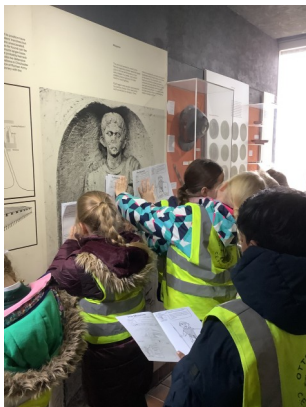
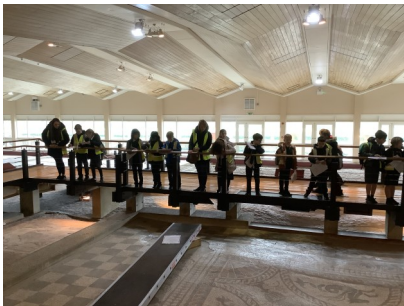
Our Year 5/6 children visited the New Forest this week to learn more about Biomes as part of their Geography learning.



AROUND THE SCHOOL (OR OUT AND ABOUT)

Our Year 3/4 children spent a day at Fishbourne Roman Palace recently, learning about the largest Roman home in Britain and the contribution the Romans made to modern life. Here are some of the pictures from the day. The children were brilliant throughout and clearly enjoyed themselves.

Thank you to everyone involved and for the parents who gave up their time to help on the day.





A small Winchester charity supporting children and families facing difficult life circumstances, helping them face their future with confidence.

Could you ^abe friend to a local child?

Our befriending service helps children aged 5 to 13 to flourish through spending regular time with an adult volunteer.

You can do it!

Ask now about volunteer@fotfwinchester.org
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community of volunteers 01962 864466

Training and full support provided
Volunteers are subject to an enhanced DBS check
Company Number 7577875 Charity Commission Number 1143462



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.



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Limited places for each instrument, places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.
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7th & 8th April 2025
Monday 9:00am- 3:45pm & Tuesday 9:00am - 4:00pm
Concert to parents at 3:30 on Tuesday
The Kings' School, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, SO50 7DB

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

Rock 2 the Beat

Join a band and further your instrumental skills as you learn to perform songs as an ensemble whilst taking part in specialist workshops from our experienced Rock & Pop teachers

Suitable for children in Years 3 – 10 who currently participate in Rock 2 the Beat lessons in school, or for children who currently learn voice, electric guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, or drums at Grade 1 (or above) and are able to read basic notation.

If you would like to come along, please sign up using the following link:

[Rock 2 the Beat Enrichment Days – 7 and 8 April 2025](#)

Cost: £75



Music Production
7th & 8th April 2025

DJ & iPad Production Workshops
8.45 - 3.15

£75

Suitable for children in years 5, 6, 7 and 8.
The Kings School, Fair Oak

Learn how to create songs from scratch! Learn how to record, mix, and edit music, using iPads and how to perform live music with DJ and keyboard controllers. All equipment provided.

Register Today!

Music Production

Learn how to create songs from scratch! Learn how to record, mix, and edit music, using iPads and how to perform live music with DJ and keyboard controllers. All equipment provided.

The workshop is suitable for children in years 5, 6, 7 and 8, with sessions for those who currently participate in HMS Music Production lessons, and for those with no previous experience.

Below is a video about Music Production.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REZwgHiGrls>

If you would like to come along, please sign up using the following link:

[Music Production Enrichment Days – 7 and 8 April 2025](#)

For more information: [Holiday Activities - Hampshire Music Education Hub](#)
(hantsmusicub.org.uk)

Cost: £75

COMPETITION! WIN A FREE WEEK AT CAMP!

**PLUS £250 DONATION FOR YOUR
SCHOOL AND A MINI BILLY TOY!**

**WIN A
MINI
BILLY!**

KIDS COMPETITION
Task: Design a new activity for Easter 2025!

ACTIVITY COULD BE:

- Based on existing activity with a twist
- Repurposing equipment to play in another way
- Add your theme to an activity
- An activity you love already which you'd like to see at camp

WE WILL REPLICATE YOUR ACTIVITY IDEA AT CAMP!

**YOUR CHANCE
TO WIN!**

**ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO
FUN@BARRACUDAS.CO.UK
BY 25TH MARCH**

**INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE
& NAME & LOCATION OF
SCHOOL WITH YOUR
ENTRY!**

**BARRACUDAS
ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS**

Winner announced 27th March
Camp open dates 7th - 17th April

BARRACUDAS ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

**HIGHLY RATED
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Camps!!!**

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BARRACUDAS ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

**EASTER
WORD SEARCH!**

- Basket
- Bonnet
- Bunny
- Celebration
- Chick
- Daffodil
- Egg
- Flowers
- Hunt
- Jellybeans
- Lamb
- Pastel
- Spring
- Tulip

**Colour in the eggs and
design your own!**

**HAPPY
EASTER!**

Fun Fact:
The Cairngorms in Scotland hold the record for being the snowiest place in the UK

HEY!
I'm BILLY Barracuda! Are you looking forward to the Easter holidays? We hope to see you at our Easter camps!

QUIZ

- What do children hunt for on Easter morning?
- What baby animal is often associated with Easter?
- Which season does Easter take place in?
- What type of animal delivers the Easter Eggs?

SPRING COLOUR SPOTTER!

Find these colours outside!

ANSWERS

Robin Count: 18

Quiz:
1. Eggs
2. Chick
3. Spring
4. Bunny

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

Here are some of the important items from previous newsletters.



St Swithun's
WINCHESTER



St Swithun's is a world-class day and boarding independent school for girls aged 11-18.

SENIOR SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Saturday 21 June, 9am

PARENT INFORMATION MORNING AND TASTER EXPERIENCE

Saturday 17 May, 9am-12pm

For Year 7 2026 entry

Top tips for parents and a fun-packed taster programme for current year 5 girls.

To book your place please visit:

stswithuns.com/visit-us



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

1 NAME THE EMOTION

Encourage children to identify and name their emotions. This helps them understand what they're feeling and why. Use simple language and relatable examples to make it easier for them to share their emotions. This builds a foundation for emotional understanding and open communication.



2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by sharing your feelings visibly. When children see adults properly displaying how they're doing and what they're thinking, they learn to do the same. Discuss how you handle emotions in different circumstances, providing a real-life framework for young ones to follow.



3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions during more challenging moments. Activities like deep breathing, meditation or yoga can reduce stress and enhance emotional regulation. Regular practice can improve focus and emotional stability, which can significantly help children both as they're growing up and throughout their adult life.



4 USE STORYTELLING

Incorporate storytelling to help children understand emotions. Stories can offer relevant scenarios illustrating how the characters experience and manage their feelings. Discuss the emotions depicted in stories and ask children how they might feel in similar situations.



5 PRACTISE EMPATHY

Teach children to consider others' views and emotions – and to explore why they might think or feel this way. Role-playing and discussing various scenarios can enhance their ability to empathise. Understanding others' emotions helps children to develop compassion and improves their social interactions.



6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING

Suggest keeping a journal to make note of thoughts and emotions, as writing can provide an outlet for self-reflection and emotional processing. Encourage children to write about their daily experiences and feelings, helping them gain insight into their emotional world. Do this alongside them, so they can see and experience how to do it effectively.



7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Do what you can to help children develop problem-solving skills to assist in managing emotional challenges. Discuss potential solutions to emotional conflicts and encourage them to think critically about what they (and others) can do to process their feelings in a healthy way. This empowers children to handle emotions positively and build resilience.



8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Establish an environment where children feel safe to display their emotions without judgement. Encourage open exchanges and reassure them that all feelings are valid. This supportive atmosphere promotes trust and encourages children to express themselves with confidence.



9 USE VISUAL AIDS

Take advantage of visual aids like emotion charts or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. Use these tools regularly in your interactions. They provide a visual representation of emotions, making it easier for children to communicate their emotional state.



10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy, and praise children for expressing their emotions and handling them effectively. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool that will encourage continued growth and reinforces the importance of emotional literacy – encouraging young people to maintain the good habits and healthy behaviours that you've taught them.



Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, an organisation that supports schools in improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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