



11th October 2024

Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

OTTERS SHAW NEWS!

Dates for your Diary:

Autumn Term 2024

October

- 15th Year 5 Visit to Rural Life Museum
Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)
9:30am Infants
11:00am Juniors
- 16th Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)
9:30am Infants
11:00am Juniors
- 17th OPTA Pre-loved Uniform and Fancy Dress Costumes Sale, straight after school on the Junior Playground
- 18th Year 4 and 6 to Cameo
- Child Flu Vaccinations
3:30pm – 6:30pm Parents' Evening (Face to Face) for both schools. Book via SCOPAY
- 21st
- 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**
Holiday Club [Booking here](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

It really does feel as though Autumn has arrived this week. Now, as the temperature begins to drop, please remember to send your child to school with a coat (with their name in) as we still take the children outside for learning and playtime, even when the weather is colder and a bit damp.

Before the drizzle arrived, we enjoyed a glorious afternoon of sunshine on the field on Monday afternoon with our first Junior Inter-house Competition of the year – the Cross Country Competition.

Over 70% of the Junior School children chose to enter, and what a speedy bunch they were. In the end it was Keeley Hodgkinson (Green) who were declared the overall winners and were awarded the cup in Celebration Assembly today. Well done to everyone who took part.

Next week, we begin our Harvest Celebrations. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we will be celebrating Harvest in school on Wednesday 23rd October and, as always, we're asking for dry goods and tinned food donations for our local Food Bank. Please can all the children bring their donations in by the morning of 23rd October so we can gather our donations together and say thanks for all we have. Year 4 will be leading the celebrations in both schools and Year 4 parents are invited to see the production at 2pm in the Junior Hall.

In addition to Harvest in school, we will also be celebrating Harvest with the local community. Year 4 will be performing at Cameo on Thursday 17th October and Year 6 will be making Harvest Baskets to distribute at the same time. Our Harvest Baskets include baked scones made by the Year 6 children and other treats for an afternoon tea. Can we please ask that, instead of a Food Bank donation, Year 6 bring in donations for the Harvest Baskets. These need to be in school by Thursday 17th October please.

Besides Harvest, one of our other events coming up before half term is our first round of Parent Consultation Evenings. Booking for these goes live on Monday 14th October at 9.30am and you will be able to make your appointment using your child's Scopay account (where you pay for trips, visits and, at the Juniors, school dinners). Our office ladies have sent a separate email with the details but do make sure you know how to logon to your account as this is the only way your appointments can be booked and managed – we are looking forward to seeing you all!

I am sure many of you are aware of the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign that was mentioned in the news this week. This is a growing campaign, with local groups operating in Surrey. Indeed, I attended a briefing myself last week.

For some years, our school position has been that we don't allow children to have their smartphones/smart watches/any device in school that can access the internet or take photographs. Children in Year 6 (and a few in Year 5) who walk home from school do bring a phone to school but parents have to sign our Acceptable Use Agreement and the phone is handed in at the start of the day – children do not have access to their devices in school and only get them back at the school gate at the end of the day.

Dates for your Diary:

**28th October to 1st November
Half Term.**

Ultimate Coaching Holiday Club
[Booking here](#)

November

4th Both Schools Return

6th OPTA Fireworks Evening
[Booking link here](#)

**7th Individual Infant Schools
Photos**

**8th Individual Junior School
Photos**

**12th Prospective parents
Mornings (pre-booking
required)
9:30am Infants
11:00am Juniors**

**13th Year 6 visit to Junior
Citizens at Thorpe Park**

**13th Provisional U11 Football
Festival**

**14th Prospective parents
Mornings (pre-booking
required)
9:30am Infants
11:00am Juniors**

**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**

**28th U9 Football in the
afternoon**

Children in younger years are not allowed to bring a phone to school at all and any child who does bring a phone in but doesn't give it to their teacher will have it confiscated (it will only be returned when a parent collects it).

I know that children are mesmerised by technology and excited about feeling 'grown up' but they do not need a phone in school, a phone won't help them safely cross a road and, increasingly in school, we deal with friendship issues that arise as a result of on-line activity at home. To help support you all through the minefield, we regularly send home our Online Safety Newsletter – the one for October is attached.

Volunteer

As always when planning trips or events we need plenty of parent helpers to make the events successful, please consider volunteering at any of our up and coming events using the links below.

[Pantomime – Infants Volunteer Link](#) Friday 13th December

[Pantomime – Juniors Volunteer Link](#) Thursday 19th December

Young Voices

We have now fulfilled the 30 available children spaces for the Young Voices event in February and will send details of this in due course.

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

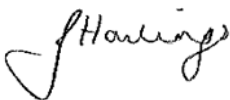
Messy Church - Sunday 13th October 2024

Suitable for all the family, we will be learning a Bible story, with crafts & songs. We will have a hot tea and a yummy pudding. Please let us know if there are any allergies we need to be aware of.

If you would like to come along please email monicahallcc@gmail.com.

Enjoy your weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings
Headteacher



**THE GOOD
SHEPHERD TRUST**