

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

Apologies for being so direct but this week's newsletter starts with a plea, which I really hope somebody within our community can help us with.

We have wonderful grounds at the school and are blessed to have nature on our doorstep, but having such a natural environment isn't without its problems.

Already this year we have started to look at the costs of reducing the tree line at the edge of the playground, and for bringing in earth-moving equipment to clear the gully that runs by the edge of our meadow. These are big and expensive maintenance jobs that, you might be surprised to hear, don't attract additional financial support, so are therefore funded from the school budget, which would be better spent on benefiting the education and experiences of your children.

There is then the other side of the school site, where we are backed by the church grounds. Here, there is a full length of fencing that has, over the years, been patched and propped in order to extend its life. Following last night's high winds though, we are now facing an unexpected bill for a bigger repair, and this is the basis of my plea!

If you, or anyone you know, is at all able to help us to replace some or all of the fence in a more 'budget-friendly' way, we would love to hear from you. If this is a chance to have a small working party, under the appropriate guidance of course, then more hands would make less work.

I hope you can understand that behind this plea is a desire to protect budgets for the things that are far more fun and necessary for the children, and any help would be greatly appreciated. If you can help, in any way, please let the school office know on admin@otterbourne.hants.sch.uk

Kind regards

Mr Geraghty

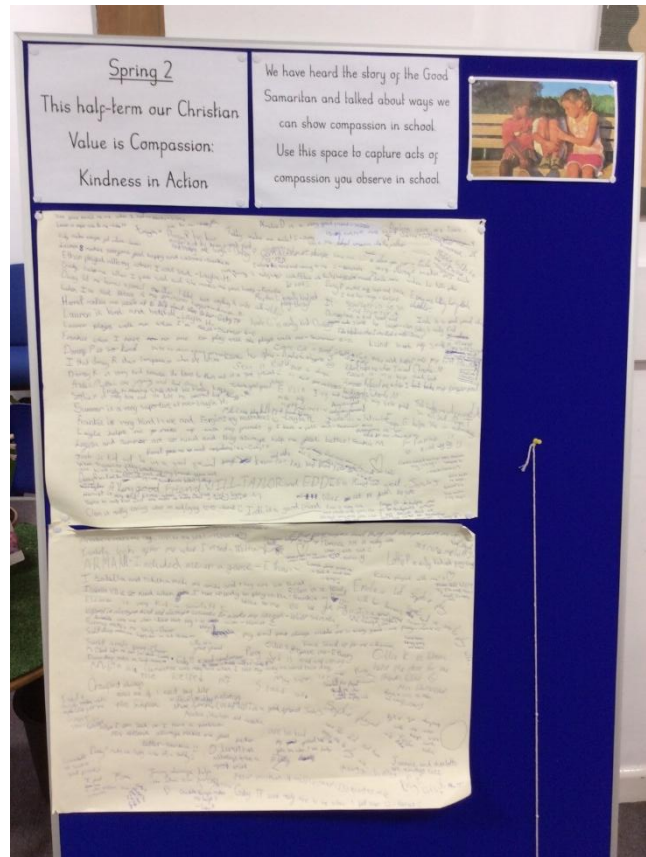
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Our Christian Values – Compassion

Each half-term, worship across the school focuses on a specific Christian Value. So far this year we have explored friendship, humility and hope, and this half-term we are focusing on the value of compassion. On Friday, Hedgehog Class delivered their class worship in St Matthew's Church and as part of this they acted out the bible story of 'The Good Samaritan'. This helped us to think about how we can show compassion in school. This half-term we have also tried something new as we have created an 'Acts of Compassion' board in our corridor. We have been blown away by how much the children have wanted to share an insight in to the acts of compassion they have witnessed, and the kindness that others have shown to them - in just two days the children filled two sheets of paper with ways other children have been compassionate to them around school!



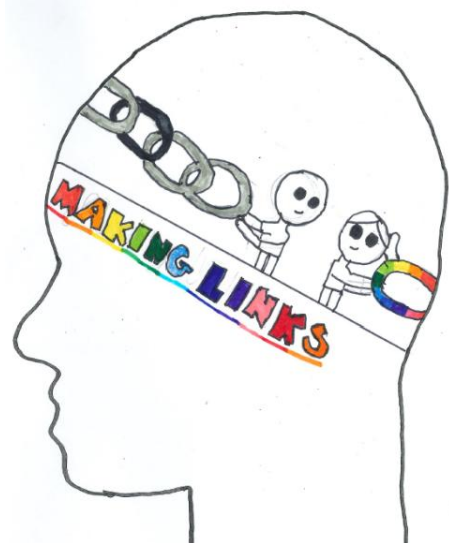
Mission of the Month Update

For the month of March, our Positive Learning Power for our "Mission of the Month" is 'Making Links'. In learning, this might be seeing the links from previous learning to current learning or recognising how skills and knowledge from one subject can be transferred to another subject. Each month, our Learning Council create child-friendly wording to help support everyone's understanding of this month's mission.

KS1 Making Links:
Using the things I already know to help me learn more easily.



KS2 Making Links:
Using previous knowledge to make connections to new learning.



Children in our Learning Council create an image to support children's understanding of each month's Positive Learning Power. This month's fantastic design was created by Jessica in Year 6.

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WaterAid Visit

On Monday, Year 3/4 were joined by a visiting speaker from the charity WaterAid. She told them all about the work they do to help people receive clean water, good hygiene and decent toilets. She also showed them how to make a Tippy Tap, a device that helps people to wash their hands and face in places where there is no running water.

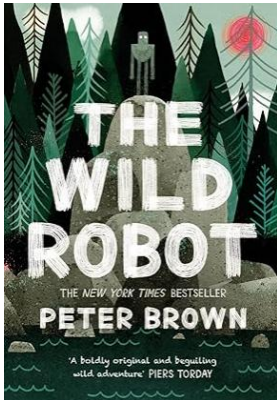
The children made notes to support the start of their new English unit where they will be making persuasive leaflets to encourage members of the public to support WaterAid. They were shocked to learn that some people have to walk up to 5 miles across dangerous terrain to find clean water and then carry up to 10 litres.

This talk supports the children's learning in geography where their big question is: Does the world have enough clean water? Later this month, the children will be taking part in the Walk for Water where they will carry containers of water around the school field to raise money for WaterAid. If you would like to donate towards their event, please follow this [link](#).



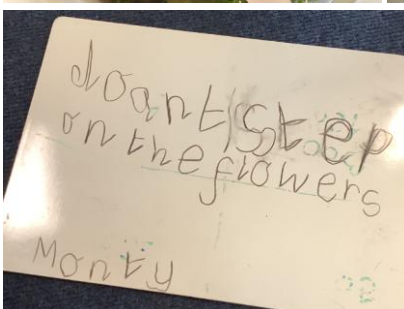
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Two years ago, many of our children in Year 5/6 purchased a copy of The Wild Robot. Our Year 3/4 classes will be reading it in the summer term. If you have a copy at home which you no longer need, and would be happy to donate, please drop it into the office. Thank you

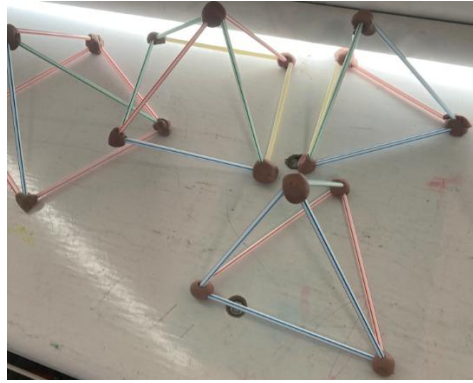
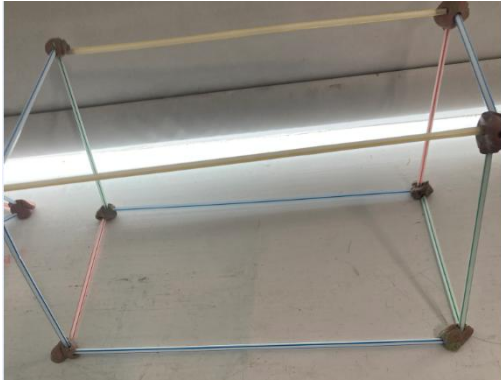
LEARNING IN ACTION PHOTOS



This week Otters have been learning about the life cycle of a frog. Mrs Holland's newts were eating all the tadpoles in her pond so Otters are now looking after four of them in their classroom. They have used playdough to represent different stages of the life cycle, played in their sensory pond and made their own frogs. The planting outside has still continued and this week the children have laid their own wild flower patch which they are very passionate about protecting.

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Hedgehog Class have been creating 3D shapes using clues to help them.

A REMINDER

WINCHESTER FOOD & BASICS BANK

Here is the link to information for families in need of a little bit of extra support this Easter:

<https://winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk/2026-easter-holiday-lunch-scheme/>

Closing date will be **Sunday 15th March 2026** and lunches can be collected from hubs in the week beginning Monday 23rd March.

NSPCC - CHILDREN AND PHONE SAFETY

The NSPCC's guidance on children, mobile phones and online safety is a useful resource for DSLs to draw on when communicating with parents. It addresses one of the most common questions schools are asked: when is a child ready for a phone, and how can families manage the risks?

The guide offers balanced, practical advice on readiness, boundary-setting, parental controls, and ongoing conversations about safe and responsible use. Including or signposting this resource in a parent newsletter can help reinforce consistent messages between home and school, reduce anxiety, and support a shared approach to online safety.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/>

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Year R, 1 and 2
Spring Garden Parade

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2026

You are invited to design and make your very own spring garden inspired by nature and Easter.

Please bring your miniature garden to school on this date to create a spring garden parade which will be enjoyed by children from across the school.



EASTER EGG TRAIL

WHEN: Thursday 26th March

WHERE: On the playground after school

PRIZE: An Easter treat for every child who enters

TICKETS: Must be purchased on Classlist by Wednesday 25th March so we can buy enough prizes. One ticket needed per child.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Children being collected at normal finish time can complete the trail with their parent/carer.
- Children attending an after-school club will complete the trail with their club friends & staff.
- All children can take part – siblings also welcome!
- You will receive a trail via Classlist which you can print out but it's not necessary, children can write the letters they find on a piece of paper to work out the secret Easter word.



Scan to get your tickets on classlist

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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

If you would like the school membership details, to access these sessions free of charge, please contact the school office.