



7th June 2024

Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

OTTERSHAW NEWS!

Dates for your Diary:

Summer Term 2024

June

- 10th Year 1 Phonics Check Week
Year 6 Residential Week
- 12th District Sports for Year 5
Junior Children
- 13th 7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)
Parent and Resident Parking
and Traffic Meeting in the
Junior Hall
- 14th Year 6 return home
- 14th Year 5 invited pupils to
X-plorer event
- 18th Year 3 to Chobham Common
Year 6 to Guildford Cathedral
- 20th OPTA Mufti Day for Village
Fete tombola prizes
- 20th District Sports for Year 3 & 4
children
- 21st INSET DAY: Both schools
closed
- 24th INSET DAY: Both schools
closed
- 27th Year 4 Sayers Croft Day Trip
Year 2 Ottershaw Geography
walk - details to follow

July

- 1st Year 5 New Haw Debate
Workshops - details to follow
Emails to be sent advising of
children's classes for
September
6.00pm New Reception
Parents meeting in the Infant
School Hall
7.00pm New Year 3 Parents
meeting in the Junior School
Hall
- 2nd Transition Day
- 4th 8.45am PHSE 'Changing Me'
briefing - Junior Hall for
Infant & Junior parents
- 5th Year 5 Fullbrook taster day

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the last half term of this academic year! Our last 7 weeks have started with some lovely news – we have been re-accredited with the ArtsMark and our art curriculum and commitment to cultural enrichment opportunities for all our children were noted as particular strengths in our submission. Our assessor particularly commented: 'You have used the second cycle of Artsmark activity to build on prior foundations, linking the arts to your ambitions for learners to 'live life to the fullest'. The core of your arts development has seen you introduce a new AccessArt Primary Curriculum (alongside comprehensive staff training); enrich your Music curriculum with Grange Park Opera; embed drama in English, Humanities and PSHE and extend links with various cultural partners. You have made efforts to ensure the arts opportunities and progression you have planned for starts 'local' and incrementally works outward from what is familiar to children. Your work on pupil voice shows you actively listen to their views and collect their feedback'. I hope you can see something of your child's Ottershaw experience in these comments too!

As always, the return to school after a holiday brings unexpected news and we had 2 things happen this week that we weren't expecting: Sadly, Mrs Lisher fell and broke her ankle in 3 places over the holiday and is not expected to return until the beginning of July – we know she wants to tie up her work and end her very long (22 years) of service at Ottershaw well, so we wish her a speedy recovery. I know you will all send her your love and best wishes and hope we get to say goodbye properly to her. In the meantime, I am picking up the statutory work for the term and will do my best to field urgent enquiries - please direct any request via the school office and I will try to respond (please be patient with me)! Year 2 parents are already aware that Mrs Uth is not returning and I want to say a massive thank you to Mrs White for stepping in to take the best care of Badgers for the next few weeks. Leeann, you are a super star.

In other news this week, Year 1 had a lovely time on Wednesday morning as they went on their local walk to collect traffic data as part of their Geography Fieldwork. Who knew that we would count so many cars in 2 minutes? Many thanks to all the parents who helped us get the children safely around the village.

Year 4 had their Multiplication Tables Check this week and they all tried very hard. It's not easy being put in front of a computer with random questions to answer within 6 seconds, but they all coped really well and we are proud of them.

Preparing for change

This half term is always about preparing for change. Some children cope really well with the thought of changing classes and some worry hugely about it. As a school we embrace it and talk about being ready for the next stage of life.

For our Year 2 children, we begin to bring them up to the Junior School more often and this year, from 1st July, will be bringing the whole year group up to eat their lunch in the Junior Hall to help them get ready for September.

Our Year 6 children are preparing to move on to Secondary School and we are supporting them with this, alongside our Secondary School partners. I'm sure you've already spotted them wearing their 'Leavers' Hoodies'!

For all our children, not only do we offer them the opportunity to meet with their new teacher (and sometimes new friends) for the day on 2nd July but we also use our PSHE curriculum to support their learning and help them prepare.

Dates for your Diary continued

Summer Term 2024

July

8th	Olympic and Ancient Greece Fortnight begins Bags2School Collection
10th	Reception to The Look Out
11th	Nursery to Hobbledown Farm
12th	2.30pm Celebration of Work - Open Classrooms for Infants and Juniors Reports to go home
16th	11.00am Nursery Leavers' Assembly
18th	9.30am Year 2 Leavers' Assembly 1.30pm Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
19th	Last Day of Term Nursery Closes at 1.00pm Junior Closes at 1.05pm Infant Closes at 1.15pm

Preparing for change continued...

Across both schools, we use the Jigsaw PSHE Scheme and this half term we will all be following the units in the 'Changing Me' part of the puzzle. These lessons are a combination of reflecting on how much we have grown and changed this year (including some of the physical changes to our bodies) and also thinking about how we are going to change in the future and what we might be looking forward to in the future. These lessons offer threads about the human lifecycle, looking after ourselves and keeping ourselves safe, recognising our feelings and how to deal with mixed emotions and looking ahead to the next academic year.

For those parents who may be interested to look at these lessons in a little more detail, I will be offering a briefing for all parents of both schools on Thursday 4th July at 8.45am in the Junior Hall. Often it is parents of Year 5 who are most interested to look at the lesson plans but you are all very welcome to join me to look and see the progression in our teaching and what you can expect your child to be learning this year and beyond.

Year 5 parents who are unable to join me but who may be interested in looking at the specific 'sex education' that we will be teaching, may find the BBC 'Operation Ouch' recordings useful as we do show the children these (the most useful episode for parents to watch is here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zhtnydm>).

I would remind all parents however that our learning journey is a continuum which starts in the Infants and continues through to Year 6 and we start talking about how we have changed when children are in Reception and aren't babies anymore. We look again at how we have changed in Years 1 and 2 and begin to introduce puberty in Years 3 and 4 before moving on to making babies in Year 5.

We know parents also worry about the changes ahead with a new teacher, especially if their child is getting anxious. If this is you, we are here to listen! I know there is always speculation about school deciding to 'mix up' children across year groups. Mrs Jenkyn and I always consider each year group and what is in the best interests for the majority of children before we make any decisions and will take friendship groups into consideration – believe me, it is never an easy task! This year, we will be 'mixing' our current Year 2 children as they move up to Year 3 and have also decided to mix current Year 1 children as they move into Year 2. We will not be mixing any other year groups ahead of September.

PE Lessons

Please note that Year 2 are changing their PE day to a Tuesday with immediate effect. All other year groups remain unchanged.

Christ Church

Finally, you are all invited to join Monica and the team at the next Messy Church session:

You are invited to Messy Church on Sunday 9th June 2024 @ Christ Church, Ottershaw, KT16 0PB 4pm until 5.30pm - THIS WILL BE HELD OUTSIDE! Please bring a picnic, chairs or blankets with you. In view of the long grass and uneven ground, please ensure that long sleeves and long trousers are worn, along with sturdy footwear (Boots or Shoes). Please also note that we will be cooking popcorn and marshmallows over the fire, please advise of any allergies. Tea & Coffee and cold drinks will be available.

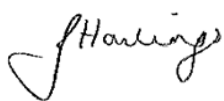
Please email - monicahallcc@gmail.com to let us know that you are coming along!

We shall look forward to seeing you.

Monica Hall - Families Worker, Christ Church, Ottershaw.

Enjoy your weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings

Headteacher