



28th June 2024

Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

OTTERS Shaw NEWS!

Dates for your Diary:

Summer Term 2024

July

- 1st Year 5 New Haw Debate
Workshops - invited children
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
Year 5 Local Walk for
Geography
- 5th Year 5 Fullbrook taster day
MUFTI for Juniors Y3,4 and 6
only—Blue Clothes for Water
Aid
- 8th Olympic and Ancient Greece
Fortnight begins
- 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

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have loved being outside a lot again this week but were particularly grateful that the temperature dropped a little on Thursday so that Year 2 could enjoy their local Ottershaw fieldwork and Year 4 could enjoy their day of river investigations in the woods at Sayers Croft! Thank you to everyone who helped us - fieldwork is the best bit of our geography topics, but we do need extra pairs of hands to complete it safely!

Year 1 Fieldwork and Social Action about Parking

Year 1 have been studying the local traffic as part of their fieldwork this term and want to help everyone travel safely to and from school. Attached to this newsletter are some very persuasive posters for you all to read – I do hope a gentle reminder from the children about safe driving and safe parking may give you enough of a guilt trip to do the right thing. Nagging from 5 year olds is bound to have greater impact that nagging from a Headteacher about naughty parking! Enjoy!!

Year 4 Social Action about Clean Water

Year 4 have been learning about rivers and water this term. As part of their studies they have decided that they would like to raise some money for Water Aid to enable more people around the world have clean water to drink.

Next Friday, 5th July, they will be selling decorated biscuits to all the Junior children after lunch. All the Junior children in Years 3, 4 and 6 are allowed to wear blue clothes to school and donate by 9am 5th July via [SCOPAY](https://www.scopay.com), for Water Aid to school, in exchange for a biscuit or two!

Transition Day arrangements

Next week the main event will be our Transition Day. We know it can be a mixture of excitement and worry about who will be your teacher next year so we try to take all the summer emotion away by spending a lovely day together before the holidays.

All parents with children staying at Ottershaw next year will receive an email on Monday to tell you which class your child will be in and who their teacher will be. On Tuesday all the children will spend the day with their new teacher in their new classroom. The arrangements for drop off and collection on Tuesday are as follows:

Current Reception children will be dropped off at their normal classes and their teachers will take them to Year 1. The children will go back to Reception at the end of the day and be dismissed from there.

Current Year 1 children will line up outside the Year 2 block at the start of the day (current Year 1 staff will be there to guide you to the right teacher). We will wave goodbye to parents and go into Year 2, then the Year 1 team can go and get ready for their new children to arrive. At the end of the day children will be dismissed from Year 2 (again, Year 1 staff will help with dismissal).

New Year 3 children will meet their teachers on the Junior front playground at 8.40am, wave goodbye to parents and go in together. They will be dismissed to parents at 2.55pm on the Junior front playground.

All other Junior children will meet their new teachers on the back playground and be dismissed in the usual way by their new teachers.

We will also be looking forward to seeing all parents with children starting in Reception and Year 3 next year at our new parent meetings on Monday night:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Reception new parents' meeting | 6.00pm in the Infant Hall |
| Year 3 new parents' meeting | 7.00pm in the Junior Hall |

Changes to Homework and the Junior School Day in September

Thank you to all parents who responded to our 2 surveys last term about the timings of the Junior School opening and closing and Homework.

Your views were reviewed by our Local Committee and we have gone with the majority views in both cases.

From September, the timings of the Junior School will change slightly to allow for a ten minute gap between the beginning and end of both schools. We hope this eases the drop off/collection pressure for all (including anyone trying to drive locally). The Infant School timings will remain the same.

Junior School opening and closing times from September:

Gates Open	8.25am
Gates Close and registration	8.35am
Junior School Home Time	3.05pm

Homework from September:

All research shows that, for Primary age children, the most important thing parents can do to support children's progress is hear them read regularly – not just in the early days, but all the way through to Year 6. We also know that fitting homework into busy family life can be a juggling act. With this in mind, following consultation, we have agreed the following homework schedule for both schools from September:

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

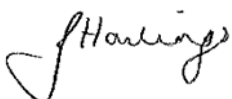
Clothes Bank

You may have noticed our new clothes banks at the entrances to both schools. Thanks to OPTA, these will replace our Bag2School collections. Our new banks can be used all year round, will be emptied regularly and will accept old school uniform (we would still appreciate donations of uniform in good condition for our pre-loved sales, but sometimes uniform really has no more decent wear left in it and needs to go in the clothes bank instead please). The following can be recycled at the clothes bank; clothes, shoes, bed linen, accessories (hats, belts, scarves, gloves and handbags) and soft toys. The following **cannot** be recycled at the clothes bank; duvets or cushions, off cuts, carpet or curtains.

Finally, a reminder that it is the Ottershaw Village Fair on Saturday. Please go along and enjoy, especially enjoy the OPTA stall!!

Enjoy your weekend,

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings

Headteacher

