

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

This is the penultimate newsletter of the year and I hope that you have enjoyed seeing so much of the children's learning and experiences of school over the past year. Recently, we've tried to keep going with as many of the usual activities and special days that make primary school memorable, despite the heat, and I have to say that the children have been really good at managing things.

We are definitely noticing how the unstructured times of the day are getting a bit more tricky now though, so from next week, we are going to have the children stay in their class groups for the first part of lunchtime. They will still have enough time outdoors but as they can't run around in this heat, as they would normally do, they are struggling with a full lunch hour, despite the changes we've put in place. Due to the forecast temperatures next week, we will be continuing with PE kits rather than uniforms. We are also continuing to allow children to bring in personal fans.

Thank you

Mr Geraghty

Library Closed

The library is now closed for the end-of-year book count. We are still awaiting the return of over 150 books, so we would really appreciate it if you could check at home over the weekend and return all library books as soon as possible.

Roses

Well done and a big thank you to Wren Class who have been diligently watering the newly positioned rose garden outside their classroom every day. Their love and care has had such a positive impact as the roses are now in full flower despite their move in hot conditions. Don't they look incredible?



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Trips Focus

It's been a week for trips this week with Year 6 venturing to Legoland for their leavers' 'geography' trip where they enjoyed a day of thrills and fun with their friends, whilst Year R were at Platform 1 running a real cafe. Also, Year 1 set off around Otterbourne to carry out geography fieldwork and Year 2 visited Marwell Zoo.

Otters trip to Platform One

Otters took a big step into the world of work on Monday when they helped to run the café at Platform One. Their jobs included making sandwiches for their parents, serving customers using their best manners, calculating simple costs using Numicon pieces and designing a hat. They did such an incredible job that they were rewarded with an ice-cream.



Out and about in Otterbourne

Year 1 set off on their geography fieldwork trip to help design Mr Jolly Postman a postal route through Otterbourne this week. They walked down local roads such as Cranbourne Drive, making a note of which side the odd and even numbers are on and surveying what type of houses were in the street. They were able to use their best 'Noticing' skills to decide if the properties were detached, semi-detached, terraced or bungalows. They had to follow a map carefully to know where to go and also looked out for post-boxes. Back in class, their next challenge is to create their own map for Mr Jolly Postman to help him with his round.



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Year 2 at Marwell Zoo

The children had a great day, taking advantage of the zoo from its shadiest spaces. The children learnt about how different habitats are suited to different animals and, in line with our sustainability pillar, how to look after the environment to protect animals in the future. They enjoyed an interactive talk with Marwell Staff as part of the day and made lots of discoveries and observations. The children were very excited to receive a free return ticket.



Y6 at Legoland

Year 6 finally got to attend their postponed Leavers' Trip and it was definitely worth the wait. They had a fantastic day and enjoyed trying out a full-range of rides with their teachers and friends. Here are some of their thoughts:

Lottie: "It was one of the best experiences ever, jam-packed with laughter and memories". Charlie: "It was a very memorable day and I loved being able to go on all the enthralling rides." Martha: "It helped me build my confidence and it was a truly unforgettable day." Gaby: "Going on Speedway was so much fun!"



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Learning in Action



Robin Class have been enjoying exploring their guided reading text 'Atlas of Adventure'.



Year 5/6 have been tasting seasonal vegetables ahead of designing their own WW2 rationed potato cake recipe.

Sports Focus – Cricket – A parent article about our children in out-of-school sports.

The young cricketers at **Compton & Chandlers Ford Cricket Club** have enjoyed an excellent season so far, with strong performances and plenty of victories across the age groups. There are children from the school who enjoy All Stars (the introduction to cricket for age 4-6) as well as plenty of boys and girls at U9 and U11. At these levels, the focus is just as much on learning as it is on winning. Developing batting, bowling and fielding skills is only part of it —understanding the tactics and decision-making that make up the "cricket brain" is just as important. This season has brought some fantastic achievements. Our Under 11 team reached the regional cup semi-finals, while our boys' and girls' Under 11 teams both won the Utilita Skills Competition. The event includes a bowl-off on the Utilita out field, which has become something of a running joke at the club—we seem to produce plenty of talented bowlers! One player who I think deserves special recognition is Isla Turski. Although she has been playing for less time than many of her teammates, her improvement this season has been remarkable and is a credit to her hard work and determination. We are also incredibly proud to have three players selected for the Hampshire Pathway programme - Jack White, Oscar Dibben and Darcey Palmer.

By Kate Palmer



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DANCE JUNKIE STREET DANCE

OTTERBOURNE SCHOOL: YEARS R - 4
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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.

18
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 Upcombe 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 50 games and products over the past year.



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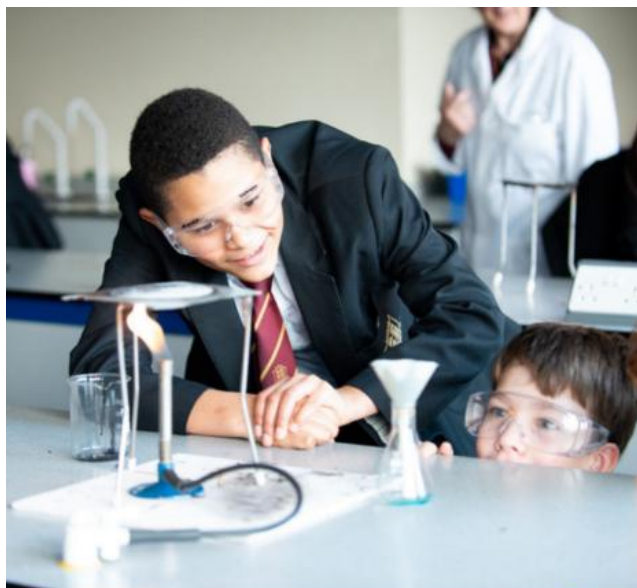
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KINGS'

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WEEK 2	MONDAY 27TH JULY TO THURSDAY 30TH JULY	Otterbourne Primary School (SO21 2EQ)	✓	✓	1 DAY £25
WEEK 3	MONDAY 3RD AUGUST TO THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST	Halterworth Primary School (SO51 9AD)	✓	✓	2 DAY £42
WEEK 4	MONDAY 10TH AUGUST TO THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST	Otterbourne Primary School (SO21 2EQ)	✓	✓	3 DAY £60
WEEK 5	MONDAY 24TH AUGUST TO THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST	Halterworth Primary School (SO51 9AD)	✓	✓	4 DAY £78

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July 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

Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	6 July 10am
Anxiety Explained	6 July 7pm
Introduction to OCD	7 July 10am
What is ACT?	7 July 7pm
Decreasing Depression	13 July 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	13 July 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	14 July 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	14 July 7pm
FREE - Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 July 7-8pm
Autism-Improving Communication	20 July 10am
Improving Family Communication	20 July 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	21 July 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	21 July 7pm
Understanding Anger	27 July 10am
School Anxiety	27 July 7pm
Facing Defiance	28 July 10am
Supporting Health Screen Use	28 July 7pm

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10-14
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10&11
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