



30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

*Motivated to learn, empowered to achieve*

# OTTERSHAW NEWS!

Dates for your Diary:	
February	
4 <sup>th</sup>	OPTA Disco <a href="#">Tickets Here</a> Hedgehogs Forest School
5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Hockey festival/skill event (invited children only)
6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 visit to Weybridge Synagogue  Trials for Cross Country – Juniors  Otters Forest School
9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Bikeability – until 13 <sup>th</sup> February
10 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day for all children  Chinese New Year Lunch
11 <sup>th</sup>	Squirrels Forest School
12 <sup>th</sup>	1:45pm Year 5 Art Exhibition in the Junior Hall
13 <sup>th</sup>	Badgers Forest School
16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February – Half term	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET Day. Both schools closed
24 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Choir to the Young Voices performance at the O2 Arena
25 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday services in school
26 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm OPTA second hand uniform sale- Junior School ,
March	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup>	Second Hand Book Sale after school (donations needed after half term)
5 <sup>th</sup>	Pyjama day for book week.
6 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm Year 6 parents to see Delight in Shakespeare at

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been nice to see some sunshine this week ☺ however, our field is still very muddy and when it rains the playgrounds soon fill up with puddles – can we please ask that the children do keep bringing their wellies to school so that they can play outside without getting their feet wet (we have noticed that, especially the older children, purposely go in the puddles in the hope that their school shoes get wet and they have to wear trainers instead).

This week, I had the very great pleasure of taking some Year 5 children to a debating competition against other local schools (thank you so much to our friends at Fullbrook for organising the competition, refreshments, judges and transport – such a great, well-organised event). I was so proud of the confidence our children showed throughout, especially how well they spoke in front of an unknown audience.

It was Mrs Hollis' turn to take some children to a sporting event this week. She took 8 children to a Panathlon event at Hoe Valley School. As always, our team had enormous fun, tried hard and behaved impeccably ☺. If that wasn't enough, our team won and will now be invited to the County Finals in March. Yippee!

## Mobile Phones in School

I am sure you have seen this in the news this week. To be clear, Ottershaw children have never been allowed to have a phone in school (unless needed for a medical emergency, such as to control or monitor blood sugar levels for our diabetic children). This also applies to other items with internet connectivity/photography access such as smart watches and fitness trackers.

I know some parents of older children would prefer their children to have a phone as they walk to school and back on their own but any phone must be handed in as children arrive in school. Similarly, staff do not use personal devices during teaching sessions either.

## OPTA Disco

Next Wednesday is OPTA Disco Evening! For those year groups who may be arriving or leaving the disco at times beyond the school day can we please remind you that the entrance to the disco is via the Junior School main reception. When you are coming to collect children, the collection point is via the Junior Hall door to the side of the main building (accessed through the car park and gate immediately on to the playground).

The school office will only operate normal hours, school email will not be monitored during the disco. Any last minute changes to collection arrangements will need to be made through OPTA as we won't be able to pass any messages on. I know all the children absolutely love a school disco – we cannot wait to see them all enjoying themselves!

## Opal Update

We really want to be able to offer all the children the opportunity to use scooters during their lunch play (school scooters, not personal scooters). If you are able to donate any scooters we would love to have them ☺

## Term Dates 2026/2027

I know we are only half way through this year but some of you already have thoughts and plans about holidays next year. Our term dates, including INSET days is attached to this newsletter, we hope it helps.

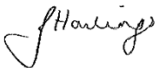
Dates for your Diary continued...	
9 <sup>th</sup>	Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration (invited children)
11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 to visit Fullbrook to see their production of Oliver!  Year 4 Bikeability begins
13 <sup>th</sup>	OPTA Break the Rules Day
17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 / 4 Cross Country at Hoe Bridge
18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 visit to Wisley
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Easter Pause Week begins Relays Cross Country at Hoe Bridge
24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Last Swimming Lesson
25 <sup>th</sup>	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 <a href="#">Here</a> Infant Volunteer Sign Up <a href="#">Here</a>
26 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm Year 5 Easter Production in the Junior Hall  Nursery Afternoon Children Last Day
27 <sup>th</sup>	OPTA Fun Run  End of Term. Nursery closes at 1.00pm. Junior School closes at 1.05pm. Infant School closes at 1.15pm.
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holidays</b>	
<b>April</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Back to School
14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Swimming Lessons start
16 <sup>th</sup>	Primary Application Outcomes – sent out from 5pm onwards (Reception and Y3 places)
22 <sup>nd</sup>	OPTA Quiz Night
<b>May</b>	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs Week
15 <sup>th</sup>	Crazy Hair MUFTI
18 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photos
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sports Day / Family Picnic
<b>June</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 4 Multiplications Week
5 <sup>th</sup>	Reserve Sports Day / Family Picnic
8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics Window Open
12 <sup>th</sup>	MUFTI for Ottershaw Village Fair

Finally, Monica has sent us through a reminder about a family event happening at Christ Church this Saturday:

Coffee Morning, stay and play at Christ Church, Ottershaw on 31<sup>st</sup> January. 10am-12noon. Everyone welcome. (please see the invite attached.)

Enjoy your weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hastings  
Headteacher

# Photos of the Week!

Year 1, bringing their pets to school for their animal topic



Forest School – making bird feed



Debating Cup, Year 5 at Fullbrook School

Panathlon winners, from the panathlon event

