

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

I hope that you have been enjoying reading all about school life in the newsletter this term. We try very hard to ensure that the regular updates and messages are included in the newsletter so that we can reduce the number of times we have to contact you through the week. There are, of course, always other things that come up and urgent items to share, but the newsletter will always be the main source of information.

As indicated last term, we have reacted to concerns about children in photos by changing how we include images in the newsletter but I hope we still give you a good sense of the variety of activities and learning that the children enjoy. We are, because of this, looking into other photo sharing ideas as it is really important that you get a really good sense of daily life here in school.

Mr Geraghty

Changes to the Otterbourne Team

I have to let you know that Miss Squibb, who has contributed to the school in so many ways, has decided to leave Otterbourne at the end of this half-term. I know how much the children have benefited from Miss Squibb's time here, with her organisation of our Young Voices Choir events, the range of sporting activities across the school, supporting the lunch routines, co-ordinating OtterFest and just being there for everyone across the school community for the past few years. We wish her the best for the future.

Annual Consent Form

Each year, we give our new families a consent form (for various purposes). If at any time you feel the need to change your permissions, you can do this via Arbor, but please also email admin@otterbourne.hants.sch.uk if you make changes as we aren't automatically informed.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations are taking place next week on Monday and Wednesday evening. If you haven't yet booked, please make your appointment via Arbor before Monday. The main focus of this first meeting of the year is to discuss how your child has settled into their new class and an opportunity for you to share any changes at home or concerns you may have. Sessions are for 10 minutes, and I do encourage the teachers to use a timer as it's best for all involved that we keep to the published timetables – we would always arrange a follow-up if there is more we need to discuss.

We will also have the pre-loved uniform available for you browse through, with items available for a small donation.

The Office

Until further notice, the school office might not be available in the way that you are used to. We are very sorry about this and are looking to make positive changes as soon as possible. If you know anybody with school administration experience who might be interested in a new role, please let them know that we are currently advertising, or ask them to contact Mrs Davenport on 01962 712020. Thank you for your patience and support at this time.

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“THANK YOU NICKY!”

There will be an update from the FOS very soon about the changes within the team and the plans for the year ahead, but I need to take this opportunity to say a big ‘Thank You’ to Nicky, who has been chairing FOS for this past year. We have had a lot of fun this year and the fundraising has meant that we are able to go ahead with the new playtrail, which I hope we will be able to open later in the year.

This year, the FOS have shown incredible support for my vision for inclusion, helping us to create a sensory room in the school, that is filled with lights, sounds and sensory surfaces that will be a calm place for the children who need a

BBC 500 Words Competition Writing Club

This half-term, Mrs Holland will be running a writing club to support children with creating entries towards the BBC 500 Words Story Writing Competition.

This club will be open for children in Years 2 to 6 and take place on the following dates:

Tuesday 6th October 12pm – Launch session with information to take away

Tuesday 13th October 12pm – Brainstorm story writing ideas and how to turn these into a story

Tuesday 20th October 12pm – Supported writing time

Tuesday 3rd November 12pm – Share completed stories with each other ready for closing date of 6th November 2026



Art Exhibition

Our Art Exhibition will be returning on Friday 6th November and all children are welcome to produce work towards our exhibition which can be based on any of our three school pillars this year. A launch assembly is taking place on Wednesday next week and more details can be found in the poster towards the end of this newsletter.

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Harvest Collection

Next Friday, our Harvest Festival is taking place in church, and we are hoping to have a huge display of donations as a collection for Eastleigh Basics Food Bank. Please see the poster, designed by Community Council, towards the end of the newsletter, to see what donations are needed.



Harvest festival donations



Donations needed

Bring into school by the 9th of October

Suitable donations are :

- Tinned fruit (or veg)
- Tinned meat (meatballs, chicken in white sauce, mince, curry or corned beef)
- Custard/rice pudding
- Soup
- Spreads - Jam, honey, marmite and peanut butter
- Rice pasta noodles
- Cooking sauces
- Squash
- Cereals
- Porridge
- UHT milk (Full fat, semi-skimmed or dairy alternatives)
- Condiments - ketchup, mayonnaise and mustard
- Sanitary products
- Nappies

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Pupil Parliament Badge Design Competition

Our new Pupil Parliaments for this academic year are now up and running and, this year, we are inviting all children design for a badge for each pupil parliament. This competition was launched in assembly on Tuesday, and your child will have brought a Badge Design Sheet home if they would like to take part. The deadline for entries is Friday 16th October. The children can choose to design it for any of the Pupil Parliaments which include:

- Sport Council (led by Mr O'Dowd and Oscar)
- Learning Council (led by Mrs Holland and Frankie)
- Community Council (led by Miss McNally and Bella)
- Diversity and Inclusion (led by Miss Reid, Mr Geraghty, Seb and Freya)
- Spirituality and Faith (led by Mrs Welch and Rosalie)
- Children's Council (led by Miss Smith, Mrs Bertacchini and Jasmine)
- Eco-Council (led by Mrs Simmons and Noah)
- Personal Development and Wellbeing (led by Mrs Smith, Mrs Redford and Layla)

The winning entries will be made into badges which will be distributed to all the new members of that Pupil parliament. If your child hasn't yet joined a council and would like to, please ask them to speak to Mrs Simpson or the teacher that leads the council they would like to join.

Caretaker Vacancy

We are also still advertising for a new caretaker to help keep the school clean and safe, following Mr Hiscox' retirement.

If you know anybody who would be interested in this vital role, whether full time or with some flexibility in hours, please share this with them or ask them to contact the school. They can also visit the Hampshire Education Jobs website.

We're Hiring! Caretaker / Site Manager
Join our happy and hardworking school community!

Are you practical, reliable and someone who takes pride in creating a safe, welcoming and well-maintained environment?

Otterbourne Church of England Primary School is looking for a dedicated Caretaker / Site Manager to join our happy and hardworking team.

Key responsibilities include:

- ✓ Opening and securing the school site
- ✓ General maintenance and minor repairs
- ✓ Health & safety and site inspections
- ✓ Overseeing cleaning and contractors
- ✓ Heating, lighting and alarm systems
- ✓ Supporting school events and activities

What makes this role special?

- ✓ Beautiful natural school grounds
- ✓ A varied and rewarding role
- ✓ Friendly and supportive colleagues
- ✓ Training and development opportunities
- ✓ A chance to make a real difference to our school

We're looking for someone who is:

- ✓ Practical and resourceful
- ✓ Organised and dependable
- ✓ Committed to high standards of health & safety
- ✓ A great communicator
- ✓ Positive, approachable and proud of their work

Previous experience is desirable but not essential – transferable skills are welcome.

Permanent
25 hours per week (although flexible for the right candidate)

Salary
£25,186 – £26,244 FTE

Closing date
2 November 2026

Interested?
Please send completed application forms to:
k.davenport@otterbourne.hants.sch.uk

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.
Call 01962 712020

Safer Recruitment
We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to DBS checks and other relevant employment checks.

Otterbourne Church of England Primary School, Winchester

Come and help us keep our school safe, welcoming and ready for children to thrive! ♥

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Please share with anyone looking for a school place in 2027.

Starting school in September 2027?



Through our core Christian values of Trust, Respect and Determination, we provide all children with the space to flourish, find inspiration, know themselves and find their place in the world.

Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions that you will make as a parent, and the only way to best understand which school is right for your family is to see for yourself. I welcome the opportunity to show you around our wonderful school, and our fabulous Otter Class, so you can understand just what makes Otterbourne a special school community to be part of.

Mr Geraghty

TOURS AVAILABLE NOW



September and October tour dates available.



Please visit our school website or phone the school to book a place.

www.otterbourneprimaryschool.com



01962 712020

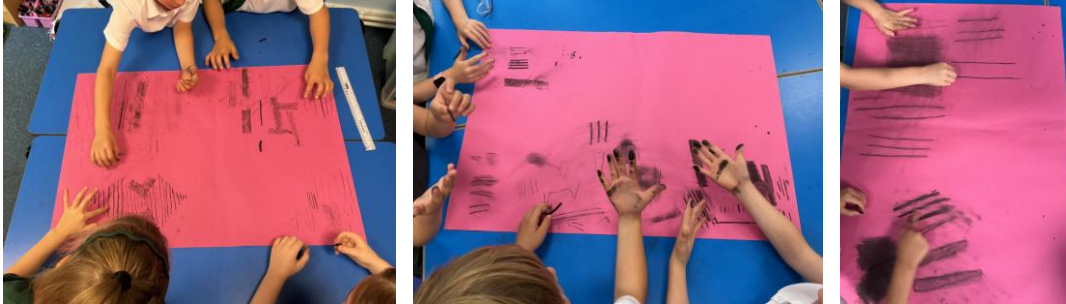


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LEARNING FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



Year 3-4 have been experimenting with line and tone using charcoal as part of their cave art unit.



They have also been creative in RE, where they are making their own Sukkahs as part of their learning about the Jewish Harvest Festival.



Year 5-6 have been learning about the structure of the Earth by dissecting the layers of a hardboiled egg.

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Otter Class have been very busy this week. They have had their first visit to the woods, their first PE lesson in the hall and continued mark making, exploring and discovering around the classroom and outdoor provision.



Buzzard class have been sewing this week and learning the running stitch, the over stitch and even the blanket stitch! They will use these new skills later in the term when creating some applique wall hangings.

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Discover The Gregg Difference

From Reception to GCSE, our pupils learn with confidence in small class sizes. They are truly understood by their teachers, academically challenged and supported as individuals.

Pair this with the wide range of enrichment clubs, activities and trips together with our beautiful 23-acre campus, and you have the ideal environment for children to learn and play.

We know the difference it makes to every one of our pupils.

We invite you to come and see for yourself.

Open Evening
Thursday 8th October
4.30pm-7pm

Open Morning
Tuesday 24th November
9.30am-11.30am

 *Book now!*
thegreggschool.org

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Art Exhibition 2026

We are delighted to announce the return of our Art Exhibition for its second year! This year, we are inviting pupils to use their creativity to explore one of our three curriculum pillars:

Sustainability and Change – caring for our world and making a positive difference.

Aspiration and Wellbeing – achieving our goals while caring for ourselves and others.

Diversity and Equality – celebrating differences and ensuring everyone feels valued and included.

Your Challenge

Create a piece of artwork inspired by one of the pillars. You can choose any creative form – painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, textiles, photography, digital art or your own idea!

Please include a 2–5 sentence artist's statement explaining:

Which pillar you chose

What inspired your artwork

How your artwork represents the pillar

This is an optional home project. Children can work independently, with a sibling, buddy or friends, using materials of their choice.

Exhibition Showcase

Families are warmly invited to celebrate our pupils' creativity and see all the artwork on Friday 6th November at 3.30pm.

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October 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

Raising Self-Esteem	5 Oct 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	5 Oct 7pm
Decreasing Depression	6 Oct 10am
Introduction to OCD	6 Oct 7pm
Improving Family Communication	12 Oct 10am
What is ACT?	12 Oct 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	13 Oct 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	13 Oct 7pm
Understanding Anger	19 Oct 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	19 Oct 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	20 Oct 10am
Autism: Improving Communication	20 Oct 7pm
FREE - ADHD and Homework	22 Oct 7-8pm
Facing Defiance	26 Oct 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	26 Oct 7pm
School Anxiety	27 Oct 10am
Anxiety Explained	27 Oct 7pm

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£15 ticket
£35 family
(2 adults & up to 3 children)

HARVEST HOEDOWN

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 26
6PM – 9.30PM, OTTERBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

- ◆ LIVE MUSIC / CALLER
- ◆ SUPPER INCLUDED
- ◆ DRINKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

PUDDING COMPETITION
If you would like to take part please let us know and bring a pudding to the event!



 St Matthew's
Otterbourne

To order tickets, email:
fundraising@chobenefice.co.uk

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KINGFISHERS
Golden Common Preschool

Scarecrow Festival

Sunday 11th October
Drop in 10am - 2pm

Family Fun

£5 per child
- price includes trail, arts and crafts, drink and a biscuit.

Also available:
★ Raffle
★ Sweet treats
★ Teddy tombola

Scan for more information!

Charity number: 1208892

KINGFISHERS
Golden Common Preschool

Spaces available

- Dynamic, knowledgeable and nurturing staff
- Vibrant learning environment
- Large secure garden
- Hands-on activities
- Off-site adventures to Allotment School

We offer:

- ✓ Places from 2 years old
- ✓ Term-time only sessions
- ✓ Funded hours accepted
- ✓ Opening hours: 8.30am - 3.00pm

15/30 hours funding accepted

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October Half Term 2026

3 day courses for boys & girls Years R to 6

Closing day to book your place, the Thursday before course starts.

9am to 4pm each day!!

NEW Sibling discount!

NEW!! 1/2 day bookings

9am to 12pm = £13.00

1pm to 4pm = £13.00

(Please circle the No. of days you wish to attend)

Monday 26th October to Wednesday 28th October 2026

3 Days 2 Days 1 Day

10% Sibling discount applied for the second or third child from the same family

£62 £43 £25

*Halterworth Primary School (S051 9AD)

*(Multi Sports or Football Course)

3days 2days 1day

*Otterbourne Primary School, Otterbourne (SO21 2EQ)

*(Multi Sports or Football Course)

3days 2days 1day

Please circle the course you wish to do:

Otterbourne (MS) or Otterbourne (Football Course)

Halterworth (MS) or Halterworth (Football Course)

Confirm dates/days wishing to attend on 1 or 2 day bookings

Dates/Days wishing to attend single days:

Children will be grouped in school year/age appropriate groups;

Equipment & rooms will be cleaned end of each day.

Please provide a Packed lunch & drink each day.



Follow us @R&R Sports



Booking Details



*Child or Children's name/s:	*Age:	*Yr. Group: R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6
Address:	Post Code:	
School:	*Parent Contact Number:	
Email Address:		
*Illness/Allergies or Disabilities:		
*(R&R will occasionally take pictures of the course & attendees for future marketing/promo use, please circle NO if you do not wish to have them taken of your child/ren: NO)		

Payment Details: Place confirmation by text or email from R&R Sports		
Method	Details	Where to send
BACS	Account Name: R&R Sports Courses Ltd Acc. No: 699 651 09 Sort Code: 09-01-28	Ref: OTDOCT & (Your child surname) Ref: HALDOCT & (Your child surname)
CHEQUE	Payable to: R&R Sports Courses Ltd	Please contact for further details via the contact information
CASH	In a sealed envelope marked for R&R Sports	School Office Let R&R know to allow them to collect
CONTACT INFO	Send via email: info@randrsportscourses.co.uk ENQUIRIES: Contact Robbie 07616 881 574	Send via email: info@randrsportscourses.co.uk

Please note that once an application has been processed refunds cannot be given. I understand that no liability in respect to loss or damage to personal property or effects (eg. mobile phones, electrical devices or trading cards/stickers) is accepted by the course organisers or their servants whilst the above named person/s are attending the course.



If you're in need of a professional massage then R&R Sports Massage can provide this for you. To make an appointment or to find out more information then please contact R&R sports.

R&R SPORTS BIRTHDAY PARTIES

From just £70 per hour, we come to you and deliver a party tailored exactly to your requirements.

Please contact R&R sports for more info or to make a booking.