



# OTTERS SHAW NEWS!

## Dates for your Diary:

### Autumn Term 2024

#### October

- 7<sup>th</sup> Junior Inter-House Cross Country Event in the afternoon
- 8<sup>th</sup> Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)  
9:30am Infants  
11:00am Juniors
- 9<sup>th</sup> Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)  
9:30am Infants  
11:00am Juniors
- 15<sup>th</sup> Year 5 Visit to Rural Life Museum  
Volunteer Sign Up [HERE](#)
- Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)  
9:30am Infants  
11:00am Juniors
- 16<sup>th</sup> Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)  
9:30am Infants  
11:00am Juniors
- 17<sup>th</sup> OPTA Pre-loved Uniform and Fancy Dress Costumes Sale, straight after school on the Junior Playground
- 18<sup>th</sup> Child Flu Vaccinations
- 21<sup>st</sup> 3:30pm – 6:30pm Parents' Evening (Face to Face) for both schools
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Year 1 visit to Milestones Museum

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week school has been a busy place to be:

Our Year 3 children were out and about on the local roads, learning to cross the road safely as part of the Feet First programme, Year 6 enjoyed a morning of music and drama lessons at Jubilee High School and our Year 6 Sports Crew went to their training at Woking Leisure Centre with Mr Sanders to learn the skills they need to lead a sporty club with the Infant children at lunchtime!

We also handed out the badges to the Infant School Council children and voted for the names of our Houses at the Junior School (we change our House Names after every summer Olympics and Paralympics, the names are selected and voted for by the children and all Houses are named after Gold Medal Winners).

For the next 4 years are houses will be:

- Blue - Alex Yee
- Red - Hannah Cockcroft
- Green - Keeley Hodgkinson
- Yellow - Tom Pidcock.

### Young Voices

I am so excited about this announcement: We have secured places for 30 children at the Juniors to be members of our School Choir and go to the O2 Arena in London to perform alongside other schools on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025!! This is part of the Young Voices programme and I am thrilled that we are able to take part this year!!

If you would like your child to take part, [please sign up here](#) – the first 30 children to sign up will be the children we take with us! We will take the children to the O2 during the school day as they rehearse alongside the other children they are performing with (up to 9000 in total). In the evening, parents are invited to buy tickets to watch the performance (£27 per ticket) and all children must be collected from the O2 (school will cover the cost of the coach to take us to the rehearsal but this is a one way only journey).

If you would like more information, please visit the Young Voices website [About Us | Young Voices](#).

As soon as we have filled the 30 places we will confirm which children will be coming with us and give you the link to buy your tickets (and t-shirts, should you wish).

### OPTA AGM

We had a very lovely meeting for the OPTA AGM on Monday and planned a diary full of events for us all again this year. As always, enormous thanks to the OPTA Committee and volunteers who work so hard to make every event a success. Last year they raised over £18,000.00 which enabled us to finally buy our much longed for 'pod' at the Infants. This year we want to work on our garden areas (the children have already designed what they would like) and begin to raise funds for our next big project to further enrich play, especially at lunchtimes.

We have 2 OPTA events on the horizon before half term – one is the uniform and fancy dress sale on 17<sup>th</sup> October after school and the other is our main event of the year: The famous [Ottershaw Fireworks](#) on 6<sup>th</sup> November. The details are on the website link and tickets are on sale now!

## Dates for your Diary:

### October

23<sup>rd</sup> Harvest Assemblies  
2:00pm Year 4 Harvest  
Production to Parents

3:30pm – 6:30pm  
Parents' Evening (Face to  
Face) for both schools

24<sup>th</sup> Maths Challenge Day  
  
2:00pm Reception  
Parents Afternoon Tea in  
the Infant Hall

25<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY: Both Schools  
Closed  
Holiday Club [Booking  
here](#)

28<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November Half  
Term.  
Holiday Club [Booking here](#)

### November

4<sup>th</sup> Both Schools Return

## Reading Workshops

Thank you so much to everyone who joined Mrs Jenkyn for her reading workshops at the Infant and Junior Schools this week. We have already sent the information home to all Reception parents about how you can help and support your child's reading in school. The information for parents about how we teach reading at the Junior School (and what Accelerated Reader is all about) will be sent out next week.

Please remember that hearing your child read is the one homework activity that can really make a difference to your child's confidence and progress in school – please make it a priority at home.

## Inter-house Cross Country

Next week, we are holding our first inter-house sports competition of the year. Any Junior child who wishes to take part may wear their PE kit to school on Monday and we will all enjoy cheering them on in our Inter-house Cross Country Competition on the running track.

Expectations of the race and distance:

Year 3 – 3 laps of the track

Year 4 – 4 laps of the track

Year 5 – 5 laps of the track

Year 6 – 6 laps of the track.

As always, it is the taking part and giving it a go that counts. If your child wants to give it a go, but doesn't feel able to complete the race they will be allowed to stop and we will be proud of them for trying – that's what 'living life in all its fullness' means to us here.

## SIAMS Report

As you know, the Junior School had its SIAMS (Ofsted Section 48) inspection 3 weeks ago.

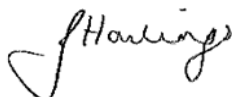
The report has arrived quickly and we are very pleased with the findings. I am especially proud of the key strength noted: 'Nurturing, positive relationships permeate the school. Ottershaw is a happy, welcoming place that exudes joy'.

I would like to thank you all for your support, especially those of you who spoke to the inspector directly.

I would also like to thank my whole staff and Governor team who work so hard every day to make a difference to the lives of our children.

Finally, after such a lovely week in school, I'm disappointed to have to close on a moan but it seems that, already, some drivers have forgotten that we all need to be considerate of the children's safety and our neighbours accessing their driveways and homes. People are already parking on the newly sown grass verges (even though they have been taped off) some people are blocking drives in local roads and some parents are illegally parking in Spratt's Lane (this is a road where only residents and their visitors have the right to drive along and park) and the private section of Bousley Rise. Please be considerate with your parking and driving.

Enjoy your weekend!  
Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings  
Headteacher



THE GOOD  
SHEPHERD TRUST