



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

4th September 2026

Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

OTTERSHAW NEWS!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new school year! We have loved seeing the children and hearing all their news and we all are really looking forward to the year ahead.

As always, we have plenty planned and this newsletter is full of essential diary dates for our planned performances, Parents' Evenings and Sports Day, along with plenty of things already planned for this term – do make a note of them so you don't miss a thing!

We start the year with our 'Belonging' theme and have chosen some lovely books to help the children think about how unique we all are and how we all belong together on the planet. Before the holidays we also set some homework for you to think about and send something in (to stay in school for the week) about your family time: *We would love it if you could let your child bring in a small artefact/object of something they like to use at home with family (or a picture of the artefact/object). Each day children will be given the chance to share their artefact/object and tell their friends and teachers about themselves and what they like to do at home with family (please don't over-think this, it really can be something as simple as a wooden spoon for cooking, a pair of trainers for running, a paint brush for art, a favourite bedtime story, or pictures of things you enjoy at home on a regular basis like listening to music, playing in the garden, playing a game as a family or your favourite local place to visit, just not holiday pictures this time). We hope this helps everyone get to know one another quickly and is a great way of showing everyone how much they belong and we value them.*

If you have not sent something in yet, please do next week as I know all the children will love sharing their artefacts and pictures.

Next Friday we are inviting all parents of children in **Years 1 – 6** into school at **2.15pm on Friday 11th September** to give you an opportunity to informally meet with your child's teacher, see what the children have been getting up to in their new class and joining us for an OPAL play session on the field.

Parents can arrive between 2.15 and 2.35pm for this event, enter through the main gates and go to classrooms and see the learning. At 2.35pm the gates will be shut, with no further admittance possible, and we will all go out and enjoy an 'OPAL play' together. At 3pm, the siren will go, we will all tidy up and then parents can go back to the classrooms (waiting just outside whilst children gather their belongings) and class teachers will dismiss to waiting parents as soon as their classes are ready.

As was the case with our last OPAL play session, this is not suitable for younger siblings and we ask just one adult per family join us so we still have enough space and play resources for everyone to enjoy. If you have children at both schools, the internal gate will be open so that you can visit both classrooms before the play session.

We look forward to seeing you all!

I know it is that time of year when we are all taking photos of our children as they start a new school adventure. These are lovely memories which, sadly, can be manipulated by AI. Please do read our Online Safety newsletter attached as it explains the dangers and gives you links so that you can learn how to keep your images safe from manipulation.

PE Timetables

As always, we ask that children wear their Ottershaw PE uniform to school on their class PE day. In warmer weather we ask that they wear black shorts and a white t-shirt and, in the colder months, black jogging bottoms, white t-shirt and a black sweatshirt. Please note, this is still school uniform and our school colours for PE are black and white –no multi-coloured items or football kits please!

PE	Year Group
Monday	Year 3
Tuesday	Year 1 and Year 5
Wednesday	Nursery and Year 2
Thursday	Reception and Year 4
Friday	Year 6

Open Mornings

For those who want their children to start here at Ottershaw or go up to the Juniors next September, our Open Mornings are:-

Tuesday 6th October 9.30am Infants – 11am Juniors

Tuesday 13th October 9.30am Infants – 11am Juniors

Thursday 5th Nov 9.30am Infants – 11am Juniors

Wednesday 11th Nov 9.30am Infants

Tuesday 17th Nov 9.30am Infants- 11am Juniors

Wednesday 25th Nov 9.30am Infants – 11am Juniors

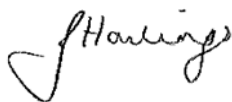
Monday 30th Nov 9.30am Infants

Finally, a few reminders to help us all enjoy the school year (and thank you to everyone who has already remembered):

- All children need a water bottle in school every day
- Please name all your child's clothing
- All children need a waterproof coat, wellies and some spare emergency clothes in school every day. We still go outside to play when it is raining!
- Please make sure you have given us permission if you want your older child to be able to walk some or the whole way home
- Please make sure that you have signed our Mobile Devices Policy before you allow your older child to bring a phone or smart watch to school. We actually do not allow the children to have any access to these and other devices with internet connectivity/cameras during the school day and all children are expected to hand their device to their teacher without fail every day if they do bring one in.
- Anyone thinking of buying their child a smartphone 'ready for Secondary School' might think twice as our local schools only allow children to bring a 'brick' phone to school (a phone that only allows a call or text message). Children are not going to need a smartphone ready for Secondary School and they don't need one at Ottershaw either.

Enjoy your weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings
Headteacher

September

7th Nursery and Reception children start full-time

11th Year 1 – Year 6 Meet the Teacher + OPAL Play event 2.15pm. Parents arrive through main gates @ 2.15pm (latest entry 2.35pm, then gates locked, no further entry). Meet the teacher in classrooms 2.15 – 2.35pm and then 2.35 – 3.00pm OPAL at the Juniors, then all go home.

15th Junior Head Student Team speeches in Junior Hall

16th Year 3 visit to Church for Welcome activities. Leaving school at 9am, all parents welcome, leaving church at 11.30am and returning to school for lunch.

17th Junior Flu vaccinations and Year 6 height and weight.

24th Reading and Phonics workshop for all parents in the Infant Hall at 9am and 5.30pm – Mrs Jenkyn is running 2 identical sessions to help you support your child's early reading skills at home and understand how we teach reading in school.

30th Year 1 Toy Workshops with Chertsey Museum

October

2nd Head Student Team and Junior School Council visit to the Houses of Parliament

6th Year 5 visit to The Museum of Rural Life

9th Reception Tea Party with parents at 2.15pm

13th and 15th Parent Consultation evenings at both schools for all parents 3.30 – 6.30pm

14th School Harvest Celebrations – please bring dry food and tinned food donations for the Food Bank

15th Year 1 visit to Milestones Museum and Year 4 Harvest production to parents in the Junior Hall at 2pm

19th October – 30th October Half Term

November

2nd All children return to school

3rd Infant Flu Vaccinations and Reception height and weight

6th Year 4 visit to the Golden Hinde

9th and 10th Year 3 Feet First road safety training

11th Year 3 to Haslemere Museum

12th School Photographs- Infants. Year 3 Egyptian Day

13th School Photographs - Juniors

16th Odd socks and non-uniform day to mark the start of Antibullying week (please donate via SCOPAY – we will be collecting for the NSPCC, minimum donation £1).

23rd Year 5 Hindu workshop in school

25th Year 6 House Captains 'Sports Crew' training

December

8th Infant Nativity performance for parents with children in Robins, Hedgehogs and Otters (no siblings allowed to attend)

9th Infant Nativity performance for parents in Sparrows, Squirrels and Badgers (no siblings allowed to attend).

10th Infant Nativity for all parents – siblings welcome

NB Each family is invited to attend just one performance, with a maximum number of 2 people allowed to attend per family. If you have more than one child please only attend one performance. Our Infant Hall is small and can get overcrowded if parents attend more than one performance in the week.

1.30pm Year 3 Christmas Production in the Junior Hall.

11th Infant School trip to the Pantomime in Camberley (Reception – Year 2)

13th Christ Church Lessons and Carols Service with a performance from the school choir.

15th 11am Nursery Christmas Assembly.

Christmas Party afternoon for all children (children may bring party clothes to change into).

16th Junior School Carol Service, leaving school at 9am and returning at 10.30am. Parents welcome (and needed) to help us walk to church and back.

School Christmas Lunch

17th Junior School trip to the Pantomime in Camberley

18th Toy Day (all children may bring a non-electronic toy to share with their friends).

Nursery closes at 1pm, Junior School closes at 1.05pm and Infant School closes at 1.15pm

January

4th All children return to school

13th and 14th Parent Consultation evenings at both schools for all parents 3.30 – 6.30pm

20th – 22nd Year 4 residential to Sayer Croft

February

2nd Choir to perform at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices choir

8th Year 6 Bikeability week

9th Safer Internet Day

15th – 19th Half Term

22nd and 23rd Schools closed – INSET Days

March

1st Book Fortnight begins

10th Year 4 Bikeability begins

24th Junior Easter Church Service (leaving school at 9am and returning at 10.30am)

Infant Easter Church Service (for children in Years 1 and 2) leaving school at 10.30am and returning at 11.30am

1.30pm Year 5 Easter Production to parents in the Junior Hall

25th OPTA Easter Fun Run

Schools close for the Easter holiday Nursery closes at 1pm, Junior School closes at 1.05pm and Infant School closes at 1.15pm

April

12th All children return to school

May

3rd School closed for Bank Holiday

10th Year 6 SATs week

28th Sports Day. Junior School in the morning, Infant School in the afternoon and family picnic for all at lunchtime

31st May – 4th June Half Term

June

15th Year 6 Leavers' Service at Guildford Cathedral

28th Schools closed for INSET

July

12th Year 6 residential to PGL

21st Nursery Leavers' assembly at 2pm

22nd Year 2 Leavers' Assembly at 9am

Year 6 Leavers Production at 1.30pm

23rd Term ends and summer holidays begin. Nursery closes at 1pm, Junior School closes at 1.05pm and Infant School closes at 1.15pm

