



13th September 2024

Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

OTTERS HAW NEWS!

Dates for your Diary:

Autumn Term 2024

September

- 16th Year 6 Head Boy and Girl Speeches
- Meet the Teacher Events
Juniors 8:25am – 9:00am
Infants 2:45pm – 3:15pm for Year 1 and 2
- Head Boy/Girl announced in Celebration Assembly
- 25th Year 1 Chertsey Museum Workshops
- 9:00am and 5:00pm Infants Phonics and Reading Workshops with Mrs Jenkyn in the Infant Hall
- 30th 6:00pm OPTA AGM in the Infant Hall

October

- 3rd 9:00am Juniors Reading Workshop with Mrs Jenkyn in the Junior Hall
- Year 3 Feet First Workshop
- 4th Year 3 Feet First Workshop
- 7th Junior Inter-House Cross Country Event in the afternoon
- Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)
- 8th 9:30am Infants
11:00am Juniors
- Prospective parents Mornings (pre-booking required)
- 9th 9:30am Infants
11:00am Juniors
- 15th Year 5 Visit to Rural Life Museum
Volunteer Sign Up [HERE](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have all been so proud of our Nursery and Reception children – they have enjoyed their first full week in school and have settled beautifully. Well done to parents and the whole team for making this happen, I'm sure you are all ready for the weekend (and so are the children)!

Once we have all the children in school it really begins to feel like 'Team Ottershaw' again and the term has properly started. By Monday we will be sending homework home and our teacher lunchtime clubs start. I know the children are ready for it all!

As parents, the other thing we ask you to start using is our Marvellous Me app (Junior parents should already have their login details. New Infant and Nursery parents, or anyone who hasn't previously signed up, should have received these this week). Teachers use this app to share good news with parents directly and it is also a useful way for teachers to share quick reminders. In our recent parent survey the vast majority of parents said they found it useful and wanted us to keep it, so we did!

OPTA News

It's not just the school day and routine that are up and running, the OPTA Committee are also firing on all cylinders (do they ever stop)?

Here is an update of things happening with them over the next few weeks, including a heads up of the date for our Fireworks Display – one of our main events of the year:

- 30th September OPTA AGM @6pm in the Infant Hall
- 17th October [Pre-loved Uniform and Fancy Dress Costumes Sale, straight after school on the Junior Playground](#)
- 6th November Fireworks Display at the Junior School (kindly supported by Dragon Fireworks)

Also, I'm sure you have seen the Asda Cashpot adverts on the television already this week. Well, we have signed up! For those of you who haven't heard about it, Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our schools and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024.

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started. Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most.

Dates for your Diary:

October

- 15th 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 Child Flu Vaccinations
- 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**

School Attendance

I'm sure you are all aware of the national attendance guidance that came into effect on 19th August this year. It has been on the horizon for some time and was published by the previous government in March 2024. The guidance applies to all state schools, with the responsibility for implementation and policy falling to individual Local Authorities and Multi Academy Trusts.

You may remember that The Good Shepherd Trust wrote to you all last term explaining its position. I am **re-attaching the letter** and our **Attendance Policy** for your reference.

In truth, although wording has changed and the use of fines is now expected and widely publicised in the media, the expectations have not really changed – all children who are enrolled at Ottershaw are expected to attend school every day unless they are too poorly to come in!

The national standard for 'good attendance' is 96% or more. This can be achieved so long as your child misses no more than 6 days of school (12 school sessions).

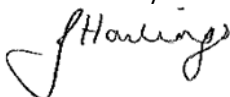
Most Ottershaw children already follow this expectation and have good attendance, even if they have inevitably been too poorly to come to school for a couple of days. Our biggest area of weakness is unauthorised absence for family holidays and events. Holiday absence, combined with a few days off because your child is ill, drops you into the category of Persistent Absence and this is where the spotlight is on us/you.

As always, if the absence is entirely unavoidable, you will not be penalised but we do expect every family to prioritise their child's education.

Finally, can we please remind all parents, but especially those providing a packed lunch for their child, that we are a nut free school. This means that nuts in any form (including in peanut butter and hazelnut chocolate spreads, such as Nutella) are not allowed in school. Similarly, for snack at the Junior School, we only allow fresh fruit and vegetables or dried fruit. We have people in our school with severe (life threatening) nut allergies and it is important we all help to keep them safe in this regard. Thank you.

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings
Headteacher



**THE GOOD
SHEPHERD TRUST**