

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

I want to start this final newsletter of the half-term, with something of a spotlight on a small group of children who represented the school in swimming earlier this year. Unlike some of the other participating schools, we don't have a pool of our own. This means that swimming can sometimes be a little 'under the radar' in terms of school sports. We are, however, fortunate to have in our school, families who are very passionate about swimming and give up their own time to support our children – as often the events take place at weekends and can be far from the school.

Swimming Success at County and Regional Championships – by Riette Prinsloo

We are incredibly proud of Joshua, Bella, Jessie, and Sebastian, who recently excelled at the County Swimming Championships. The team secured a silver medal in the Mixed Medley Relay and a bronze in the Mixed Freestyle Relay, making them one of only three Hampshire schools to qualify for the Southeast Regional Championships—the most competitive region in England.

Additionally, Joshua, Jessie, and Bella qualified as individual county swimmers. This is a remarkable feat given they competed against specialist swimming schools and top-tier clubs.

Their success is a testament to their extraordinary dedication. At just 10 and 11 years old, these pupils balance rigorous training sessions—starting as early as 6:00 am and finishing as late as 9:00 pm—with their school studies. Their grit, discipline, and teamwork are truly inspiring.

A special mention goes to the team's unique composition of only three club swimmers and one lesson swimmer, who together overcame the odds to medal at a county level. Congratulations to our talented swimmers; the entire school community is immensely proud of you!



My thanks to Riette, and other parents, for the time they give to supporting the children.

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May Fayre

Thank you to all of you who came along to support our annual May Fayre on Saturday. The day was a huge success, despite the dark clouds and scatters of rain and it was wonderful to see so many families enjoying themselves. The May King and Queen did a wonderful job opening the fayre and judging the incredible cakes in the 'Is it Cake?' competition.

Year 6 children offered a range of entertainment with their well-prepared stalls and there were some fantastic performances in the main arena including the May Pole, choir, drama club and Dance Junkies. The annual traditions of 'tug-of-war' and 'soak the headteacher' were equally popular and we had some very lucky winners when the raffle took place at the end of the afternoon. We can't thank FOS enough for their hard work to bring this community event together.

Many thanks to all the additional volunteers that ran stalls and helped to set up and tidy away – your contributions are much appreciated. We hope you managed to see the Trim Trail voting stall which was set up by our Children's Council, providing an exciting insight into where the funds are going. We look forward to hearing about how much was raised in the next FOS newsletter.



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Staff Promises

The raffle for the staff promises was drawn in assembly on Wednesday and the winners were:

Headteacher for the day – Ariella

Lego Movie and Building with Mr Geraghty – Jamie, Leo and Harry A

Police Station Tour with Mrs Holland – Jackson

Bracelet Making with Mrs Redford – Connie, Bella, Tabitha and Lola

Cup Cake Decorating with Mrs Smith – Bella P, Isabella K, Erin and Clementine

Film with squash and popcorn with Miss McNally – Isabella K, Ryker, Connie, Mik

Tie Dye with Mr O'Dowd – Will S, Maisie and Phoebe L

Planting wild flowers with Mrs Simmons – Elena and Rhianne

Pizza and 'Pie Face' game with Mrs Simpson – Bella P, Kit and Rory

Film with a drink and a cake with Miss Reid – Clara and Bella D

The promises will take place during June and July and will be arranged with the children in school.

Thank you to all the staff for offering such a range of different experiences for the children.

Drama Club

If you enjoyed the performance from the Drama Club at the May Fayre, you can see more on the 16th or 17th June at Thornden Hall. Tickets are selling very well, but there are still some available for both nights.

[Click here](#) for more information



The School Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness

You may already know that a small team from the school will be doing their very best to complete the 10km Breast Walk Ever in Winchester on June 14th. This is mostly to raise awareness and to show our love and support for Mrs Whitwham, who bravely faced this recently.

However, I have been asked about fundraising, so if you would like to donate to the Against Breast Cancer charity on behalf of the school, you can do so here: [Otterbourne Primary - Against Breast Cancer](#)

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Year 6 SATs

We need to say a huge 'well done' to Year 6 who showed great determination and maturity during their SATs tests last week. Each morning, they enjoyed a SATs breakfast in the hall with their friends which helped them to relax and feel ready for the test each day. We were so impressed with their positive approach, and they should be proud of their efforts. They enjoyed taking part in a Colour Run as an end of SATs treat and were delighted on the Thursday to receive their Leaver's Hoodies, although we're pleased to say that they're not leaving yet and we still have lots of end of year activities to look forward to.



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Trip Focus – Year 4 Stubbington Residential

This week our Year 4 children set off with their teachers on a three-day residential experience to Stubbington Study Centre. They all had a wonderful time and developed their independence, collaboration and problem-solving skills through a range of exciting activities. They were back at school on Thursday tired but full of stories of their adventures:

"I found 6 fossils including shark teeth; it was so much fun!"

"We saw 2 foxes, 3 badgers and 1 deer from our bedroom window!"

"The Earthquake activity was the best because we had to swing over water on a rope!"

"We loved everything!" "I'm going back there at the weekend because I want to find more shark teeth!"

Thank you so much to Mrs Whitwham, Mrs Simmons, Mrs McNally, Miss Whitwham and Mrs Armstrong for giving up their time to give the Year 4s this wonderful experience.



It was wonderful to be able to spend some time with the Year 4 children at Stubbington as they pushed themselves with the activities, changes in social settings and the challenge of being away from home. At the end of the residential the children were complimented by the staff at the centre for their manners and interactions with the Stubbington team. Well done Year 4!!

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Learning in Action



Year 2 have been making clay tiles.



Year 3 have been busy in school this week creating some incredible Viking Ships.

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It has been a busy two weeks in Otter Class. They have been exploring 'people who help us' and have been reading information books about police, fire brigade and ambulance services. They had a visit from the RNLI who taught them about how they rescue people at sea and how to stay safe on the beach. They have made lifeboats and fire engines and have acted as people who help us in their role play. As well as this, they have had the excitement of their chicks finally hatching and learnt how to hold a chick very carefully.

Southampton Football Club

Some of our Year 2 children spent the day at Saints recently enjoying a day of football training. Thank you to the parents who transported the children for the day.

This photo really does put across just how excited they were:



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Osborne & Shepherds Down School
Outreach Services
Parent Workshop:



Tuesday 16th June 2026



10.00am – 2.30pm

Venue: Oliver's Battery School, Austen Avenue,
Winchester SO22 4HP

This workshop will provide you with an insight into autism and how it affects your child. Our aim is to provide you with a range of practical strategies to support your child in the home environment.

The course will cover:

- ❖ An introduction to autism and the areas of difference
- ❖ Positive behaviour management
- ❖ Communication

Led By:

Carson Eday

(Osborne School Outreach Service)

Laura Watts (Shepherds Down Outreach Service)



Free of charge

To book a place please contact **Osborne School Office**

Please do not contact Shepherds Down or Oliver's Battery to book.

N.B. Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Refreshments will be provided, please bring a packed lunch.

Email admin@osborne.hants.sch.uk

Phone 01962 854537

Parking – On site.

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June 2026 Timetable

All regular 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

Understanding Anger	1 June 10am
School Anxiety	1 June 7pm
Facing Defiance	2 June 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	2 June 7pm
Anxiety Explained	8 June 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	8 June 7pm
Introduction to OCD	9 June 10am
What is ACT?	9 June 7pm
Decreasing Depression	15 June 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	15 June 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	16 June 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	16 June 7pm
Improving Family Communication	22 June 10am
Autism-Improving Communication	22 June 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	23 June 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	23 June 7pm
ADHD and Homework	25 June 7-8pm

Additional Support Courses for Parents

Three new courses offered by FACE, separate from the school membership.

Full access to all three courses for £6.99/month

Complete at your own pace, cancel anytime.



Building Emotional Resilience

Work through six stages of directed exercises to help your child (and yourself) improve emotional resilience.



Facing Defiance

A specific strategy aimed at supporting parents of children aged 5 to 12 with ADHD, ODD or just very challenging behaviour.



You & Your Teen

A skills building course for one parent and one teen (12 years old and above) to learn how they can both improve their communication with each other.

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Online Courses for Parents page

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk



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Book Donations

Do you have any unwanted children's books on plants and birds? These are very popular in our library and ours have become rather tattered. Please bring any donations to the office. Thank you

Class Structure for 2026/2027

In September our class structure will continue as it has this year:

Year R – Otters

Year 1 – Squirrels

Year 2 – Hedgehogs

Three Year 3/4 classes – Wrens, Robins and Sparrows. These will be slightly smaller classes comprising of a mix of 32 Year 3 children and 48 Year 4 children

Three Year 5/6 classes – Buzzards, Kestrels and Red Kites

Children will meet their new teachers on our transition day which is being held on Monday 29th June.

Class lists are set by teachers following robust conversations about friendships, conflicts, learning behaviours and personalities. There is a lot of time dedicated to balancing classrooms for everyone involved and once set, lists will not be amended.

School's Social Media and Online Photographs

There are a number of concerning stories in the media about the manipulation of images of school children. We are working very closely with the local cluster of schools and following guidance to ensure that the safety of the children in our community remains our number one priority. It is likely that we will have to change how we use images, including in those on the website and in the newsletter. If you have any concerns about any of this, please do contact me.



Online Workshops

- Free impartial advice relating to SEND for 0-25 years.
- Confidential sessions not recorded.
- Peer support, talking to others experiencing a similar journey.
- A dedicated session with an experienced support worker

**28
APR**

Responding to a draft
EHCP

10:00

If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

**6
MAY**

Alternative Provision

What constitutes as a
suitable education in
relation to section 19 of
the education act

12:30

**13
MAY**

Responding to a draft
EHCP

13:00

If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

**13
MAY**

Appeals to SEND Tribunal

A step-by-step guide
through the appeals
process

17:30

**18
MAY**

Considering an EHC Plan?

12:00

Independent and
impartial information to
guide you through the
process

**19
MAY**

Ordinarily Available
Provision and SEN Support

10:00

Looking at support
available for those who do
not have an EHCP

www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk/workshops