

THE OTTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTTERBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Dear Families

It was lovely to have the chance to speak to so many of you this week during the parent consultation evenings. The teachers will next be summarising their meetings and we will co-ordinate any follow-up actions over the next week or so. If there is anything I need to know in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We are noticing a change in the weather now, so please ensure all children come to school prepared for colder conditions during outdoor play. But the weather doesn't have to prevent us all having a bit of fun and fundraising, and I'm pleased to be able to include details of the first two FOS event in today's newsletter – there are other plans underway, so please keep an eye on the weekly newsletter and your WhatsApp groups!

I hope the weekend is a good one for you.

Mr Geraghty

I'm starting this newsletter with a safeguarding message, as it is extremely concerning and I want to try and ensure all of our families are alerted to it:

We have been made aware by a local school that individuals have been visiting homes within the community claiming to be from Children's Social Care.

Please be assured that, in most cases, Children's Social Care will attempt to contact you by telephone before arranging a visit. While there are occasions when unannounced visits may be necessary, you have the right to ask for identification before allowing anyone into your home.

If you receive a telephone call from someone claiming to be from Children's Social Care, you can also ask for their name, team, and contact number to verify their identity.

If someone attends your home claiming to be from Social Care and refuses to provide identification, please do not allow them entry and report the matter to the police immediately.

Can you child help with Remembrance on Sunday November 8th?

Reverend Webb has asked if there are any children who would like to participate in the Church Remembrance Service on Sunday November 8th. This will be to read part of a poem or a passage from the bible. We really want to support the church so if you are able to attend, please contact the school. This will be from 11:00am to 12:00pm. Thank you.

School uniform reminders

We are noticing that some of the children are choosing to come to school wearing make-up and 'dangly' earrings. This is contrary to the school's uniform policy so can I please ask you to support this and ensure the children are ready for school in the appropriate way. Thank you!

Toys in school

We have seen a number of issues related to children bringing in either toys or personal stationary, so we are doing all we can to reduce the need for children to bring their own items in to school. Your help has been appreciated, and I know that by having this 'rule', it is helping some of the younger children with transition in to school.

Can you please continue to support this approach and ensure that toys, and personal fidget toys stay at home.

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Mobile phones – planning for future years

It is never too soon to start thinking about your family strategy for supporting children as they enter the world of mobile phones and social media. As a parent myself, I know that opinions about this will differ, but from a professional standpoint, we are now starting to see the secondary schools in the area clarify their approach with their parents. Not all schools are taking the same approach but just in case your children are going to go on to a school with a ban on smart technology, now might be the time to start thinking of alternatives to smart watches, smart phones etc.

This is by no means a recommendation, but the local schools do appear to be suggesting parents consider the following 'brick' phones:

- Nokia 105
- Oakcastle F100
- The Phone+

Other families have also recommended the following:

- Nokia 3210
- XploraOne

If you would like to talk to other parents about mobile use, you can join the local SFC group using the QR above, and there are other suggestions for alternative phones here: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>

Otterbourne CoE Primary School
Smartphone Free Childhood

WhatsApp group



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FtPJREg3YTHKsQXOkNMg8L>

An Update for our Otters - Our 'New' Year R Environment

I am pleased to finally be able to announce that over the past few months our delivery driver has been incredibly busy bringing lots of lovely new resources to our Otter Class. Mr Smith (our temporary Caretaker) has also been very busy building everything! Finally, our incredible Year R team have given up a lot of their own time to bring all of this together to make a new and purposeful environment that supports every area of early development. This has included high-quality monkey bars, mini-climbing wall, blackboards, water trough with pump, role-play area, play kitchen and smaller items to support small-world play and safe play on the bike n trikes.

None of this would have been possible without the incredibly generous donation from the Chamberlayne-Macdonald Family at Cranbury Park, following a visit to the school earlier in the year. The Chamberlayne-Macdonald Family has, for a long time, made a great difference to the village of Otterbourne, as well as families and young children affected by muscular dystrophy! We are beyond grateful that they have supported us in this way. The children at Otterbourne now have an even greater start at school than ever before!

An appeal for help!

Because of all of the wonderful new equipment in our Year R outdoor environment, we are looking to extend their perimeter fence by a few meters to give a little more room and have some equipment on grass.

If you are able to help in any way, we would welcome any support with purchasing a few panels or with installation.

We are also starting to develop a lovely wildflower border in the Year R area, which the children are already enjoying digging over, which is great for gross motor development. If you are having a garden clear out at the moment, we would be incredibly grateful for any leftover/half bags of compost and any spare bulbs you might have available and are happy to donate.

Thank you!

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FOS Dates for the Diary

FOS PTA Invites you to a **QUIZ NIGHT**

Get your team together for a fun evening of questions, laughter and friendly competition!

- Teams can be formed on the night so come on your own or as a group!
- Doors open at 7.30pm for 8pm start
- Prize for the winners!
- Quiz Master **Mr G**
- Bring your own food and drinks!

Friday 13th November

£6 PER TICKET

RAFFLE Please bring some cash for the raffle!

BOOK VIA CLASSLIST APP

FOS PTA

FOS PTA presents

Otterfest

Friday 11th December
4-6pm

Local Sellers

Christmas Raffle

- Festive Entertainment
- Carol Singers
- Great Food
- Plenty of Mulled Wine!

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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.

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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LAST CALL - 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.



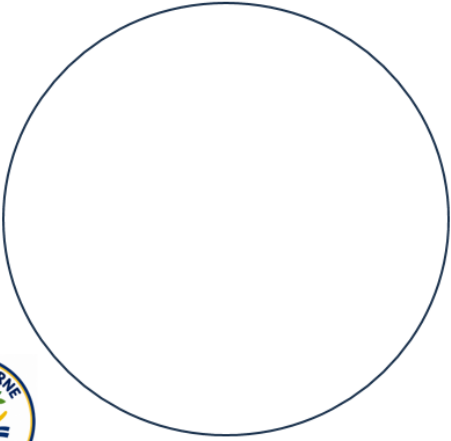
Badge Design Competition!

Design a badge that represents your Pupil Parliament Council!

Name: _____ Class: _____
Council: _____

Think about symbols, pictures, colours and words that could represent your council. Your design should work well as a small badge.

DEADLINE: Friday 16th October





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LEARNING FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



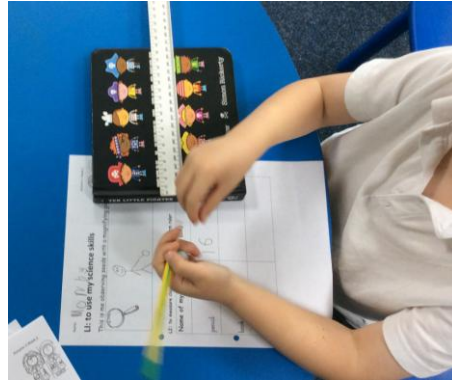
Hedgehog Class have been learning to estimate, weigh and order objects using scales to help them.



They have also been sorting words in nouns, adjectives and verbs.

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Meanwhile, Squirrel Class have been learning how rulers and measuring cylinders work.



Each lunchtime Year 6 support their Year R buddies on the Year R playground. They are really enjoying creating positive relationships and teaching them games to play.

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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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Rewarding & Inspiring





OCTOBER HALF TERM 2026
10% SIBLING DISCOUNT
NEW HALF DAY BOOKINGS
9am to 12pm = £13.00 | 1pm to 4pm = £13.00

**Monday 26th October to Wednesday
28th October 2026, 9am-4pm**

Halterworth Primary School (S051 9AD)
⚽ MS Course | ⚽ Football Course

Otterbourne Primary School (S021 2EQ)
⚽ MS Course | ⚽ Football Course

1 DAY £25 | 2 DAY £43 | 3 DAY £62





Follow us @R&R Sports

*10% sibling discount is applied for the second or third child from the same family.
To book a place or for more information please contact R&R Sports on
T: 07515 881 574 or E: info@randrsportscourses.co.uk

1-2-1 sports coaching
Interested in private one to one coaching for your child? Please contact us

R&R SPORTS BIRTHDAY PARTIES
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.

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Badge Design Competition!



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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
Part-time**
25 hours per week
(although flexible for
the right candidate)



Salary
£25,186 – £26,244
FTE



Closing date
2 November 2026



Otterbourne Church
of England Primary School,
Winchester



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.

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

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Dandelion PRESCHOOL

Where tiny seeds grow
and curiosity takes flight

COME & VISIT

See what we have to offer!



VISIT US

Come and see our curious,
inspiring setting in action!



TELEPHONE

(01962) 713368



EMAIL

dandelionpreschoolcc@gmail.com



WEBSITE

dandelionpreschoolcc.co.uk

SPACES AVAILABLE

A CURIOSITY APPROACH
INSPIRED SETTING

FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 TO 5



ALL GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED
SESSIONS AVAILABLE



TERM TIME
(MONDAY TO FRIDAY ONLY)



8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
MONDAY TO FRIDAY



EXPERIENCED STAFF

- ✓ Play-based learning
- ✓ Outdoor exploration
- ✓ Creative & natural materials
- ✓ Building confidence & independence



Come and grow with us!

