

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

There are still lots of lovely things to share with you in this week's newsletter but I need to start with our number 1 priority, which is safeguarding.

During the school day, regardless of where they are or who they are with, we have a duty of care to ensure your children are safe. Our simple protocol is that if the children are not in the care of their class teacher or other member of staff, they are 'signed out' using the system in the main reception (called 'Entrysign') before leaving school.

I am sure that you would agree that nothing is more important than keeping the children safe, so whether it is for a whole session or even a few minutes, I must ask that you always follow this procedure if you are taking children into your care before 3:30pm. Please understand that this is the only reliable way for us to track where children are, and it is not the responsibility of a member of staff to pass on messages. On a final note, one of my team was treated with disrespect recently when undertaking this aspect of their safeguarding duty, which isn't something that any of us should expect or accept.

If you have any questions about any aspect of this procedure, please contact the school directly.

Thank you

Mr Geraghty

Planned Absence

We all want to be able to enjoy time out with our families, but when this is in school time, it is important to manage this correctly. School attendance is currently a priority for all Hampshire schools and most areas of the country and there is clear guidance for Headteachers about how to manage this with families. We also work with local schools to ensure that all children and families in the area are considered equally. If absence cannot be authorised, please understand that as a maintained school, this is something that I have little control over. That said, if you are planning an absence from school, please follow the procedure and ask the office for the appropriate form ("Request to authorise absence from school due to exceptional circumstances").

Church Event – Monday 8th June

Message from St Matthew's Church: "We have a funeral next Monday. The service starts at 14:00, so we would expect to be concluded before school pick-up but there could be some vehicles still in front of the church.

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Medication in School

We always want to support your child and their health needs while they are in school. However, there has been a significant increase in the amount of medication that needs to be administered during the school day.

Wherever possible, we would be grateful if you could ask your child's doctor whether medication can be prescribed for a three-times-daily dose, allowing doses to be given outside of school hours.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Mrs Davenport

Returning Library Books

At the end of each academic year, Mrs Redford closes the library to check the stock and ensure all library books have been returned. Children are allowed two books out on their library card at any time. Last year, sadly, over 200 library books went missing. Please can you support us by checking your children's bedrooms for any missing books – some have been on loan since the start of September! This year, the library will close on 10th July – please ensure all library books get returned by this date.

Thank you for support.

Mrs Holland

Reminder – Class Photos – Monday 8th June

Please can children be in full, smart uniform, with jumpers/cardigans and black shoes.

Extension of Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility

The Department for Education (DfE) has extended FSM entitlement to all children from households receiving Universal Credit. If your family is in receipt of Universal Credit and you have not previously applied for FSM, please apply on the Hampshire portal, preferably before the end of the Summer term, to ensure that your eligibility is confirmed in time for September.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals>

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Water Safety

This week, the children have been talking about water safety and I just wanted to share a cartoon with you that many of them watched in class. [Water Safety Code Cartoon](#)

A message on behalf of Community Council and Wellbeing Council

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our families for supporting two fantastic events last half term.

Firstly, our Summer Swap Shop at the May Fayre was a tremendous success. Around 20 bags of clothing were either reused through the swap shop or donated to Emmaus Winchester. It was wonderful to see so many items finding a new home rather than going to waste. Not only was the event a great success, but it also helped reinforce our important message about sustainability, reducing waste and reusing resources wherever possible.

We would also like to thank everyone who supported our Dance for Diabetes event. It was fantastic to see so many parents, carers and family members joining us on the field and enjoying the performances in the sunshine. The children were incredible and it was a brilliant way to finish the half term together.

The event was also a fantastic fundraiser for both the school and the Diabetes Wellness and Research Foundation (DWRF). We are still finalising the total amount raised and will share this with you as soon as we can.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Events like these would not be possible without our wonderful school community.

Mrs Simpson



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Wild Worship

This week children in Red Kites and Kestrels acted as Wardens of God's Earth and delivered acts of Wild Worship to children in Year R, 1 and 2 and their parents. Wild Worship is the Year 5/6 alternative to class worship that takes place in the church in the younger year groups. It allows the children a chance to plan and deliver their own acts of worship developing their positive learning powers of collaboration, planning, creativity and making links whilst also developing their confidence in speaking to an audience. The worship was based on our Christian Value of Trust and it built upon their learning in RE on 'What would Jesus do?'

The children took their audience on a spiritual journey through the meadow and into our woods, finishing in the Prayer Patch. There were lots of opportunities for their audience to be interactive as they taught them songs and actions to help deliver their message. Buzzards are looking forward to delivering their Wild Worship to Hedgehogs class next week.



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Otters visit from Little City

On Friday 22nd June, our school hall was transformed into a Little City full of wonderful play opportunities for children to take part in. This experience formed part of their two-week unit on 'People Who Help Us'. The children were fully immersed in a range of role play, taking on a full range of jobs including beauticians, builders, delivery officers, doctors, waiters and vets.



Jonah Rideout Author Visit for Years 2, 3 and 4

Children in Years 2, 3 and 4 all enjoyed a visit from author Jonah Rideout on Thursday when he shared his book, 'A Rubbish Journey' which highlights the issues of pollution in our seas. The children were very inspired by his visit and had lots of questions they wanted to ask him. They had a competition to design their own sea creature and there were some very creative entries and some children were very keen to get hold of a copy of his book as a prize.

It was a shame that we were unable to hold the Reading Picnic on the same day as his visit but this will now take place on Thursday 18th June at 2:50pm.



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Learning in Action



Year 2 are very proud of the boats they created with levers, hinges and flaps.



Buzzard's class have been classifying animals in science.



Wren class have been carrying out the 'Dancing Raisins' science experiment to explore buoyancy.

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Safeguarding, Child Welfare and Family Support

There are many reasons for children and families to need help, whether with managing limited household budgets or getting support through other difficulties. We always try and share as much information from third party organisations as we can, and we are currently creating a family support room within the school.

Miss Reid, the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, is also my Welfare Lead so if there is anything that you need help with, or would like to discuss, this is always in strictest confidence so please do reach out.

Domestic abuse

A message from the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership:

"Major football tournaments bring people together, but for some, they also bring increased risk.

Domestic abuse can escalate during high-profile matches. Research and local data consistently show that incidents of domestic abuse rise around major men's football events, with reports increasing by around 25% following matches - regardless of whether the team wins, loses or draws.

This campaign aims to raise awareness, support those affected and encourage everyone to take action."

CLICK HERE: [Communications and campaigns | Health and social care | Hampshire County Council](#)

Winchester Basics Bank

A message about the Summer Holiday Lunch Scheme

We are inviting families with school-aged children (who live or attend a school in the city of Winchester and some surrounding areas, including Alresford) who feel they need some extra help over the school holidays to register for our Holiday Lunch Scheme. The aim of the scheme is to provide food to cover 5 lunches per child per week. Please note that the holiday lunch scheme is in addition to our normal operation, and does not count towards the number of standard vouchers a client can receive. However, we ask that clients don't claim both during the same period of time.

Clients should go to our website to sign up and read the information carefully:

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

Closing date is Sunday 5th July.

This summer we have 5 locations for the client to collect from:

Badger Farm (Community Centre, SO22 4QB) – Mondays, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Bar End (The Vineyard Church, SO23 9NR) – Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.;

Highcliffe (21a Penton Place, Milland Road, SO23 0PZ) – Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

New Alresford (St Gregory's Church, SO24 9HD) – Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.;

Weeke (St Barnabas Church, SO22 6DS) – Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

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THE LINKS IN THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT ARE NOT ACTIVE.

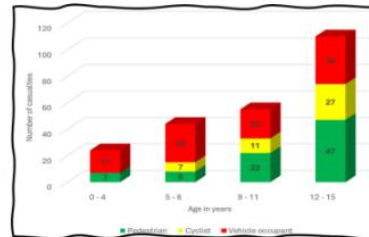
PLEASE FIND THE ACTIVE LINKS LISTED BELOW EACH PAGE.

Parent road safety newsletter

Transition road safety advice for parents and guardians of Year 5 & 6 pupils June 2026

Your child is either starting Secondary School or asking if they can travel to Primary school more independently; you may have some concerns about the transition to this stage.

The Road Safety Team want to support you with this next stage; below and overleaf are some ways you can help them stay safer on their journey to and from school.



The graph above shows our child casualty statistics in Hampshire from 2024 when there were 233 casualties aged 0 - 15 years; this highlights the increase in casualties as children get older.

Young people are more at risk as they get older and begin to travel independently. With **traffic being the biggest single cause of accidental death for 12 - 16 year olds**, it is essential your child understands the risks on their peak time journeys to and from school — including what responsible choices they need to make, to keep themselves and their friends safe.

Plan & rehearse their route to school

If your child is in Year Five.... have you considered allowing them to practice their familiar route to primary school or walking half way independently this term or in September?

If your child is currently in Year Six..... your child will be making the transition to Secondary School; this might be their first independent journey to school - to a new location.

For both scenarios, the questions below are ones you may be considering and hopefully these suggestions will support you and your child with this transition.

- Have they used the route before?
- Have they crossed those roads, at peak time, before?
- Have they crossed any roads, at peak time?
- Do they know the route they will be taking?
- Will they be walking with friends?



All questions can be covered by completing the risk assessment activity above with your child. Practice the route with them, consider the risks and how they can be minimised. You could use one of their transition days to practice the route with them - when it is busy and at the time of day they will be making the journey. Please email road.safety@hants.gov.uk for a copy of the activity.

Please see overleaf for more ideas and advice from the DfT about discussions you should have with your child about their journey.

StreetSense
ROAD SAFETY

Transitioning to Secondary School

Road casualty data shows that the number of child pedestrian casualties doubles between the ages of 9 and 11, with incidents more likely to happen during drop-off and pick up times.

This Department for Transport resource aims to help you, as parents/carers, prepare your child(ren) for independent travel to and from school, when they are most at risk.

The Think! Safe adventures resource gives you the tools to discuss the leap to Secondary school, focusing on the top three risky behaviours that young people display:

- Pedestrian failure to look / distraction (friends and mobiles)
- Pedestrian careless, reckless or in a hurry
- Safe place to cross (including parked cars and behind buses)



The campaign promotes the idea of undertaking practice journeys with your children, discussing the three road safety rules of **EYES UP**, **SLOW DOWN** and **CROSS SAFELY**.

Visit [Transitioning to Secondary School – THINK!](#) to download the activity. This activity can be used alongside the risk assessment activity recommended on the previous page.

London Road Safety Council - It's a Jungle Out There!



Various short clips are available to watch on the [London Road Safety Council You Tube](#) page. The characters are based around various different animals portraying teenagers as they are beginning their new journeys to Secondary School.

The concerns you, as parents or carers, may be having are covered and it is a great tool to start those discussions about the safer choices your child needs to make when travelling to school independently.

StreetSense
www.street-sense.org.uk

Maisie's story....

Does your child always wear their cycle helmet?

On Thursday 3rd November 2016, Jane Godden received a call which every parent dreads; her daughter Maisie had been involved in a serious road traffic collision whilst cycling to school.

Do you worry your child doesn't wear their cycle helmet on every journey? During recent workshops with Years 5 & 6, the Road Safety Team were shocked at how many students admit to not wearing one, and often give the following reasons:

- It doesn't fit
- It is uncomfortable
- It looks stupid
- My friends don't wear theirs
- They are uncool/not very fashionable



To encourage young people to make responsible choices, we need them to consider the consequences of not riding sensibly or not wearing a cycle helmet.

The Road Safety Team would strongly encourage you to watch [Maisie's story](#) this video with your child(ren.) They may have seen it in school but it would give you the opportunity to discuss the importance of making the right choices on every journey.

Thankfully for her and her family, Maisie made the safer choice of wearing a helmet and is still here to share her story; Maisie wants as many people as possible to hear how wearing a helmet saved her life.



Just the Journey map

The My Journey and Road Safety Team have worked together to produce a downloadable map and leaflet for secondary pupils in Hampshire.

The maps were developed to assist new Year 7 pupils as they adjust to their new, independent travel to secondary school. They allow pupils and parents to plan a safe route to their new school and destination, with highlighted footpaths, cycle routes, pedestrian crossings and parking available, away from the school. It also displays how long the journey will be from your starting point. Use this map to plan your child's safe route with them as well as discussing why the shortest route isn't always the safest. To view the map and leaflet, visit [Just the Journey Map](#).



Hints and tips advice leaflet

On the second page, there are hints and tips for young people to help them make safer, more responsible decisions when travelling to school, whether walking, cycling or getting the bus.

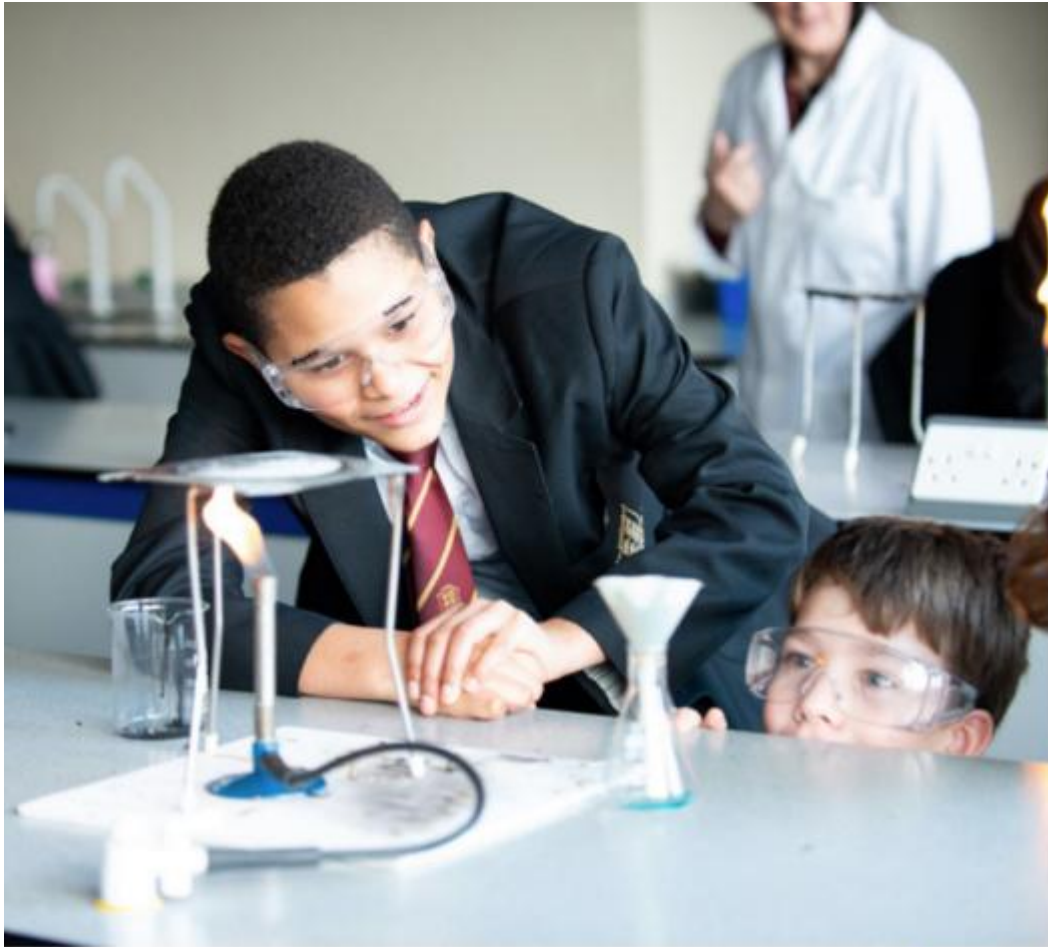
StreetSense
SAFE SENSE SAFE SENSE SAFE SENSE

[Maisies Story - What do you think' - talking about the use of cycle helmets](#) (parents might want to watch this in advance)

[Just the Journey maps | My Journey Hampshire](#)

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KINGS'



OPEN MORNINGS



APPOINTMENTS ONLY
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR
SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK
WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY
WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER
TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER

SCAN TO BOOK

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

FOLLOW US:



SUPPORT US:



www.kings-hants.com

kings.school@kings-winchester.hants.sch.uk



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

Would you like some support with any of the above issues?

FACE aims to support regular parents with commonly faced issues.

In this age of long waiting lists and over-loaded services, FACE is offering you practical and accessible advice and information.

Each talk includes easy to apply interventions
and the opportunity to ask questions.

The sessions are delivered online via zoom by Jane Keyworth,
Lead Facilitator at FACE
7pm - 8:30pm £24 each

[Book Now](#)

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk
07921512759

[Check out our site](#)

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