



26th September 2025

Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

OTTERSHAW NEWS!

Dates for your Diary:	
Autumn Term 2025	
September	
29 th	Engage Assembly for Juniors and Year 2
30 th	8.50am Maths Workshop for Reception parents at the Infant Hall
October	
1 st	Junior Sports Crew Training (more details to follow) 8.15am School Choir Rehearsals start
2 nd	Open mornings for Prospective Parents. Infants at 9.15am / Juniors 10.30am (pre booking required)
3 rd	Badgers Class - Forest School
6 th	Year 5 Rural Life Trip
7 th	Open mornings for Prospective Parents. Infants 9.15am / Juniors 10.30am (pre booking required) 1pm Year 6 Prefect interviews
8 th	Junior School Council visit to Houses of Parliament Year 4 to Golden Hinde
9 th	Open mornings for Prospective Parents. Infants 9.15am / Juniors 10.30am (pre booking required)
10 th	Otters Class - Forest School
15 th	8.45am Maths Workshop for Year 3 Junior parents at the Junior Hall
17 th	Badgers Class - Forest School
20 th	3.30pm – 6.30pm Parents Evening (Booking details to follow)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our big news this week is that OPAL play has started at lunchtimes and the children are loving it (just look at all the smiles in the photos)!!

Please keep sending in cardboard, tyres, toys for the sandpit, dressing up clothes, tarpaulins and blankets for shelter building and anything we may use in the art and craft area – we can never have enough of these 😊.

The next areas we would love to open are the mud kitchen and a water play area but we do need more resources; any unwanted kitchen equipment, plastic guttering, water troughs, bubble mixture, bubble wands and child size brooms would be gratefully received.

Other exciting things

Year 2 have started their ukulele lessons and everyone will be learning to play the ukulele in school this year – we can't wait to see the performance!

Year 1 enjoyed their 'Toys from the 1960s' workshops with Chertsey Museum and even had the chance to talk to someone who had been a child during the 1960s to find out what life was like back then.

Years 5 and 6 began a new netball club on a Thursday lunchtime (thank you Mrs Lister and Mrs Gale for helping us with this).

All the children in Years 1 – 5 voted for their new School Council and the Juniors voted for their Sports Captains and Head Student Team. Well done to everyone who was brave enough to stand and deliver a speech and put themselves forward for a role, we are proud of you all.

Year 1 – engaging in the workshop with the Chertsey Museum



Dates for your Diary:	
Autumn Term 2025	
October	
21 st	3.30pm – 6.30pm Parents Evening (Booking details to follow)
22 nd	Harvest Services
23 rd	Year 4 and Year 6 visit Cameo 1.30pm Year 4 Harvest performance to Parents
24 th	INSET DAY- Both schools closed
October Half Term 27 th to 31 st	
November	
3 rd	INSET DAY – Both schools closed
4 th	Back to school
<p>Parent Volunteers Needed!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Infant Panto Trip 12th Dec Link Here Junior Panto Trip 18th Dec Link Here</p>	

OPTA News

We had our OPTA AGM last night and I was blown away by the amount raised last year - an incredible **£18,809!!** That can only happen because of the huge effort our committee put into organising the events and your support. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

This year, OPTA will be contributing to our favourites, such as paying for the coaches to take us all to pantomime, class Christmas presents and the tablecloths and crackers for our Christmas Dinner. We have also asked them to help with our OPAL project so watch this space - every time lovely things appear, it is because OPTA have bought them for the children to enjoy!

Whilst we were meeting, we did add some fundraising dates to the diary:

- 6th November** OPTA Fireworks (this is the biggest event in our calendar, please come along and enjoy)
- 27th November** OPTA tickets for Christmas Hampers go on sale
- 28th November** Christmas Fair Mufti Day - the children will be asked to bring in donations for prizes at the children's Christmas Fair
- 3rd December** OPTA Christmas Hamper Raffle draw
- 5th December** Children's Christmas Fair and Christmas Jumper Day. The fair is organised and run by Year 6 during the school day. This year parents will be able to pay for 'spending money' via SCOPAY and we will be giving the children tokens to spend at the fair. Each token will be worth 20p and each turn of a game at the fair will cost 1 token.
- 18th December** Christmas Cake Sale after school (in the playground at both schools at the end of the school day)
- 4th February** School Disco
- 4th and 5th March** Second Hand Book Sale
- 13th March** Break the Rules Mufti Day
- 27th March** OPTA sponsored Easter Fun Run
- 29th April** OPTA Quiz Nigh for parents and friends
- 12th June** OPTA Mufti Day - we will be asking for donations for the Ottershaw Village Fete.

As you can see, we have another busy year planned. Do come along and enjoy some of these events with us.

Parent Workshops

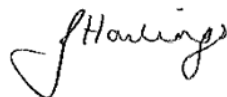
Thank you to everyone who came to see Mrs Jenkyn on Thursday at the Infants or Friday at the Juniors to hear about how we teach reading across our schools. Please remember that Miss Philbey will be running a maths workshop for Reception parents on Tuesday morning at 8.50am (after drop off) in the Infant Hall.

Choir

Finally, thank you to everyone who applied to join the Junior Choir on Monday at 8pm. As you know, we had 21 places available and 72 completed the form almost immediately when it opened. Whilst we were thrilled to see how many children love singing and performing, we cannot take them all with us to the O2 Young Voices concert. In the end, we did put all the names in a hat as the only fair way to allocate the places and letters have gone out to those who were successful.

Moving forwards for next year, we are thinking about how we can have a Year 3 and 4 Choir who go somewhere to perform as part of a mass choir and a separate Year 5 and 6 Choir who also go somewhere to perform as part of a mass choir – we didn’t like having to turn so many of our lovely children away.

Enjoy your weekend.
Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings
Headteacher

Our First OPAL Session

These photographs are from our very first session of OPAL, all from one day lunchtime!

