



21st November 2025

Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

OTTERS HAW NEWS!

Dates for your Diary:	
Autumn Term 2025	
November	
25 th	Open mornings for Prospective Parents. Infants 9.15am / Juniors 10.30am (pre booking required)
26 th	Year 3 Egyptian Workshop
27 th	Year 3 Haslemere Trip OPTA Uniform Sale for Infant and Juniors at The Junior School
28 th	Christmas Fair MUFTI Day
December	
1 st	Year 3 Salvation Army Toy Appeal – last day to donate.
3 rd	Juniors – Last Date to order Christmas Lunch
5 th	Year 6 Christmas Fair
8 th	Infant Nativity Dress Rehearsal (not for parents)
9 th	9.30am Infant Nativity for Robins, Hedgehogs, Badgers. (No younger children to attend)
10 th	9.30am Infant Nativity for Sparrows, Squirrels, Otters. (No younger children to attend) Year 3 Dress Rehearsal (not for parents)
11 th	9.30am Infant Nativity, younger siblings may attend. 11am Year 3 and Junior School Choir to CAMEO. 1.30pm Year 3 Christmas Production
12 th	Infants to Pantomime OPTA Cake sale after school
15 th	Year 6 Readers to Church (Rehearsal)
16 th	Christmas Party Afternoon 11am Nursery Sing a long
17 th	Junior Church Service Infant and Junior Christmas Dinner

Dear Parents and Carers,

The absolute highlight of the week has to be when the Fire Engine visited the Infant School on Thursday! A shiny, red fire engine appeared on the playground just before playtime and we all saw the blue flashing lights and heard the siren! It was so exciting! All the children in Nursery and Reception then had a closer look at all the equipment.

Year 6 have also been busy this week – they visited Thorpe Park on Wednesday morning to take part in the Junior Citizen programme where they learned about how to keep themselves safe when they are outside of school and then on Thursday they visited the Royal Airforce Memorial in Runnymede to learn more about the Battle of Britain during World War II. On both occasions the organisations commented on how well behaved, polite and interested the children were in their learning – of course, I was very pleased and proud to hear this.

Well done Year 6!

Mr Sanders also took some Year 4 children to our last team sporting event before Christmas – this time we participated in a multi-skills festival at St Dunstan's 😊

As always, thank you to all the adults who organised and escorted our children to these events as they really do bring the learning alive for children.

Charity Giving

In addition to our thank you from the Food Bank last week we would like to say a very big thank you for your generosity for our NSPCC event as part of anti-bullying week – your donations raised **£374.00** for the charity and our poppy collection to support the Royal British Legion raised nearly **£500!** Wow!

Finally, we have received some lovely donations for the Year 3 Salvation Army Toy Appeal for disadvantaged children. (If your child is not in Year 3 but you would like to donate new, unused toys, you are very welcome to add them to the Year 3 gifts). I know you are a very generous, supportive community and we really want to thank you for your kindness. Information from the Salvation Army Toy Appeal can be [found here](#). The last day for donations at the Junior Office is Monday 1st December.

Year 1 Nativity Crib sets

As part of their learning about the Nativity, we would like to show Year 1 children a selection of different nativity crib sets. If you did have a set that we could borrow to look at on Monday 15th December can you please take it (named) to the Infant office and we promise to treat them with enormous love – we know these things are very precious. They will be available for collection at the end of the day. Thank you.

Attendance Update

Most of the bugs that were circulating before half term seem to have cleared up now, just in time for Christmas. Hooray! Attendance really does matter and any child whose attendance drops below 95% is judged to be requiring improvement (and anyone whose attendance is below 90% falls into the Persistently Absent category).

Continued overleaf...

December

18th

Juniors to Pantomime

Last day of term for afternoon
Nursery children

19th

Toy Day

Last day of term
Nursery finish at 1pm
Juniors finish at 1:05pm
Infants finish at 1:15pm

**Christmas Holidays 22nd December to 2nd
January 2026.**

Both Schools re open 5th January 2026

Parent Volunteers Needed!

As always when planning trips or events we need plenty of parent helpers to make the events successful, please consider volunteering at any of our up and coming events using the links below

17th December

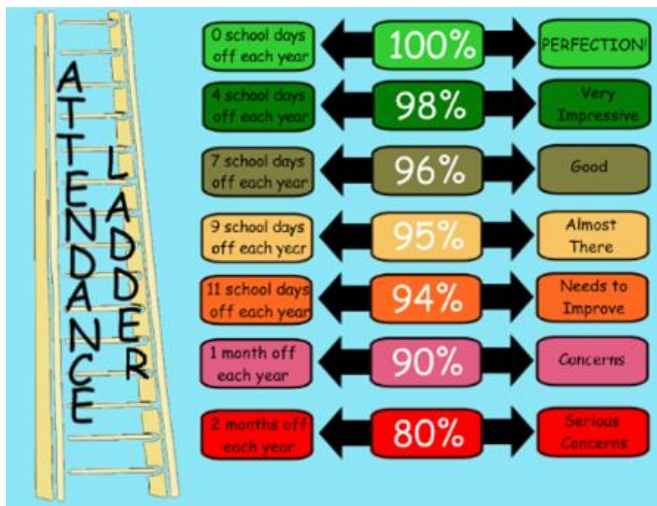
[Junior Carol Service Volunteers](#)

Attendance Update continued

We would not want any child to come to school when they are really poorly and we do ask that if they have had any sickness or diahorrea that they stay home for 48 hours following their last episode to try to control the germs spreading. If, however, your child is feeling a bit tired or under the weather please do send them in – we will ring you if they deteriorate before the end of the school day.

In the same way we understand that there are some days that local traffic is so bad (as with the M25 incident last week) that inevitably some families arrive at school late. However, lateness does impact learning. Our learning begins as soon as the children come in to school and children who are regularly late miss the important settling start to the day – it's not a great feeling to enter a classroom when all your friends have started their learning and you've missed the explanation and don't know what you're supposed to be doing.

Congratulations to Year 2 Otters Class and Year 5 – Class 5S for this weeks' highest attendance. **Otters 95.93% and 5S 98.52%**



Snow

We enjoyed the first snow flurry earlier this week and we were all a bit sad that it didn't settle. Should snow return again this winter, this is what you can expect to happen in school:

- We will always try our best to be open – school will only close if adverse weather means that not enough staff can safely travel to work.
- Should snow fall and we do open, please send your children in with a change of warm clothes (including footwear and socks) because we will let them enjoy some playtime in the snow with their friends and they will be wet when they come back inside!
- Should we experience adverse weather conditions we aim to make a definite decision to close by 7.30am, but with every school trying to send their emergency text messages these don't always arrive as quickly as we would like and so advise checking the school website. As a rule of thumb, if you would struggle to make your journey into work it is likely that school staff will be in exactly the same position as you! Rather than clog up systems, we will only contact you and update the website if we are closed.

Finally, can we please remind you all that children need to have a coat in school every day (and hats and gloves if possible). Please name everything – it is the only way we can return lost items to the correct child. Thank you.

Enjoy your weekend!

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Hastings
Headteacher

Photos of the Week!

Reception's visit from the Fire Crew



Year 6 Runnymede Memorial Trip

