



5th September 2025

Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

OTTERSHAW NEWS!

Dates for your Diary:	
Autumn Term 2025	
September	
8 th	Nursery / Reception full time
16 th	Year 5 swimming begins at The Meath
17 th	Year 3 to Church for Welcome and Belonging Activates
18 th	Year 5 Fire Safety Workshop
19 th	Flu jabs for Infants and Juniors (see email) 8.25am – 8.55am Junior – Meet the teacher 2.45pm- 3.15pm Infant – Meet the teacher
22 nd	Junior Head boy / girl Speeches and School Council Elections
24 th	Year 1 Chertsey Museum Toy Workshop
25 th	Reception/New Parents Phonics Workshop at 9am and/or 5.30pm at the Infant Hall 5.30pm OPTA Uniform sale at the Infant Hall 6.30pm OPTA AGM at the Infant Hall
26 th	9am English Workshop at the Juniors -Year 3 and any New Parents in Junior Hall
29 th	Engage Assembly for Juniors and Year 2
October	
2 nd	Open mornings for Prospective Parents. Infants at 9.15am / Juniors 10.30am (pre booking required)
3 rd	House Captains announced in Junior Celebration Assembly.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year! We have loved seeing how much the children have grown over the summer, have admired all the new shoes and haircuts and have enjoyed hearing about everyone’s holidays, days out and adventures – even the rain hasn’t dampened our spirits!

As always, the first newsletter of the year comes with a sheet of dates to help with your forward planning. We will certainly have many more to add but we know that as much advanced warning as possible allows you the time to juggle other commitments and join us for key events in school. As you can see, many of the old favourites will feature again this year – please join us for as many as you can!

Our first invitation to you all, for those with children in Years 1 – 6 are our ‘Meet the Teacher’ events. These are a chance to drop in to see your child’s classroom, see the work they have completed at the start of term and informally meet the teacher. You are all invited to join us on Friday 19th September for this. The Junior School will be open and welcoming you from drop off at 8.25am until 8.55am and the event for Years 1 and 2 will be in the afternoon (2.45pm – 3.15pm).

Belonging at Ottershaw

As we return, our theme across both schools is ‘Belonging’. This year we are asking every child to bring a special photo to share something about themselves with their class. Thank you to everyone who has already remembered their photo, we will be looking at photos for the whole of next week so it is not too late to send one in.

OPAL

Thank you too for the donations we have already received for our new OPAL outdoor play project. We will be launching this at lunchtimes very shortly (watch this space for more details) and want to start with muddy play (digging with trowels and making things in a mud kitchen), playing in a sandpit and den building. We will be ready to launch as soon as we have enough resources. If you can help, we would be very grateful for donations of:

- Blankets and tarpaulins*
- Picnic rugs*
- Toys for the sandpit*
- Cooking utensils*
- Top soil*
- Anything that can be used to make a den (e.g. tarpaulins, pegs etc.)*
- Large cardboard boxes*
- People with a van (or even better, a tipper truck) to go to Spinney Hill Tyres and collect tyres for us to use to make our new digging pit.*

As soon as we are ready, we will begin! At this point, every child will need a pair of wellies to change into if they want to play on the field and in these new play areas, a change of clothes to keep on their school peg and a waterproof coat (as we will play outside in all but the most extreme weathers). We advise waterproof trousers too (not only to keep the children dry but they might help protect their uniform on wet days). For those who might be wondering what lunchtime will look like – imagine an ordinary day in a Reception class when the children are learning outside; all the children will be offered these activities at lunchtime!

October	
7 th	Open mornings for Prospective Parents. Infants 9.15am / Juniors 10.30am (pre booking required) 1pm Y6 Prefect interviews
8 th	Junior School Council visit to Houses of Parliament Y4 to Golden Hinde
9 th	Open mornings for Prospective Parents. Infants 9.15am / Juniors 10.30am (pre booking required)
20 th	3.30pm – 6.30pm Parents Evening (Booking details to follow)
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 Year 2 Fire Safety Workshop 1.30pm Year 4 Harvest performance to Parents
24 th	INSET DAY- Both schools closed
27 th – 31 st	October Half Term
November	
3 rd	INSET DAY – Both schools closed
4 th	Back to school

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 – we do not want to see multi-coloured items or football kits please.

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

Teacher Clubs

In previous years teachers have offered a wide range of lunchtime clubs. This year, teachers will be on duty and offering their clubs during OPAL play outside instead – there will still be plenty of craft activities, opportunities for singing, dancing and quieter board games/Lego available but they will all be going on outside. As always, all children will be allowed to decide what they would like to do every day.

Penalty Notice Information

Just to remind, if you take your child/children 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 s 444 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.

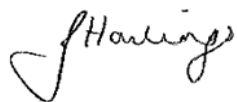
Car Parks

Please be reminded that for safety reasons, children and adults should not be walking around the car park areas at both schools due to vehicles arriving and leaving or requiring access during the school hours. We would also like to remind you that the car park can only be used for staff.

Finally, can I please remind you all that there will be a Government Emergency Alert test on this Sunday (7th September) compatible phones will sound the alarm so don't be shocked to hear your devices going off!

Enjoy your weekend – I hope the rain stays away!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings
Headteacher

