

Ottershaw Christ Church C of E Infant and Junior Schools

Academies in The Good Shepherd Trust

Headteacher - Mrs J Hastings

www.ottershawcofeschools.surrey.sch.uk



Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

Ottershaw Christ Church C of E Junior School

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6th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,



Book Week Monday 3rd March 2025 – Friday 7th March 2025

Please find attached your usual electronic book token £1 book token/flyer. Full details of where/how to redeem your voucher are on the flyer.

You can also access resources at [Families - World Book Day](#)

Thank you to our brilliant School Council who have helped me plan an exciting week across both schools. This year our theme is 'Snuggle up with a good book!' This is to underpin our passion to build a strong culture of reading for pleasure that extends beyond the school gate!

It is a sad fact nationally that many children, no longer see reading as something they would chose to do for pleasure. Research produced by the National Literacy Trust (November 2024) found "only 1 in 5 8-18 year olds said they read something daily in their free time. A reduction of 7.5% on 2023" and the lowest since 2005. There is a wealth of research as to the correlation of daily reading and outcomes at all key stages, including GCSE! Whilst that is, of course, important what is equally important is the positive impact of reading on children's mental health and the ability to switch off, be still and calm. Research shows that babies and toddlers who are read to regularly and have a bedtime story, associate reading/books with a sense of belonging, calmness and security. Through talking with School Councillors, it was interesting that many spoke (unprompted I might add!) about the same sense of belonging/ calmness when their teachers share a book at the end of the day. The long term mental health and wellbeing benefits of developing good reading habits are there to see.

The school council came up with some great ideas for book week and based on these our aims for the week are:

- To use Book Week to immerse the children in rich, meaningful reading experiences
- Encourage reading for pleasure and expose children to a wider range of texts
- An author visit
- Engage in creative activities linked to special stories
- To listen to reading role models from our wider community

On Wednesday 5th March at 6.30pm Mrs. Jenkyn will read a bedtime story accessible to all Infant children via Teams. More details to follow.

On Thursday 6th and 7th March – our Book Sales will be on at both schools at the end of the day to raise funds for our school libraries. (Please keep your donations coming in!).



On Friday 7th March 2025 children are invited to come to school dressed in their pyjamas and bring their favourite book to share. They will be encouraged to 'snuggle up with a good book' all day!

Finally, a reminder that we are also lucky enough to have free access to local public libraries in Addlestone, New Haw, Chertsey and Woking. In addition to accessing free books, the libraries run great, usually free, activities for the holidays too. Check out what's on www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. Debbie Jenkyn
Deputy Headteacher