



21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

# OTTERS Shaw NEWS!

**Dates for your Diary:**

**Spring Term 2025**

**March**

24 <sup>th</sup>	4.15pm Cross Country Relay at Hoe bridge School (invited children)
25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 & 4 Badminton (invited children)  11am Nursery Spring assembly
27 <sup>th</sup>	3pm OPTA Summer uniform sale – at Infants and Juniors
31 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Pause Week Begins

**April**

1 <sup>st</sup>	1:45pm Year 3 Delight in Dance performance to parents
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Easter Church Service lead by Year 5 (details to follow) <a href="#">Junior Volunteer Link</a> <a href="#">Infant Volunteer Link</a> School Choir to Hairspray! At Woking
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1:45pm Year 5 Easter Production to Parents  Afternoon Nursery Children – last day before Easter.
4 <sup>th</sup>	OPTA Easter Fun Run  School Closes for Easter Holidays: Nursery finishes at 1pm Juniors finish at 1:05pm Infants finish at 1:15pm

**Easter Holidays  
7<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April**

22 <sup>nd</sup>	Back to School
30 <sup>th</sup>	OPTA Quiz Night for Parents/Guardians – Details to come

Dear Parents/Carers,

The warm weather returning at the end of the week has been wonderful and has certainly lifted our spirits! At school we leave it to parents to decide whether or not to send their child to school in summer uniform rather than announce a date. In truth, at this time of year, we often run with a mixture of winter and summer uniform until summer really arrives. Please send the children to school in the uniform that works best for your family (but please make sure the children are in our Ottershaw uniform every day, including their Ottershaw PE kit on their PE day).

**Surrey Community Games**

Formally known as the Surrey Youth Games, the Surrey Community Games registration opens on 1<sup>st</sup> April this year, offering free local coaching for children in the Junior School for 6 weeks. The sports on offer this time are Judo, Tennis, Dance and Girls’ Football. We always have a great take up of this offer from Ottershaw families and I urge you to take full advantage of the offer as soon as you can (the flyer with all details of how to register is attached – just follow the link).

**Famer Duck visits Year 1**

On Tuesday, Farmer Duck came to the Infant School for a little holiday and the children were so excited to see him. Poor Farmer Duck was exhausted from doing all the work on the farm so came to Ottershaw for a little rest 😊. The children wrote some stories as a result, so Farmer Duck helped us whilst he was enjoying a well-deserved break!



**Year 4 Bikeability**

Well done to all the Year 4 children who completed their Bikeability Part 1 training on the playground this week. It is so important that the children learn how to control their bikes and cycle safely when they are out and about. The instructors were very complimentary about the children and I hope they put their new skills to good use over the Easter holidays!



**Choir Performance at Fullbrook**

Our choir took part in a joint workshop and performance with the choirs from New Haw Junior School and Fullbrook School on Wednesday. The older pupils certainly inspired us and we’re looking forward to more partnership working with these schools in the future.

## Year 2 Sports Leaders

Active Surrey worked with 10 Year 2 children on Thursday morning to give them some First Steps to Leadership training. We hope this has inspired the children to lead some games with their friends on the playground at lunchtime.



### OPTA Shed Roof

This is a plea for help! We are looking for an expert angel who can take a look at our leaking OPTA shed and help us mend it. If you are in the building/roofing trade and can help us fix our shed we will be so grateful – please contact the school office if you can help.

### OPTA Break the Rules

We raised an incredible £1067.60 for Break the Rules Day! The Children had such fun in their great outfits, colourful hair and with their adventurous names! Thank you for making this happen!

### OPTA Summer uniform sale

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March OPTA will be holding a Summer uniform sale after school at both the Infants and Juniors.

### Easter Church Walk

Would we love for everyone to go to the Easter service on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, to do so we will need some more volunteers. If you are free to join us, click on the link/s in the date section. Please note, it is not necessary to hold a DBS to volunteer to help on this walk.

### Potential Changes to Free School Meals Eligibility

Currently, any child found eligible for free school meals enjoys protected status under transitional protection arrangements, meaning they remain eligible until the end of their current phase of education. However, there has been speculation in the press recently that this protection may soon end, possibly on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025. If protections do cease, those found eligible AFTER this date would lose their Free School Meal status immediately upon any change in circumstances.

Surrey County Council have advised us they estimate there are over 2,000 families in Surrey that if checked, would likely be found eligible for free school meals, but who aren't currently accessing this entitlement. We would encourage parents to check their eligibility as soon as possible by completing and returning the attached Application Form to the School Office for processing.

Finally, can I please remind everyone that the school car parks are for staff only (even before and after school). We are seeing a growing number of parents try to use our car parks to drop off children – space in both is tight and one parent nearly ran over their own child in their rush to reverse and leave this week!

Enjoy your weekend

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Hastings  
Headteacher

