



10th May 2024

*Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve*

# OTTERS Shaw NEWS!

## Dates for your Diary:

### Summer Term 2024

#### May

- 13th Year 6 SATs Week. Y6 invited to arrive from 8.15am for tea and toast (Monday to Thursday)
- 17th Computing Workshop Year 6
- 21st Class Photo Day  
Years 5 and 6 Cross Country Competition at Pirbright School 4pm - 5.30pm
- 23rd 8.30am - 9.00am Year 2 Parents Open Classrooms to see Delight in the Woods work
- 24th Sports Day - Juniors morning / Family Picnic on the field for all at lunchtime/ Infants afternoon

#### Half Term 27th May to 3rd June

#### June

- 3rd Back to School  
Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check Week  
Quad Kids Trials - Juniors
- 5th Year 1 Geography walk around Ottershaw
- 7th Reserve Sports Day
- 10th Year 1 Phonics Check Week  
Year 6 Residential Week
- 12th Possible District Sports for Junior children
- 14th Year 6 return home
- 18th Year 3 to Chobham Common  
Year 6 to Guildford Cathedral
- 20th OPTA Mufti Day for Village Fete tombola prizes
- 20th Possible District Sports for Junior children
- 21st INSET DAY: Both schools closed
- 24th INSET DAY: Both schools closed

Dear Parents and Carers,

How lovely it has been to enjoy the warmth of sunny days this week. I know the children have absolutely loved playing outside this week – there is nothing like a sunny Ottershaw playground and field. Obviously, we hope this continues now for the whole summer. Please make sure that you have applied sunscreen before school and your child has a sunhat and water bottle in school every day.

This week it was Year 3's turn to enjoy making their pottery sculpture for our school grounds. They absolutely loved the opportunity to creatively celebrate nature and produced some gorgeous, unique designs. We can't wait to show you the finished product in July!

### Quad Kids - Junior School

If your child is in the Junior School and loves athletics, they may well want to try out for our Quad Kids District Sports Teams! At these events, we take 5 boys and 5 girls from across Years 3 and 4 on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June (in the morning) and 5 boys and 5 girls from across Years 5 and 6 on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June (in the morning) to the Woking Sports Box. Every member of the team takes part in 4 athletic events (running, throwing and jumping activities) so we are looking for our best all-rounders! If your child would like to be considered for the team we will be having trials in the afternoon of Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. All interested children will need to wear their PE kits to school on this day. We will use the performances at the trials, along with the performance we see in PE to help us choose our team and confirm places by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

### Traffic

I know we have had yet more traffic chaos this week, most of which is beyond our control. However, we have been talking to our local Runnymede and Surrey County Council representatives about our particular local issues. Can I ask you all to 'save the date' as we are hoping to host a meeting for parents and residents on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June in the Junior School Hall (6.30pm arrival for a 7.00pm start) to discuss our concerns about travel and parking in Ottershaw, particularly at school drop off and pick up times. More details to follow.

### Uniform

This is a final plea for help this week: Please can you name your children's cardigans, jumpers and PE sweatshirts. We are growing an expensive purple mountain of clothes at both schools and we would love to be able to return these to the right people!

### Homework

I mentioned homework survey in last week's newsletter, and our latest survey is launching today! Homework is always a contentious issue. Every time we have asked for parents' opinion on homework we get a more or less 50/50 split of those who want none and those who want lots more! We always try to find a happy balance, but never really manage to please everyone.

Research shows that homework has a limited impact on learning for Primary-age children. In fact, for this age range, the only thing that adds value to a child's achievement is reading at home. Reading at home regularly adds months of progress to a child's ability to read and is the best way we know of involving parents in their child's learning.

## Homework continued...

We also know that family time is precious and don't want this time to be eaten into by doing homework too much, especially at weekends. In fact, it is for this reason that we don't set weekend homework but, again, we know some of you would like us to start doing this.

What we have below is a homework proposal for you to consider. We have prioritised reading, followed by learning 'tricky words' or the National Curriculum 'common exception words' and, in the Junior School, the recall of times tables facts (at speed) as we believe these are the things children need to practise regularly to embed them. In our vote we are asking for whether you are happy with this proposal or not, with space for feedback.

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) Learning the 'common exception words' for Years 5 and 6 Written revision task each week

Finally, we are asking whether or not you find our Marvellous Me app helpful and useful. This is just a yes or no response please!

This survey will close next Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, so please try to give us a speedy response! Please follow the [link here](#) to complete.

## Surrey Family Learning

Surrey Family Learning offer really useful online sessions to enable parent to support their children at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning)

They are currently offering a FREE online 2 hr workshop 'Helping your child to Develop Positive Friendships'. Please see attached flyer for more information.

## Recruitment Opportunity—NHS Immunisation Team

The School based Immunisation Team are currently recruiting for some additional administrative support from September to December, during our busy Flu season.

Would you like some extra income while contributing to our community?

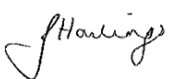
Join our team for a 14-week mission as a Flu Immunisation Administrator (£23,575 per annum pro rata).

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to work within our school-based immunisation team, based at locations across the North-West of Surrey, to support with the delivery of the school based 2024 flu vaccination programme.

Please apply via NHS jobs at the following link: [Job Advert \(jobs.nhs.uk\)](https://jobs.nhs.uk)

Enjoy your weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings

Headteacher