

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

What a week it was for those who love the arts and came along to see our incredible drama club perform Ye-Ha! at Thornden Hall. We were there for two nights and for me, what really stood out was the brilliant teamwork that brought everyone together on both nights, but also the reflection that had occurred between both performances, as the children themselves thought about how they could make it even better on day two. Over the two shows, we heard some of the best singing from soloists, duets and from the whole choir and watching children really get into their characters was a delight to see. I am proud of everyone who participated and incredibly grateful for the team who gave up many evenings to give your children this memorable experience.

Photos from the show will be sent out to parents of the cast very soon.

Preparing for the Warmer Weather

Now the weather is warming up, please ensure all the children have a drink bottle in school each day and a named sun hat they can wear outdoors. Please also apply sunscreen before leaving for school. Children should not bring sunscreen to school with them unless it has been pre-agreed for medical reasons. Ties do not need to be worn during this hot spell, but we are continuing with summer school uniform, including summer dresses, shorts and short-sleeved shirts, rather than PE kits this year.

Our summer uniform has been specifically designed to be lightweight, comfortable and appropriate for warmer conditions, while maintaining the smart appearance and sense of belonging that our school uniform provides. In many cases, school summer dresses and tailored shorts are made from breathable fabrics that are just as suitable, if not more suitable, than PE clothing for a full school day.

To help children remain comfortable and safe during hot weather, we will continue to implement a range of measures, including:

- Encouraging regular water intake throughout the day.
- Providing opportunities to refill water bottles.
- Making use of shaded areas during break and lunchtime including the woodland.
- Adjusting outdoor activities where necessary.
- Ensuring classrooms are well ventilated with fans

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Please note that we are working with other local schools on this and will follow any guidance that we receive from Hampshire County Council.

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Lunches

Please ensure that you book your child's meals in advance, particularly if they have any special dietary requirements.

We have a significant number of meals each day that have not been pre-booked. This can be very challenging for our kitchen team to manage and may mean that your child has limited meal options available to them, such as a sandwich.

Thank you for your support in helping this process run smoothly and in ensuring that your child receives their preferred lunch choice.

Thank you,

The Admin Team

Reading Picnic

It was lovely to see so many families on the field celebrating books during our Reading Picnic this week. There were some great texts being enjoyed amongst some delicious snacks. As adults, we have such an important part to play as reading role models: modelling and sharing a love of books. In doing this, we don't just encourage our children to read—it shows them that reading is valuable, enjoyable, and an important part of life.

Thank you to all those who came and to those who donated books. The children, including some of our future Year Rs, loved the opportunity to pick some new books to read at home.

If you are looking for more inspiration for books to share with your children, please see the link below which includes suggested texts for every year group:

[Year Group Recommended Reads – Top Children's Books by Age](#)



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Walk Against Breast Cancer

On Sunday, a team of staff took part in the Breast Walk Ever and raised a staggering £775 for the charity 'Against Breast Cancer'. The walk began in the beautiful grounds of IBM Hursley and took us through the countryside of Hursley, Otterbourne and Shawford. Thank you to all those who generously donated.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/otterbourneceprimaryschool?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL



Visit from MP Danny Chambers

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we had a very valuable visit from MP Danny Chambers who met our Pupil Parliament last week. It was lovely to read his own comments about the visit on his Facebook page.



Danny Chambers MP is in Otterbourne.

20h · 🌐

Meet Omelette, who enjoys excellent care from the pupils and staff at Otterbourne Primary School.

It was lovely to visit and see their Pupil Parliament in action. They discuss all their projects, issues and ideas across eight councils covering wellbeing, environment, sport, diversity, community, children, worship and learning.

it's a fantastic idea and I loved hearing from them about everything they've achieved this year and their plans for the future.

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Mission of the Month

For the month of June, our Positive Learning Power for our "Mission of the Month" is 'Imitation'. This learning power allows us to explore the importance of learning from those around us, building on the ideas of ideas to strengthen our own. Each month, our Learning Council create child-friendly wording to help support everyone's understanding of this month's mission.

KS1 Imitation:

Using other people's good ideas to make your work better.



KS2 Imitation:

Using other people's ideas and ways of working to help you improve yourself.



Sports Day Picnic

A reminder that sports day is taking place on 3rd July and at lunchtime all parents are invited to share a picnic lunch on the field. If you are unable to attend and are happy for your child(ren) to join another family, please fill out the Google form by following [this link](#).

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Learning in Action



Otters are very proud of their blooming Wildflower Patch which they sowed in the spring. They are continuing to care for it by watering it regularly and ensuring no one walks over it when they are out playing.

Otters have also been using Numicon to develop their calculation skills.



On Tuesday this week, some of our Y5/6 children made Anderson Shelters in the woods using their positive learning powers of collaboration, creativity and perseverance.

INSET Days: -

A reminder that our Inset Days for next year are as follows:

Tuesday 1st September

Wednesday 2nd September

Monday 2nd November

Monday 4th January

Tuesday 4th May

Keeping Teenagers Safe Online

This is an interesting article about online safety: [How to keep teens safe online](#)

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Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

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CENSORED

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 80 games and products over the past year.



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Source: <https://nipal.app/about/privacy.html>



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