



22nd November 2024

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OTTERS HAW NEWS!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dates for your Diary:

Autumn Term 2024

November

- 25th 8:45am Infants Maths Workshop at Infant Hall
- 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 Year 6 National Child Measurement Program
U9 Boys Football Tournament afternoon (invited pupils)
- 29th MUFTI Day for Christmas Fair Donations

December

- 5th Year 3 visit to CAMEO
- 6th Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Fair hosted by Year 6
Last day to book Christmas Lunch for Infants and Juniors
- 9th Infant Nativity Rehearsal
- 10th 9:15am Infant Nativity for Robins, Hedgehogs and Otters Class (No younger children to attend)
- 11th 9:15am Infant Nativity for Sparrows, Squirrels and Badgers Class (No younger children to attend)
- 12th 9:15am Infant Nativity, younger siblings may attend.

Snow Day Planning

The cold weather is here! Of course, many of the children are really hoping for snow!! Given this is the first cold snap of the year, it may well be worth letting you know what happens in school if it snows:

If sufficient staff can safely get to work, so that we have adequate and safe supervision for the children, we will open and this is what we always try to do. If it has snowed and we open, please send your children in to school with a change of clothes, shoes and a coat. All children who have a change of clothes in school (any warm clothes, not necessarily spare uniform) will be allowed out to play on the field, in the snow, with their friends 😊.

If it isn't safe for staff to travel to work (you'll have an idea as the local news will be giving alerts about only travel if you have to) I will check in with the local situation and staff in the morning. If I do not have sufficient staff who are able to safely travel to work to enable us to safely supervise the children, we will close. I will make the decision as early as possible and will start to let you know this by 7.15am using the school email contacts we have and ask teachers to notify their classes via the Marvellous Me App. The truth is that every local school will also be trying to alert their parents and these systems often get overloaded and crash. We will do our best to get our messages out as soon and as quickly as possible.

On the very rare occasion, where we have opened (just) but the forecast overnight shows a worsening picture, I will let you know the night before if we will need to close as I know the more notice you have, the easier it is to make alternative arrangements.

As I say, the need to close is rare – we would much rather be open and enjoy playing in the snow with children (so long as they have warm, dry clothes to change into when we've finished).

Thank you so much!

Fundraising Thanks!

We have been collecting for several charities recently and really want to thank you for your support:

- Our Poppy Appeal to support the Royal British Legion across both schools raised an amazing £765.23 which was the highest collection amount in our District!
- We raised £323.00 for the NSPCC across both schools in response to our anti-bullying mufti day

Donations

We have also started receiving some lovely donations for:

- The Year 6 Christmas Fair
- Our collections for the Year 3 Salvation Army Toys for disadvantaged children appeal. (If your child is not in Year 3 but you would like to donate a new, unused toys, you are very welcome to add them to the Year 3 gifts).

I know you are a very generous, supportive community and we really want to thank you for your kindness.

Dates for your Diary:

13th Infants visit to Pantomime
(Nursery stay at school)

Last Fledglings for 2024

16th 9:30am Year 3 Dress
Rehearsal to Junior School
and Infant Siblings

11:00am Nursery Assembly
in the Infant Hall. Mince
Pies and Hot Chocolate to
follow. Afternoon children
in at 10.45am

Christmas Party afternoon
(not including Nursery)

17th Year 6 Readers Church
Rehearsal

2:00pm Year 3 Christmas
Production for parents

18th 9:00am Junior School Carol
Service

Nursery Christmas Party
afternoon – Children to
wear party clothes.

Christmas Dinner and
festive head wear for all
(not including Nursery)

19th Juniors to visit Pantomime

20th Toy Day /Mufti Day

Last Day before Christmas
Holidays:
1:00pm Nursery Finishes
1:05pm Juniors Finishes
1:15pm Infant Finishes

December

**23rd to 3rd January Both Schools
Closed for Christmas Holidays**

January

6th INSET Day Both Schools
Closed

7th Back to School

Prayer Group

Rev Potter has started to run a prayer group for parents and carers. This is every Thursday from 8:45am at the Junior School Library. All are invited and welcome to join in.

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.


[Junior School Walk to Church and Carols Service](#)

Extra Mufti Day

Finally, I have one additional mufti day to add to your calendar before Christmas. Our lovely Head Girl, Dolly, proposed that all the children be able to have an additional mufti day this year as part of her Head Girl speech. Obviously, because she won and has kindly reminded me of her manifesto promise I have agreed!! My birthday actually falls in the Christmas Holidays (I am already looking forward to being 24) we will have a mufti day on Friday 20th December (which is also the last day of term and Toy Day). Thank you Dolly!

Enjoy your weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings
Headteacher