

6th September 2024

*Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve*

# OTTERS Shaw NEWS!

## Dates for your Diary:

### Summer Term 2024

#### September

- 10th Y3 Basketball Taster Sessions. PE kits to be worn to school.
- 13th Year 5 First Swimming Lesson
- 16th Year 6 Head Boy and Girl Speeches
- 20th Meet the Teacher Events  
Juniors 8:25am - 9:00am  
Infants 2:45pm - 3:15pm for Year 1 and Year 2  
Head Boy/Girl announced in Celebration Assembly
- 25th Year 1 Chertsey Museum Workshops
- 30th 9:00am and 5:00pm Phonics and Reading Workshop for all parents (but especially those in Reception) to share our approach to teaching reading and phonics and help you support your child's reading at home. These meetings will be with Mrs Jenkyn in the Infant Hall.

#### October

- 3rd 9:00am Meeting for all parents (but especially those in Year 3) to share our approach to teaching reading and help you support your child's reading at home. This meeting will be with Mrs Jenkyn in the Junior Hall.
- 4th Year 3 Feet First Workshop  
Year 3 Feet First Workshop  
Year 6 Sports Crew Training for selected pupils (details to follow)
- 7th Junior Inter-House Cross Country Event in the Afternoon.
- 8th Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)  
9.30am Infants  
11.00am Juniors

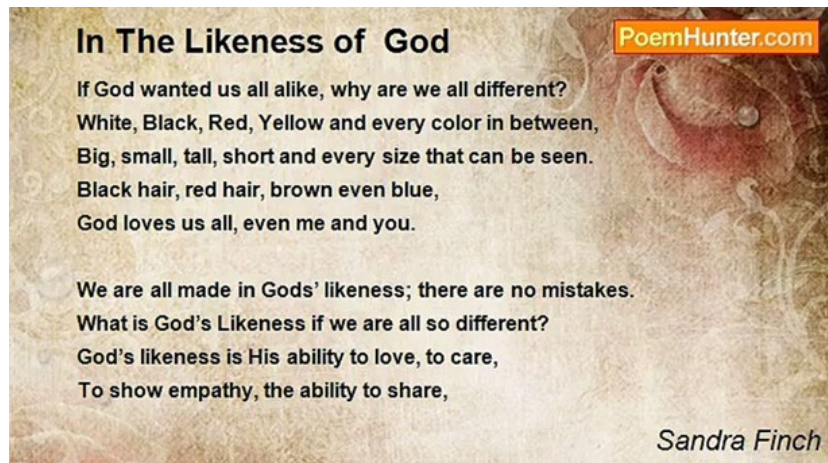
Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new school year!

We are so pleased to welcome all of you back to school and are very proud of the children – they have settled into their new classes beautifully and it is lovely to see their smiling faces, especially when the weather is so soggy!!

I am sure you've all been hearing the edited highlights of every day this week – the personal highlight for me has been all the lovely 'belonging boxes' that you have helped to make. We are really enjoying seeing every one and hearing about the things that are special to each child. It is really important that every child feels that they belong here at Ottershaw and the boxes are really helping us to build those key relationships with one another.

You may have heard on the news today about a 'live national assembly' about mutual respect and tolerance. I'm sure you won't be surprised to hear that our Junior children joined in this event – it very much echoed our thoughts about what belonging means and how we are all amazing and different.



Our belonging theme will continue next week with a Belonging Prayer Space open in each school along with us using stories to explore feelings and emotions.

As always at the start of the term (and especially at the start of the year) this newsletter is full of important information to help parents survive the year with PE days, clubs, homework and important events on the calendar already. The dates are attached to this newsletter – there will be more things added as they year goes on, and some may have to be changed as other things crop up, but the main things such as Sports Day, Nativity and other performances are pretty set as we know, for you to be able to join us, you need advance warning to arrange your work diaries in plenty of time.

## Dates for your Diary continued...

### October

- 9th Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)  
9.30am Infants  
11.00am Juniors
- 15th Year 5 visit to The Museum of Rural Life
- 16th Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)  
9.30am Infants  
11.00am Juniors
- 18th Child Flu Vaccination
- 21st 3:30pm-6:30pm Parents Evening (Face to Face) for both schools
- 22nd Year 1 visit to Milestones Museum
- 23rd Harvest Assemblies  
2:00pm Year 4 Harvest Production to Parents  
3:30pm-6:30pm Parents Evening (Face to Face) for both schools
- 24th Maths Challenge Day  
2:00pm Reception Parents Afternoon Tea in the Infant Hall
- 25th INSET Day: Both Schools Closed**
- 28th October to 1st November Half Term**

### November

- 4th Both schools return**
- 7th Individual Infant School Photos
- 8th Individual Junior School Photos
- 12th Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)  
9.30am Infants  
11.00am Juniors  
Year 6 visit to Junior Citizens
- 13th Provisional U11 Football Festival
- 14th Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)  
9.30am Infants  
11.00am Juniors

## PE Days

All children come to school wearing their Ottershaw PE kit on the day their year group has PE (black bottoms and a white t-shirt, with a black sweatshirt in colder weather please – no other colours are acceptable).

Day	Infant School	Junior School
Monday		Year 3
Tuesday	Year 1	Year 4
Wednesday	Year 2	Year 6
Thursday	Reception	
Friday		Year 5

## Clubs

All teachers run a lunchtime club in school. There is no need to sign up, children can choose to attend if they wish. Clubs run from 12.30pm until the end of lunchtime and will begin on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

The clubs on offer this term are:

Day	Infant School	Junior School
Monday	Puzzle Club with Miss Pearson in Otters Just Dance with Miss Philbey in Squirrels	Crochet with Mrs Ali and Mrs Potter in 4P
Tuesday	Singing Club with Mrs Thornton in Hedgehogs	Sewing with Miss Grey and Mrs Ikin Maths with Miss Gamblin in 5G
Wednesday	Drawing Club with Mrs Smithers in Badgers	Lego with Mr Sanders in 5S
Thursday	Story Club with Mrs Mutch in Hedgehogs	Xtreme with Monica in the Year 3 and 4 Group Room
Friday	Reading Club with Miss Holland and Mrs Bracken in Reception	Art with Mrs Winsor and Mrs Parkhouse in 3W

## Homework

We did publish our new homework expectations towards the end of last term, but for all new parents we would just like to confirm our expectations. As you can see, the emphasis is very much about reading as research shows this is the activity which has the biggest impact on your child's progress in school.

Teachers have already started assessing and checking children's reading levels and the children have their home/school communication books ready. Whilst sending home reading books won't formally start until Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, please feel free to begin to use the home/school communication book – we do ask that you use it to record your child's reading at home but it is also there for any other messages (and remember you can

Phase of School	Homework Proposal
Reception	Reading at home 5 days a week Begin to learn to read 'tricky words' when ready
Years 1 and 2	Reading at home 5 days a week Learning to read and spell 'tricky words' and move on to learning KS1 'common exception words' when ready
Years 3 and 4	Reading at home 4 times a week (minimum) TT Rockstars 4 times a week (minimum, each session lasts 3 minutes) Learning the 'common exception words' for Years 3 and 4
Year 5	Reading at home 4 times a week (minimum) TT Rockstars 4 times a week (minimum, each session lasts 3 minutes) Learning the 'common exception words' for Years 5 and 6
Year 6	Reading at home 4 times a week (minimum) TT Rockstars 4 times a week (minimum, each session lasts 3 minutes) Written revision task each week

## Dates for your Diary continued...

### November

- 15th Anti-Bullying Day (Odd Socks Mufti Day)
- 26th Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)  
9.30am Infants  
11.00am Juniors
- 27th Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)  
9.30am Infants  
11.00am Juniors  
U9 Football in the afternoon

### December

- 6th Christmas Fair for all children and Christmas Jumper Day
- 10th Infant Nativity Production (Robins/Hedgehogs/Otters parents: 2 tickets per family and adults only please more details to follow)
- 11th Infant Nativity Production (Sparrows/Squirrels/Badgers parents: 2 tickets per family and adults only please more details to follow)
- 12th Infant Nativity (all classes, 2 tickets per family and younger siblings are welcome)
- 13th Infants to Pantomime at Camberley Theatre
- 16th Christmas Party Afternoon for all children (children may bring clothes to change into and a plate of named party food: No NUTS PLEASE).
- 17th 2:00pm Year 3 Christmas Production in the Junior Hall
- 18th Junior Christmas Church Service (TBC)  
Christmas Lunch for All
- 19th Junior to Pantomime at Camberley Theatre
- 20th Toy Day  
1:05pm Juniors finish  
1:15pm Infants finish

### 23rd December to 3rd January Christmas Holidays

### January

- 6th INSET Day: Both Schools Closed
- 7th Both schools return

## Snacks in School and School Dinners

We wish to remind you that we are a **nut free** school. Nuts, meals or snacks that contain nuts are not permitted within school.

Children can bring in a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables for their mid morning break.

For those children in the Junior school wishing to have school lunches, please ensure these are ordered via SCOPAY by the Wednesday evening of each week for the following week's lunches, e.g. Evening of Wednesday 11th September will be the cut off for ordering meals for the week commencing 16th September.

Finally, you are all invited to Christ Church Messy Church this weekend:

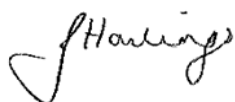
### Messy Church is back!

We are looking forward to welcoming you on Sunday 8th September, 4pm to 5.30pm for more fun and a friendly way to worship, explore and experience Church which is suitable for the whole family.

A hot meal will be provided, suggested donation is £2 per person.

Please email [monicahallcc@gmail.com](mailto:monicahallcc@gmail.com) to book your place.

Enjoy your weekend!



Mrs J Hastings  
Headteacher