

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

This is the first of the bulletin editions of the newsletter designed to keep in touch and bring together some of the recent news you might have missed. A full edition, with plenty of photos of what's happening around school will be with you in a fortnight or so.

I hope that the term is going well for your children, but as ever, my door is open if there is anything we need to know about. Thank you for continuing to deliver messages to teachers, to me or Miss Whitbread at the gate. This really helps to keep the communication going whilst allowing the teachers to settle children quickly.

Best wishes for a good weekend.

Mr Geraghty

Sparrow Class

Mrs Welch joins the teaching team in Year 3/4 today and will be teaching Sparrow Class each Friday as Mrs Whitwham has reduced her time in school in order to spend time with her new grandchild.

Key Stage 2 / SLT

Mrs Holland has joined my SLT as the Key Stage 2 Team Leader. Mrs Holland is also the whole school Curriculum Leader and is responsible for English across the school. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Holland for her huge contribution to helping me deliver the school's new curriculum. Please visit our website's curriculum pages for more information.

Healthy Snacks

Through your support, we have seen a marked change in the types of food children are bringing in for their morning snack. Please continue with this, as we all recognise the benefits of healthy snacks. Thank you.

BIRTHDAY DRESS-DOWN

Just a reminder that on their birthday (or the closest school day to it), children are invited to wear celebration clothes and something bright (badge/rosette etc) to show everyone in the school that it is their special day. I know the children enjoy this and I'm glad I introduced it but could I ask that the children please wear something smart that they would wear to a party, that is appropriate for school. Many thanks.

Shoebox Donations

Thank you for the generosity you have all shown in bringing in items for our charity shoebox collection. There is still time to bring items in, if you wish, and representatives from our Community and Wellbeing Councils will be at the gate again next week.

Pupil Parliament

Nearly 100 children from across Key Stage 2 have signed up to be members of the 8 councils that form our Pupil Parliament. I've introduced the Parliament in order to encourage more pupil voice. The councils are: Eco, Diversity, Wellbeing, Worship, Sports, Learning, Children and Community. We all meet next week to plan the year ahead and share some ideas.

Mission of the Month

The focus this month is **Interdependence**. This means that we are helping the children to understand when they can be more effective working independently and when they recognise that they need the help of others. Interdependence is one of the Reciprocity learning powers that is part of the Building Learning Power approach to supporting children to learn more about themselves as successful learners. More information is available at <https://www.otterbourneprimaryschool.com/building-learning-power/>

We are taking part in Walktober 2024!

As we head into autumn, it's important that we all keep active and where possible, get outdoors. To encourage this, the My Journey Team at Hampshire County Council has invited schools to celebrate International Walk to School Month by taking part in Walktober.

This event is designed to inspire pupils, families and staff to travel actively and sustainably throughout October. We hope as many of our pupils, families and staff as possible can get involved by walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting, using Park and Stride and public transport.

There is a Walktober competition for your child to enter. Over the month of October, pupils complete six activities (or more)! They can choose from the suggestions list or be creative and think of their own activity too! The Walktober Activity Card forms the pupil competition entry.

More information is available at: myjourneyhampshire.com/walktober

New Bike Shelter

Should children want to start to cycle to school this autumn, they can now leave their bikes safely inside the school gates as we are pleased to announce that....

THE NEW BIKE SHELTER IS NOW OPEN

Please ensure children are riding safely, wear a helmet and dismount at the car park gate, rather than cycle where there are parents and children entering school.

School Songs

I am hoping to create a playlist of songs that link to our school values of Trust, Respect and Determination. The children are aware of this and have already made some good suggestions. If you have any ideas to add from home, please pass these on to me either in writing or at the gate.

School Quiz

The quiz planned for later this month has sadly had to be postponed but we are hoping to get a new date in the diary very soon so we can look forward to some serious quizzing...and an evening of silliness, for a good cause!

Break the Rules Day

Our incredible FOS are just putting the details together for a new fund raising event at the school, which we are hoping to hold later this half-term.

Voluntary One-way System

Since the start of the school year, I have been approached by a few parents who have asked about the one-way system that helps with the morning rush. There isn't anything formal in place, but the morning drop-off can be eased if the traffic flow is in the same direction. This is something that has been encouraged for many years, but can not be enforced or made permanent, but if you are able and willing to follow the same route as everyone else, it might make it easier to drop-off (...and more importantly, get away!):

The voluntary system is a clockwise route turning in to Cranbourne Drive at the top entrance (nearest the school), turning left into the car park, turning left out of the car park, and exiting Cranbourne Drive via Coles Mede and the mini-roundabout (nearer to Nisa).

Changing Weather and Clothes for School

Although it has been incredibly unpredictable recently, it is safe to say that the weather is going to get colder and wetter, so please ensure children are ready for different conditions.

Please also help children to be ready for PE and Sports each week by having a full, appropriate PE kit in school at all times. This can be a bit more tricky for them if they use their school kit for an afterschool club and bring it home for a wash! Thank you.