



23rd January 2026

Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve

OTTERSHAW NEWS!

Dates for your Diary:	
January	
28 th	Squirrels Forest School
29 th	Year 5 Debating Cup at Fullbrook (invited children)
30 th	Badgers Forest School Panathlon Sporting Event (invited children)
February	
4 th	OPTA Disco Tickets Here
6 th	Year 1 visit to Weybridge Synagogue Trials for Cross Country - Juniors
10 th	Safer Internet Day for all children Chinese New Year Lunch
12 th	1:45pm Year 5 Art Exhibition in the Junior Hall
16 th – 20 th February – Half term	
23 rd	INSET Day. Both schools closed
24 th	Junior Choir to the Young Voices performance at the O2 Arena
25 th	Ash Wednesday services in school
March	
2 nd	Book Week begins (more details to follow) Year 5 / 6 Cross Country at Hoe Bridge Secondary Application Outcomes – sent out from 5pm onwards (Year 7 places)
4 th and 5 th	Second Hand Book Sale after school (donations needed after half term)
5 th	Pyjama day for book week.
11 th	Year 5 to visit Fullbrook to see their production of Oliver! Year 4 Bikeability begins
13 th	OPTA Break the Rules Day
17 th	Year 3 / 4 Cross Country at Hoe Bridge

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our main event in school this week was the Year 4 residential trip to Sayers Croft. The children have had a brilliant time orienteering, pond dipping, shelter building and solving Team Challenges together. The highlights, as always, were the Night Walk around the woods in the dark and enjoying a hot chocolate a film with friends before bedtime. Despite the soggy weather the children have had a wonderful time. These trips are so important for children's personal development and help them grow their personal independence and resilience. I am enormously grateful to the office ladies (especially Mrs Blanchfield) for organising all the paperwork and to the 6 members of our teaching team who gave up their families, cosy beds and sleep to take the children away for 3 days. Thank you all, you are absolute superstars 😊.

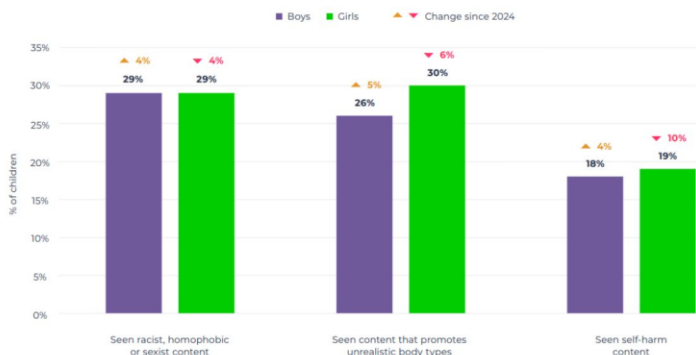
Other exciting events this week:

- On Tuesday 4 Bulgarian teachers spent time in our schools and we shared learning about how we support children with additional needs and teach online safety – it was interesting to learn that we both face the same financial challenges and experience the same difficulties with navigating children through their online world safely.
- On Wednesday the TASHH team ran a parent workshop to offer support to parents whose children face anxiety. Thank you to Mrs Shortland and Mrs Hollis for managing to find a time that the team could visit to offer support.
- I took 8 Year 3 children to a New-age Kurling Festival at Woking Leisure Centre – we had such fun and, of course, we all want to have a go on real ice now and will be joining the Olympic Team next month! Watch this space as Active Surrey are going to lend us their 'Kurling Kit' so all the children can enjoy a taste of this game, just in time for the Winter Olympics.

Online Safety

We saw some stark national statistics this week about young children's online profiles as we prepared for our Safer Internet Day in school

Figure 2: Narrowing of gaps in harms experienced by boys and girls



To support all parents as you navigate this world with your children we are inviting all parents to attend an online briefing with our IT partners, Eduthing at **7 – 8pm on Tuesday 10th February**. Full details of how to register are attached and I urge you all to listen in to help protect and support your children.

Dates for your Diary continued...	
18 th	Year 2 visit to Wisley
23 rd	Easter Pause Week begins Relays Cross Country at Hoe Bridge
24 th	Year 4 Last Swimming Lesson
25 th	Easter Church Services. Juniors leave school at 8.45am, return at 10.15am. Years 1 and 2 leave school at 10.30am and return in time for lunch. Junior Volunteer Sign Up Here Infant Volunteer Sign Up Here
26 th	1.30pm Year 5 Easter Production in the Junior Hall Nursery Afternoon Children Last Day
27 th	OPTA Fun Run End of Term. Nursery closes at 1.00pm. Junior School closes at 1.05pm. Infant School closes at 1.15pm.
30th March to 10th April – Easter Holidays	
April	
13 th	Back to School
14 th	Year 3 Swimming Lessons start
16 th	Primary Application Outcomes – sent out from 5pm onwards (Reception and Y3 places)
22 nd	OPTA Quiz Night
May	
11 th	Year 6 SATs Week
15 th	Crazy Hair MUFTI
22 nd	Sports Day / Family Picnic
June	
1 st	Year 4 Multiplications Week
5 th	Reserve Sports Day / Family Picnic
8 th	Year 1 Phonics Window Open
12 th	MUFTI for Ottershaw Village Fair

Book Week

Mrs Jenkyn met with the Junior School Council to gather their views and things they want to do during our Book Week this year (2nd – 6th March). Once our plans are complete we will share the details with you. However, we will be having a dress up day and wanted to let you know that the children would rather wear their pyjamas to school for a day than dress up as a book character, so no need to organise a costume! Our pyjama day will be on **Thursday 5th March**. Meantime if you do have any used book character dress up clothes we would be grateful for donations – the children have also requested that we have book character costumes to use during OPAL play, so please send them in!

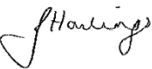
Junior School PE Timetable change from next week (week beginning 26th January)

We have made changes to our PE timetable to accommodate the Year 3 Delight in Dance project which begins very soon. This timetable will run until further notice (at least the end of term):

Day of the Week	Year Group
Monday	
Tuesday	Years 3 PE Year 4 Swimming
Wednesday	
Thursday	Year 5
Friday	Year 6

Enjoy your weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings
Headteacher

Photo of the Week!

