

Otterburn Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher - Mrs Alison Woodcock

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Friday 24th April 2026

Dear Families,

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school following the Easter break. We have been fortunate to enjoy some beautiful weather this week and, fingers crossed, it continues - it won't be long before we are sending out reminders about sun hats and sun cream!

Some of the children in Years 1–6 have begun completing their Accelerated Reader assessments. Please look out for further information about this. Once your child has completed their assessment, they will be given a Zone of Proximal Development, or 'reading range'. This will support them in choosing books from the school library that are well matched to their reading ability. After finishing a book, children will complete a short comprehension quiz to check their understanding. We are really looking forward to embedding this system across the school and seeing the positive impact it has on reading progress and enjoyment. Please keep an eye out for further updates.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to one of our parent volunteers, who has kindly given their time to help develop our outdoor area. While they have chosen to remain anonymous, their support has made a real difference and this development has already been enjoyed by both children and staff as part of our EYFS outdoor learning sessions. We are very fortunate to have the support of volunteers within our school community. If you are interested in volunteering, please do get in touch.



A few reminders but as always get in touch if you need any further information.

Attendance

Reception – 100%

Year 1/2/3 – 100%

Year 4/5/6 - 98%

Regular attendance is important for good progress and our target attendance is 97%. Absences during term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

School Lunch Menu

Our school lunch menu has been updated and can be found at the following weblink:

[Otterburn Primary School & Nursery - School and Nursery Meals](#)

Missing Trophies

Has your child taken home a trophy for being Star of the Week? If it hasn't yet been returned, please could you send it back into school via the school office. Many thanks for your support in helping us keep these moving between our winners!

Diary Dates

w/c 27th April 2026

Scholastic Book Fair will be in the school hall. Children can purchase a book at playtime or after school.

Monday 27th April 2026

Parent/Teacher Appointments 3.30-5.30pm

Tuesday 28th April 2026

Parent/Teacher Appointments 3.30-5.30pm

Thursday 30th April 2026

Toddlers/Family Hub Stay and Play 9.30-10.30am
Tea and Coffee (self-serve) from 9am

Friday 1st May 2026

Nursery finishes at 12.45pm
Reception-Year 6 Forest School/Gardening (Afternoon)

Monday 4th May 2026

School Closed – Bank Holiday
School closed to children and staff

Thursday 7th May 2026

Toddlers/Family Hub Stay and Play 9.30-10.30am
Tea and Coffee (self-serve) from 9am

Friday 8th May 2026

Nursery finishes at 12.45pm
Reception-Year 6 Forest School/Gardening (Afternoon)

Further dates can be found on our school website:

[Otterburn Primary School and Nursery Calendar](#)

P.E. Reminder – w/c 27th April 2026

We have noticed that some children are not coming to school fully prepared for P.E., so we would like to remind you of what is needed this term.

A coach from the Newcastle United Foundation will be in school on **Wednesday 29th April** to work with children in Reception to Year 6. The children will be taking part in cricket sessions, with two sessions taking place during the afternoon.

Please ensure your child comes to school with a full P.E. kit suitable for both indoor and outdoor activities. We will take our lead on where sessions are held depending on the weather.

P.E. Kit Expectations

- Jade round neck P.E. T-shirt
- Black or navy P.E. shorts
- Black or Navy jogging bottoms
- Trainers
- School hoodie
- Please also ensure that earrings are removed on P.E. days for health and safety reasons.

Thank you for your support in ensuring children are ready to take part.

Pre-loved School Uniform

We have a number of items of outgrown school uniform that we would love to pass on to families. Children grow so quickly, so it would be great to see these items being used again.

Please look out for them at the school entrance when dropping off and collecting your children.

Feel free to take anything that may be useful for your family.



Pupil Progress Meetings

Parent/teacher appointments will take place on:

- Monday 27th April 2026 – 3.30–5.30pm
- Tuesday 28th April 2026 – 3.30–5.30pm

Appointments are available with Mrs Waddington, Mr Woodcock and Mrs Spiller to discuss your child's progress, and I will also join some of the meetings. If you haven't already booked an appointment and would like one, please get in touch with the school office.

Scholastic Book Fair

We're excited to be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in school this term! The fair will be delivered on **Monday 27th April** and will be available in the school hall from Monday to Friday. Children will have the opportunity to browse and purchase books during playtime or after school.

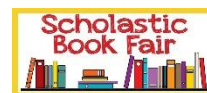
There will be a wide range of books available, with something to suit all ages and interests. Every purchase also helps us to earn free books for our school, supporting reading and our school library.

As part of the National Year of Reading, this is a fantastic opportunity to further encourage a love of books and reading for pleasure across our school community.

Some of the children in Years 1-6 are currently completing their Accelerated Reader assessments. We will soon be sharing the results with you, so please look out for this. You will receive details of your child's reading range, which you can use to help select appropriate books. This may be particularly helpful when visiting the Book Fair. You can also search for suitable books using the following website:

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx?RedirectURL=%2fdefault.aspx>

To make things even more exciting, we have five £5 gift vouchers to give away! All children's names will be entered into a draw and we will contact you if your child is selected as a winner. We look forward to welcoming families and sharing a love of reading together!



Toddler Group

We're delighted to be continuing our Toddler Group and would love to welcome both new and familiar faces to our next session on Thursday 30th April, 9.30-10.30am in the school hall, led by Mrs Waddington. It's a lovely opportunity for younger children to play, explore and socialise in a warm, friendly environment. Katy and Alex from Bellingham Family Hub will be joining us for this session and teas and coffees will be available from 9.00am.

After this session, groups will continue at the same time each week, with optional tea and coffee for parents from 9.00-9.30am. We're also pleased to be working with our local Family Hub,



with additional sessions planned to include early literacy and school readiness - please look out for further information.

Please help spread the word - families, grandparents and childminders are all very welcome!

Forest School/Gardening (Friday afternoons)

On Friday afternoons, children from Reception to Year 6 will take part in Forest School/Gardening sessions, working with Mrs Spiller and Mrs Waddington. We are looking forward to settling into a routine during the summer term and seeing the continued development of our outdoor area.

Please ensure children come prepared each week with wellies, forest school hoodies and practical clothing suitable for outdoor work and play. This will give us flexibility in how we group the children and make the most of the sessions.

Parent Pay

Just a quick reminder to all parents to check that your Parent Pay accounts are up to date:

- **Milk money:** £9.42 for the Summer Term. Milk is free to children until the Term in which they reach their 5th birthday. If your child turns 5 in the Autumn Term and you would still like them to have milk each day, the above charge will apply.
- **School meals:** £2.50 per day. £12.50 weekly. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free school meals. Children in Nursery and Years 3-6 will be charged for school lunch. If you prefer your child to have packed lunch, please notify the school office.
- **Free School Meals:** If you require any support with this, please get in touch. If your circumstances have changed, you may be eligible for Free School Meals, to find out more, please visit: [Northumberland County Council - School meals](#)
- **Fruit:** Children in Nursery – Year 2 receive free fruit each day at break time. Children in Years 3-6 are welcome to bring in a piece of fruit from home to enjoy at break time.

Breakfast & After School Club

Bookings should be made via Parent Pay. If you require any support with bookings, payments or further information, please contact the school office by phone or email.

Breakfast Club

- Runs daily from 7:45–8:45am.
- Cost: £4.50 per session (£3.00 for children on Free School Meals).
- Please book by 12 noon the day before.

Free Breakfast Club

- Open from 8:15–8:45am (free for 30 minutes).
- Children must arrive by 8:30am to allow time for breakfast.
- Please book by 12 noon the day before.

After School Club w/c 27th April

- Available Monday-Thursday 3:15 - 4:30pm.
- Cost: £5.00 per session (£4.00 for FSM).
- Please let the office know by 9:30am on the day if your child needs a place.

Have a lovely weekend,
Alison

