

# THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

It's hard to believe that we are already in the final term of the school year – it's always a very busy time in school and we have a lot of events including our Year 4 residential, the May Fayre, and a lot of things that support the Year 6 children with their transition to secondary school. Please keep an eye on the newsletter as this is becoming our main method for letting you know what's happening (and occasionally what's had to change).

I am delighted to be able to announce that Miss Whitbread and her partner, Josh, welcomed baby Noah into the world over the Easter holidays. The family are all doing well and we are very excited about meeting Noah very soon. In case you hadn't seen this already, Miss Whitbread will be on maternity leave until next year but Miss Pascall, who used to work at the school, is covering all of Miss Whitbread's SENDCo responsibilities during this time.

In school, we are watching the weather closely as we approach one of the most important times of the year. Yes, it's almost time for us to spend play and lunchtimes on the school field! This week, we spoke to all of the children about the extra activities that we are providing for these parts of the day and there is much excitement. When we are on the field, we section off certain areas for different things. This includes digging in the dry mud (which can get a bit dusty) and some gymnastics. I believe that handstands and cartwheels are an important life skill, so we permit these in the designated area and monitor it carefully to ensure all children stay safe. However, if this isn't something you want your child being involved in, please speak to them at home.

This term, we have also started to introduce the children to playground games that we are taking the time to teach so that they can engage in collaborative activities with their peers. There are some genuine classics, which you can ask them about, that I remember playing and I'm sure you will too.

If you are interested in being part of this, please come and speak to us in the school office, as we are always looking for lunchtime controllers.

There's not long to go to this year's May Fayre and I know that our incredible FOS are working hard to make this annual highlight another great success. A lot of information about the May Fayre, which is on May 16<sup>th</sup>, is being shared on class WhatsApp groups but there are a few exciting announcements in this newsletter – I hope we will see you there...and if you have any time you would be happy to spend volunteering at the event, we really would love to hear from you.

Kind regards  
Mr Geraghty

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## LEARNING IN ACTION PHOTOS



Otter Class was transformed into a jungle this week as they have explored and practiced retelling the story of *Monkey Puzzle* by Julia Donaldson. They have also been learning how to form b and d using b for buttercups and d for daisies.



Year 5/6 have been exploring perspective in art, and they had a fun afternoon on the playground yesterday taking photos to demonstrate their understanding.

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Year 1 have been learning how to use Paint in computing.



Year 2 have been exploring what happens when they mix primary colours.



Year 3/4 have been setting up their plant investigation to help them see photosynthesis in action.

## David Attenborough's Birthday - Outdoor Learning Day – Friday 8th May

To celebrate David Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday we will be holding an Outdoor Learning Day on Friday 8th May. More information will be sent home very soon.

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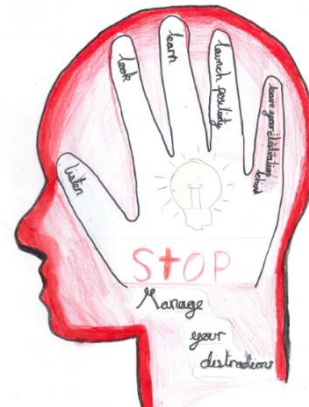
## Mission of the Month

For the month of April, our Positive Learning Power for our "Mission of the Month" is 'Managing Distractions'. This learning power allows us to explore how we can reduce distractions and create our best learning environment. Each month, our Learning Council create child-friendly wording to help support everyone's understanding of this month's mission. This month's image was created by Lauren in Year 6.

KS1 Managing Distractions:  
Look at the teacher and your  
work. Ignore unhelpful noises.



KS2 Managing Distractions:  
Turn away from your distractions  
and focus on your learning task.



## Rose Garden Relocation and Plant Appeal

Recently, our Eco-Council children suggested that it would be nice to have our house colours represented in a floral display for everyone to see. When we considered where this could go, we recognised that the Rose Garden needed a lot of attention and wasn't being tended as much as would be liked. The children suggested a new location for the roses, so they can be seen more regularly and tended more easily, so we've made a couple of changes...but please do not worry; it hasn't gone far! The Eco-Council are currently busy replanting it with Mrs Simmons outside Wrens' Class so that it can be seen, enjoyed and cared for by the children every day whilst in school.

Eco-Council will then resculpt the old flower bed into four smaller ones, each representing our house colours. If you would be happy to help make this a big, bright and beautiful display, the children are looking for donations of the following:

- Gardening tools
- Compost
- Donations of blue, red, yellow and green annual and perennial flowers



## A MAY FAYRE MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS OF SCHOOL (FOS)

We are very excited about bringing you another great day of fun and fundraising, ending with the usual Soak the Headteacher finale.

- Our biggest request is for volunteers to help on the day. You can sign up via Classlist under the May Fayre event, or from next week there will be a sign-up sheet outside the school office you can add your name to.
- We'll be asking for sweet and bottle donations for our tombolas nearer the time, and will be offering a dress-down day on Friday 15th May as a thank you.
- The cake competition theme this year will be '*Is It Cake?*' – hopefully a fun and exciting challenge for the children to get involved in. Please bring cakes on the day of the fayre ready for judging at 12pm.
- The Holt will be running a plant sale to raise money for the incredible garden they've been developing in the meadow playground. If you have any plant donations, please bring them into school on Friday 15th May or on the day of the fayre.
- Are you a talented face painter – or perhaps a face painter in the making? If so, we'd really appreciate you signing up to help on the face painting stall. Even 30 minutes would make a big difference.

### Summer Swap @ The May Fayre!

Following the huge success of our two winter swaps, we're excited to be hosting a **Summer Swap** at this year's May Fayre! This is a fantastic way to support our commitment to sustainability while giving pre-loved items a new lease of life. It also offers our children a valuable opportunity to learn about the importance of 'swapping, not shopping'.

We are now welcoming donations of clean, good-quality summer items with plenty of wear left in them. This can include clothing as well as accessories such as sunglasses, hats and swim aids.

At the May Fayre, you'll be able to browse the stalls and take what you need which helps to reduce waste while refreshing your summer wardrobes.

We also have our wonderful 'Swap Shed' on the school playground, where toys, books, puzzles and games can be reused and enjoyed again. You are very welcome to donate or take items at any time.

These initiatives are incredibly rewarding for the children and play an important role in promoting our school's sustainability values and we thank you for your support as always. Mrs Simpson



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OTTERBOURNE C.E. Primary School  
This year's theme has been chosen by Community Council

## Is it Cake?!

Join our May Fayre Cake-Off!  
Bake a cake that doesn't look like a cake!  
Is it a shoe? Is it a brick?  
Is it a book? OR is it cake?!

Cakes to be ready by  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

## May Fayre Cake Competition

There was a unanimous decision from Community Council about this year's cake competition theme and they have chosen (based on the very popular Netflix show).... 'IS IT CAKE?'

We're inviting families to create cakes that look like... well, NOT CAKE!. Is it a shoe, a brick, a mushroom, a book?! The more surprising and imaginative, the better.

All entries will be judged on creativity, appearance, and effort (not just confusing the judges) and we'd love for children to be fully involved in the baking and decorating process. This is a fantastic opportunity to work together at home and showcase some truly show-stopping designs.

Please ensure your cake is ready to be brought in on the morning of the May Fayre, Saturday 16th May.

We can't wait to see your incredible creations and to ask ourselves... *is it cake?!*

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## Parent Support Workshops

The Winchester Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is offering a series of free online workshops for parents and carers during the summer term. These sessions are open to families whose children attend MHST-supported schools in the Winchester area and will be delivered online via Microsoft Teams. Please register your interest via the sign up link below or QR code on attached poster.

Parents can sign up using the QR code on the workshop poster or via this link:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/dEit7hbd1j>

### **CARE: Coping and Resilience in Education**

Friday 24th April | 09:30–11:00

A practical workshop to support parents in helping their child understand and express emotions. It introduces simple strategies to build resilience and manage feelings such as anxiety, sadness, and anger.

Microsoft Teams link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/360537322402717?p=5TknpjFLM1dtMQEdAR>

Meeting ID: 360 537 322 402 717 | Passcode: ZW7MH25M

### **Managing Behaviour**

Wednesday 6th May | 09:30–11:00

This session offers practical approaches for supporting emotional regulation, building routines, and strengthening communication when children's behaviour feels challenging.

Microsoft Teams link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/371700292963206?p=z8NmAgOkBQAW1jHmhl>

Meeting ID: 371 700 292 963 206 | Passcode: Ct3pH6et

### **Understanding and Managing Your Child's Anxiety**

Wednesday 20th May | 09:30–11:00

A workshop exploring what anxiety is, what keeps it going, and tools parents can use at home to help build confidence and manage anxious feelings.

Microsoft Teams link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/39928471999655?p=ckYBUSK4ufHGIK2gYl>

Meeting ID: 399 284 719 996 55 | Passcode: yC3dn7ru

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## Sparsholt Girls Cricket Taster! Saturday 25 April

Primary school girls: 2pm - 3:30pm  
Secondary school girls: 3:30pm - 5pm



Sparsholt Cricket Club, SO21 2LU (up Lock's Lane)  
W3W ///gifts.much.shuffles

Suitable for ALL incl complete beginners  
For more info, contact Sonia Zakrzewski  
srz@soton.ac.uk 07779 117374

# FREE!

Book now on:

<http://tinyurl.com/girlscricket2026>



Sparsholt cricket club are running two new introduction to cricket events in the near future:

The first is a free taster session for girls on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Where: Sparsholt Cricket Club, SO21 2LU

Times: Primary school ages: 2pm - 3:30pm | Secondary school ages: 3:30pm - 5pm

Places are limited, so book now! Scan the QR code, or click here: <http://tinyurl.com/girlscricket2026>

The second is All Stars cricket for children (both boys and girls) aged 5-8 [i.e. years 3 & 4] on Thursdays from 4:30pm to 5:30pm, starting in early May. Sign up on: <http://tinyurl.com/SparsholtAllStars2026>

There are also a few more places in the U9s.

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## CHANDLERS FORD LIBRARY Family Events

**MONDAYS**  
10:30am

### Story Time & Stay and Play

Listen to some of your favourite stories, make new friends and help support your child's language development and communication skills. Followed by a free stay and play - crafts, puzzles, duplo, colouring, dressing up and more!

**TUESDAYS**  
**THURSDAYS**  
10:30am

### Rhymetime

Our super popular Rhymetime sessions are a fantastic opportunity to have lots of fun, boost your child's confidence, and help them develop strong language and communication skills. It's never too early to start!

**FRIDAYS**  
From 10am

### Home Education Club

Would you like to meet other children who are home educated? Come along to our informal group to meet other families and enjoy what the library has to offer together!

**EVERY**  
**SATURDAY**  
10am - 4:30pm

### Family Fun - CONSTRUCTION CLUB

Free fun in the children's library! Colouring, Lego, toys, dressing up, children's trails and of course loads of books! This is a self-led session. Children must be supervised at all times.

**FREE DROP-IN FAMILY EVENTS - NO NEED TO BOOK!**



### Coat & Wellies Exchange

Do your old winter coats or wellies that no longer fit? Looking for an upgrade? At Chandler's Ford Library you can donate old children's coats and wellies (in good condition) and take new ones for free! You don't need to donate one to take one and you don't need to take one to donate one. It's all part of our Warm and Welcome campaign to make sure everyone has access to warm clothing when they need it.

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## BE WILDFIRE AWARE AND HELP PROTECT THE COUNTRYSIDE



**PACK A PICNIC**  
NOT A BBQ



**DON'T**  
START CAMPFIRE



**EXTINGUISH**  
CIGARETTES  
FULLY



**DON'T**  
DROP LITTER

 Hampshire & Isle of Wight  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

 IF YOU SEE A FIRE  
**CALL 999**



**SCAN ME**  
OR VISIT  
[bit.ly/Wildfire-Aware](http://bit.ly/Wildfire-Aware)