



5th January 2024

*Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve*

# OTTERSRAW NEWS!

## Dates for your Diary:

### January 2024

- 8th Parents' Evening booking system goes live
- 11th Prospective Parents Open Morning 9.30am Infants/11am Juniors (booking required)
- 12th Mid-Year Reports Home Open Classrooms for Parents 8.30am - 9.20am
- 15th Closing date for new Reception and Year 3 Admissions
- 17th Parents' Evening Face to Face 3.30pm - 6.30pm
- 18th Parents' Evening Face to Face 3.30pm - 6.30pm
- 19th 9.00am OPTA Bags2School Fledglings starts back
- 24th Year 4 Residential Sayers Croft
- 27th Year 4 return home

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year!

It is always hard to settle back into normal routines after an exciting Christmas but the children have returned happy, keen and full of family news which was lovely to hear. We have been thinking about what a New Year means for us and talking to the children about some exciting things we know will happen as well as all the adventures we haven't planned for. As always, our message is to 'try hard, be nice' every day and 'live life in all its fullness' by making the most of the opportunities that come along, even if we weren't expecting them.

## Spring Term Diary

We know you all appreciate as much advance warning as possible for the adventures we have planned, so below is everything coming up in the diary so far this term. From next week all these dates will appear in our purple 'Dates for your Diary' column.

### January

- 8<sup>th</sup> Parents' Consultation Evenings booking system goes live.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Prospective Parents Open Morning 9.30am Infants, 11.00am Juniors (booking required).
- 12<sup>th</sup> Open Classroom morning. All parents are invited to look at our learning from 8.30am drop off until 9.20am. You will need to sign in and out at the classroom doors please. Teachers will be able to give you your child's Mid-Year Report (or send it home at the end of the day if you are not able to pop in that morning).
- 15<sup>th</sup> Closing date for new Reception and Year 3 Admissions.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Parents' Consultation Evening 3.30pm - 6.30pm face to face in the school halls. (NB Mr Sanders in 5S is unavailable - he is offering appointments on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1.00pm - 6.30pm only).
- 18<sup>th</sup> Parents' Consultation Evening 3.30pm - 6.30pm face to face in the school halls. (NB Mr Sanders in 5S 1.00pm - 6.30pm).
- 19<sup>th</sup> 9.00am OPTA Bags2School Collection  
Fledglings Baby & Toddler Group starts back 9.00am - 10.30am Infant hall
- 24<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Residential Visit to Sayers Croft
- 27<sup>th</sup> Year 4 return home

### February

- 5<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Bikeability Week begins
- 6<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day  
Year 4 'Delight in Dance' project begins
- 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Half Term
- 19<sup>th</sup> Children return to school
- 21<sup>st</sup> OPTA School Disco
- 29<sup>th</sup> Tangled Feet 'Belongings' Performance in school for all Junior children (school funded)

## Spring Term Diary ....continued

### March

- 4<sup>th</sup> Book Week begins: More details to follow
- 5<sup>th</sup> Year 5 to Fullbrook to see their Production
- 8<sup>th</sup> Book Week Dress Up Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Bikeability begins
- 21<sup>st</sup> 11.00am Nursery Easter Assembly
- 22<sup>nd</sup> OPTA 'Break the Rules' Mufti Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> Easter Pause Week begins  
Year 5 to church for rehearsal
- 26<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Delight in Dance Performance to parents
- 27<sup>th</sup> Infant and Junior Schools Easter Church Services (lead by Year 5). Junior School leave for church at 9.00am. Infant School leave for church at 10.30am. Helpers needed.  
2.00pm Year 5 Easter production for parents in the school hall.
- 28<sup>th</sup> OPTA Sponsored Easter Fun Run.  
School closes for the Easter Holiday.
- Nursery closes at 1.00pm
  - Junior School closes at 1.05pm
  - Infant School closes at 1.15pm

### Parents' Evenings

As you will see, this time we are holding both of our Parents' Consultation Evenings face to face in the school halls on Wednesday 17th January and Thursday 18th January from 3.30pm - 6.30pm. Please note Mr Sanders is unavailable on 17th January so will be offering appointments on 18th January between 1.00pm - 6.30pm only.

Bookings for both days can be made using the School Cloud online system which will go live on the morning of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. You can access the site by visiting

**Infant School** <https://ottershawinfant.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

**Junior School** <https://ottershawcofes.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

### New Year Plea

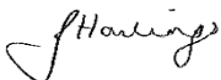
I know many of you will have made New Year's Resolutions - good luck! I am going to ask you all to make a collective resolution about how you drive your cars near school and where you choose to park!! The parking this week has been disgraceful (you know who you are). We all know the schools are at the bottom of the village, in a cul de sac and several of the roads near to school are private with residents' parking only. Please consider the timing of your journey and where you choose to park. The traffic is often bad and just because you are running late is not a reason to park badly, block the road and residents driveways and then be rude! Aghh! As ever, if you are affected by poor parking, please report it directly to the council and the Police as they have the jurisdiction to deal officially with these matters.

### Welcome!

Finally, I am sure you are all pleased to welcome Mrs Potter to our teaching team in Year 4 - I know the children have loved getting to know her this week.

Enjoy your weekend and dig out your warm clothes, it's going to get much colder next week!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings  
Headteacher