



OTTERSHAW NEWS!

Spring Term

Dates for your Diary:

February

- 5th Year 6 Bikeability Week
6th Safer Internet Day
Year 4 'Delight in Dance' project
12th - 16th Half Term
19th Back to school
21st OPTA Disco [Ticket Link](#)
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
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

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I write to you I am at Sayers Croft with Year 4 on their 3 day residential visit. We have had a great time, mastered how to make beds, find our way around the woods in the dark and conquered many personal challenges. We've also been blessed with kind weather and a great team helping make our time away so enjoyable. Of course, I would like to thank all the staff who made the trip possible by organising all the payments, bookings, paperwork, medical forms and those who came away and gave up their own families and sleep for 3 days!

Actually, across both schools, this has felt like a tricky week for us because so many children and staff are poorly at the moment. It hasn't been easy for staff or children and I would like to thank you all for your support, patience and understanding. We hope to resume our usual service soon (and all who are poorly, we hope you feel better soon).

Measles

Talking of feeling poorly, I am sure you have all seen the news about measles spreading across the country. So far we haven't had any cases in school but I have been made aware that Surrey is an area where the vaccination rate is lower than optimal.

The following is the latest guidance we have received from the Department for Education which may be of interest to you (especially if your child hasn't been fully vaccinated yet):

Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools. The best protection against measles for children and adults is to get both doses of the MMR vaccine. It is never too late to have these vaccinations.

The following UKHSA guidance is available on GOV.UK:

- [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education)
- [Managing outbreaks and incidents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/managing-outbreaks-and-incidents)

The NHS also has the following advice for parents on measles:

- [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/measles)

School Term Dates 2024/2025

Attached is a copy of the School Term Dates Calendar for 2024/2025. You will see that Inset Days for Staff Training have already been set for the year.

Animal Magic!

Year 1 have been welcoming some interesting visitors to the classes over the last couple of weeks to support their topic of Animals. They have had dogs of all sizes, a tortoise, guinea pig, hamster, some piglets as well as a hen who laid us an egg! A big thank you to all those parents who have brought the animals in to show the children.

Local Roadworks

Please be advised that we have been notified that some of Brox Road will be closed from 29th January for 2 days 08:00am - 5:00pm due to works. Please factor this in your journeys to and from school. [Roadworks - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roadworks)

Parking at the schools

This is another parking message, this time in regards to after school clubs. We ask that you refrain from parking within the schools car parks when collecting from the after school clubs please.



District Cross Country Championships

Finally, for all the keen runners at the Junior School, I can confirm the dates for our annual District Cross Country Championships. The venue for all the races is Hoe Bridge School and car parking is available at the Hoe Bridge Golf Club just across the road. The races start at 4.30pm but we aim to arrive by 4pm to get registered and warmed up:

Tuesday 5th March Years 5 and 6

Tuesday 19th March Years 3 and 4

Monday 25th March Mixed Year Group Relay.

We need 5 boys and 5 girls for each race. As always, we will run team trials in school to make sure we are taking our strongest team - these will be announced in due course.

Enjoy your weekend!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hastings'.

Mrs J Hastings
Headteacher