



9th February 2024

Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

OTTERSHAW NEWS!

Spring Term

Dates for your Diary:

February

12th - 16th Half Term

- 19th Back to school
- 21st OPTA Disco [Ticket Link](#)
- 23rd Junior School Cross Country Trials
- 23rd Year 3 Swimming Lessons start
- 29th Tangled Feet 'Belongings' performance Junior children

March

- 4th Book Week
- 5th Year 5 to Fullbrook to watch their production
- 8th Book Week Dress Up Day
- 11th Year 4 Bikeability Week
- 14th 2.45pm Infant School and Nursery, Open Classroom
- 14th Year 5 to CAMEO Spring Songs Performance
- 15th 8.30am-9am Junior School Open Classroom
- 15th Year 2 to Painshill Park
- 21st Nursery Easter Assembly 11am
- 22nd OPTA 'Break the Rules' Mufti Day
- 25th Easter Pause Week
- Year 5 to church for rehearsal
- 26th Year 4 'Delight in Dance' performance to parents
- 27th Easter Church Services
- 9.00am Junior
- 10.30am Infant
- 27th Year 5 Easter production for parents - Junior hall
- 28th OPTA Sponsored Easter Fun Run
- 28th Last Day of Term
- Nursery closes at 1.00pm/Junior School closes at 1.05pm/Infant School closes at 1.15pm

OPTA News & Information

The last day to purchase tickets for the Disco's on Wednesday 21st February is Friday 16th February. Tickets can be purchased online by following the [Ticket Link](#).

Dear Parents/Carers,

So here we are, at the mid-point of the school year! When the children return from half term the nights will be lighter, there is the hope of Spring and Summer on the horizon and all the fun at Ottershaw continues!

This half term has been busy and we ended the week with Year 6 finishing their Level 2 Bikeability Training and Year 4 starting their Delight in Dance Arts Project - both adding that extra excitement into the curriculum that we know our children enjoy and enriches their learning.

Our other main event this week was our Safer Internet Day, which all the classes enjoyed on Tuesday. I know we talk to you and the children about staying safe and being kind online a lot, but we cannot stress to you how very important these messages are. You would be amazed just how innocent and naïve children can be when they are gaming and messaging online and how easily they leave themselves wide open to being contacted by people they don't know. Please do spend time talking to your children about what they learned and how you keep them safe online when they are at home (including telling the older ones that it is normal and expected that your parents will look at the messages you are sending and who you are playing with/messaging and which groups you are a part of).

Staffing Update

I am very happy to be able to tell you that we have found a lovely replacement for Mrs Thornton when she leaves to have her baby just after half term. Mrs Fennell will be joining us straight after the holiday to work alongside Mrs Thornton for a couple of weeks and get to know the children and our school before Mrs Thornton leaves us for a while. I already know that the children are going to love her and you will give her a warm welcome to our school.

I can also confirm that we have a new Higher Level Teaching Assistant joining the Junior School from mid-March. Mrs Pudney will be based in 4G but will also spend her time covering other classes during the week. Again, I know the children are going to enjoy learning with her and we can't wait for her to start.

Book Week

Finally, as promised, please see the Book Week letter from Mrs Jenkyn attached, together with your digital World Book Day £1 book token. We have a week full of creativity and surprise planned but want to give you as much advance warning as possible. We look forward to seeing you and sharing our learning at the end of our adventures!

I do hope you are all able to have a rest during the half term break. The children are tired, lots of them feeling a bit under the weather and some even a bit grumpy! It's all normal and part of the rhythm of life and I hope the rest helps everyone reset and return ready for new adventures.

See you after half term!

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Hastings
Headteacher

