



13th February 2026

Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

OTTERSHAW NEWS!

Dates for your Diary:	
February	
16 th – 20 th February – Half term	
23 rd	INSET Day. Both schools closed
24 th	Junior Choir to the Young Voices performance at the O2 Arena
25 th	Ash Wednesday services in school No choir practice in the morning
26 th	3.00pm OPTA second hand uniform sale- Junior School. Hedgehogs Forest School
27 th	Otters Forest School
March	
2 nd	Book Week begins (see email). Year 5 / 6 Cross Country at Hoe Bridge (invited children). Secondary Application Outcomes – sent out from 5pm onwards (Year 7 places).
4 th	Second Hand Book Sale after school. 6.30pm Mrs Jenkyn's bedtime story (link will be sent out after half term). 9-9.40am SEND coffee morning in the Junior Library
5 th	Second Hand Book Sale after school. Pyjama day for book week. Squirrels Forest School
6 th	1.30pm Year 6 parents to see Delight in Shakespeare performance. Badgers Forest School
9 th	Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration (invited children)
11 th	Year 5 to visit Fullbrook to see their production of Oliver! Year 4 Bikeability begins
12 th	Hedgehogs Forest School
13 th	OPTA Break the Rules Day. Otters Forest School
17 th	Year 3 / 4 Cross Country at Hoe Bridge
18 th	Year 2 visit to Wisley
19 th	Squirrels Forest School
20 th	Badgers Forest School

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has whizzed by! We finished with an amazingly busy week – our specific highlights were:

- The beautiful Year 5 Art Exhibition on Thursday, with each child creating and reflecting on their images of space. Many thanks to the Delight Charity for providing all the materials, lessons and guidance for us to create our art and to all the parents who came to enjoy the exhibition.
- Our celebration of the Winter Olympics, with all the children in Years 1 – 6 experiencing 'new age kurling' sessions (great fun). Many thanks to our friends at Active Surrey for lending us the equipment to use.
- All our learning to help the children keep themselves safe and develop a healthy use of the internet on Safer Internet Day. Thank you to Mrs Ali for organising all our activities. We do hope the parents who joined the Eduthing Online Workshop for parents on Tuesday evening found the information useful. Internet Safety is something which can really impact child safety at home.
- Year 3 enjoyed their time on Wednesday with the Delight in Dance instructors and loved telling the Heroes and Villains story with them. We are looking forward to inviting parents to see our performance on Tuesday 24th March in the afternoon (probably at 1.45pm but we will confirm once we have finalised timings).
- Year 6 'Bikeability' training. We know our older children are starting to gain their independence with many of them already walking home (or part of the way) on their own and, for those who are out and about on their bikes, learning to ride safely on the roads is essential. Well done to all the children who successfully took part and passed their stage 2!

OPAL Update

Even though our field (and woods) are extremely boggy, we are still forging ahead with plans to expand the play offer and really hope the rain stops when we return after half term. Thanks to OPTA we now have a new shed to store OPAL resources at the Juniors and are still asking for donations (especially scooters, dressing up clothes, cars, play kitchen and mud kitchen resources, tarpaulins and giant pegs please).

Over half term we are thinking about creating space; to 'swing' from trees on ropes, create a separate digging pit and, after Easter, create a chill out zone with hammocks and extend our shelter building zone. All exciting!

Parent Coffee Morning

Following on from our SEND coffee morning on 'Supporting your Neurodiverse child at home' we would like to invite parents in for an informal coffee morning on Wednesday 4th March 9-9.40am in the Library at the Juniors. This will be a chance to meet and talk to other parents, share experiences and chat to the SENCOS. Please do drop in and join us. Also, if anyone would like the slides sent out to them from the Supporting your Neurodiverse Child at Home session, please let Mrs Hollis or Mrs Shortland know.

Village Litter Collection

On Sunday 22nd February, residents of Ottershaw are organising a one-off event to collect litter from all around the village. They will be meeting at 11am at the corner of Slade Road and Brox Road and then again in the main car park at the Memorial Field at 3pm. All are welcome to come to one or both sessions for whatever length of time they can spare. They will finish where we started at 12.30pm and 4.30pm with tea / coffee and cake.

Dates for your Diary continued...	
23 rd	Easter Pause Week begins Relays Cross Country at Hoe Bridge
24 th	Year 4 Last Swimming Lesson Year 3 Delight in dance performance to parents (timings TBC) 11am - Nursery Spring Assembly, followed by cakes in the Nursery
25 th	Easter Church Services. Juniors leave school at 8.45am, return at 10.15am Years 1 and 2 leave school at 10.30am and return in time for lunch Junior Volunteer Sign Up Here Infant Volunteer Sign Up Here
26 th	1.30pm Year 5 Easter Production in the Junior Hall Nursery Afternoon Children Last Day
27 th	OPTA Fun Run End of Term Nursery closes at 1.00pm. Junior School closes at 1.05pm. Infant School closes at 1.15pm.
30th March to 10th April – Easter Holidays	
April	
13 th	Back to School
14 th	Year 3 Swimming Lessons start
16 th	Primary Application Outcomes – sent out from 5pm onwards (Reception and Y3 places)
22 nd	OPTA Quiz Night
May	
11 th	Year 6 SATs Week
15 th	Crazy Hair MUFTI
18 th	Class Photos Infant and Juniors
22 nd	Sports Day / Family Picnic
June	
1 st	Year 4 Multiplications Week
5 th	Reserve Sports Day / Family Picnic
12 th	MUFTI for Ottershaw Village Fair
16 th	Year 6 leavers service at Guildford Cathedral (children only)
18 th	Nursery Visit to Hobbledown. (Nursery closed)

Attendance

Finally, can I please remind you all of the importance of good (95% or better) school attendance. I know that many of us have been struck down with nasty bugs this year and, quite rightly, when your children have been poorly they have had time at home to recover. I also know that, on bad traffic days, we can be affected by lateness. However, our statistics at this time are not good and attendance is dipping, hence my gentle reminder. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)



If your child/children are out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carers per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, **per parent/carers per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carers per child**, in the Magistrates Court under s444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

Please see below the link for our attendance policy on our website:
[Attendance Policy](#)

Enjoy your half term – we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 24th February.

Yours sincerely

J Hastings

Mrs J Hastings
Headteacher

Photos of the Week!

Infant and Junior new age kurling



Year 6 Bikeability



Year 5 Art Exhibition

