Otterburn Primary School and Nursery
Headteacher - Mrs Alison Woodcock
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Friday 20th November 2026

Dear Families,

What a busy and exciting week we've had at Otterburn! With Christmas preparations well underway, lots of lovely learning opportunities and some fantastic achievements to celebrate, there's certainly been plenty happening across school!

We were absolutely delighted to hear that our wonderful school choir has reached the final of the Northumberland Music Schools Christmas Choir Competition! What a fantastic achievement and something we're incredibly proud of. Meanwhile, our Years 2 to 6 children have been busy putting the finishing touches to their chocolate enterprise project, ready for Saturday's Christmas Fair. They've worked so hard and developed some brilliant skills along the way!

Our younger children have also enjoyed a wonderful visit from Miscreations Theatre, exploring the fascinating world beneath our feet, while Odd Socks Day and Anti-Bullying Week have given us an opportunity to reflect on kindness, friendship and celebrating our differences.

We've had a few poorly children this week too, so we're sending our best wishes to everyone who has been feeling under the weather. We hope you're all feeling much better very soon!

Finally, we're really looking forward to our PTA Christmas Fair this Saturday, 21st November, from 10.00am to 12.00pm at Otterburn Village Hall. A huge thank you to everyone who has been helping with preparations. We hope to see lots of you there!

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Diary Dates

Saturday 21st November
Christmas Fair, Otterburn Village Hall
10am-12pm

Wednesday 25th November
Swimming: Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Forest School: Reception, Years 1 & 2
Nursery finish at 12.45pm

Thursday 26th November
Toddlers 9.30am
(self-serve Tea and Coffee 9am)

Tuesday 1st December
Choir singing at Otterburn Tea and Chat, 2pm

Wednesday 2nd December
Swimming: Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Forest School: Reception, Years 1 & 2
Nursery finish at 12.45pm

Thursday 3rd December
Toddlers 9.30am
(self-serve Tea and Coffee 9am)

Further dates can be found on our school website:
Otterburn Primary School and Nursery Calendar

Attendance
Regular attendance is important for children's learning and wellbeing. Our attendance target for every pupil is 97%. If your child is absent, please let the school office know as soon as possible. We will share attendance information with families each term and contact parents or carers if attendance becomes a concern.

Attendance figures w/c 16th November
Reception -77%
Years 1, 2 & 3 - 84%
Years 4, 5 & 6 - 82%

Lunch Menu - w/c 23rd November
The school lunch menu can be found on the school website:
Otterburn Primary School & Nursery – School and Nursery Meals

PE, Swimming & Forest School – w/c 23rd November

PE - Fridays: PE will continue to be delivered by the Newcastle United Foundation for children from Nursery -Year 6. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit, rather than bringing it to school to change into.

Swimming – Wednesday afternoon: Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will continue to attend swimming lessons at Wentworth Leisure Centre in Hexham. On **Wednesday 25th November**, the children will be taking part in a water safety session, helping them to develop important skills and learn how to stay safe in and around water. For this session, children will need to bring a T-shirt and shorts to wear over their swimming costume, as they will be practising swimming while wearing everyday clothing. Please ensure these additional items are included in their usual swimming kit. Thank you!

Forest School - Wednesday afternoon: Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to take part in Forest School sessions.

Please make sure children have the appropriate kit for swimming and Forest School on Wednesdays. Children should arrive at school wearing their PE kit on Fridays.

Toddler Group

Our next session will be on Thursday 26th November and we look forward to seeing everyone again! Our sessions are open to children aged 0-3 years, accompanied by a parent, grandparent, childminder or other carer. Everyone is very welcome! Please spread the word to any families who might be interested. We love having visitors in school and would be delighted to welcome some new faces. For further information or to book a place, please email admin@otterburn.northumberland.sch.uk or call 01830 520283.

Scholastic Book Fair



We're delighted to confirm that the Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to Otterburn Primary School in November 2026! The Book Fair will be in school from **23rd–27th November 2026**, bringing a fantastic selection of children's books for all ages and interests. It's a lovely opportunity to encourage a love of reading, discover new authors and enjoy choosing books together. As in previous years, we're also delighted to have a selection of book vouchers to give away! Children will be entered into a prize draw, with some lucky winners receiving vouchers to spend at the Book Fair. A lovely opportunity for children to choose a new book of their very own! We'll share more information about opportunities to browse and purchase books closer to the time. Every purchase also helps our school earn rewards towards new books for our classrooms and library!

Personal Best Indoor Athletics Competition – Friday 20th November

Unfortunately, the Personal Best Indoor Athletics Competition at Haydon Bridge High School did not go ahead as planned. We are hoping to rearrange this opportunity for our Year 5 and 6 children so that they can still develop their sporting skills, enjoy some friendly competition alongside pupils from other local schools and have the opportunity to visit Haydon Bridge High School, where many of them will eventually transition for their secondary education. We will share further information with parents once a new date has been confirmed.

Choir - Christmas Tea and Chat

Our school choir is looking forward to spreading some festive cheer in the local community over the coming weeks! On **Tuesday 1st December**, the children will be visiting Otterburn Village Hall to sing a selection of Christmas songs for the local Tea and Chat group. Parents of children in our school choir should look out for further information.

Curriculum Overviews – Nursery to Year 6

We've recently updated the curriculum pages on our school website to help families find out more about what their children are learning. For Years 1 to 6, we've added Annual Curriculum Overviews showing the topics covered throughout the year, alongside Termly Parent Curriculum Overviews providing more detail about learning across the different subjects. We've also updated our Nursery and Reception curriculum page, which explains our approach to learning in the Early Years, including the importance of purposeful play, outdoor learning, communication and language and physical development. Families can also explore our Early Years Curriculum Overview and Mathematics Long-Term Plan for 2026–2027.

We hope these pages will give you a clearer picture of the learning taking place in school and provide a useful starting point for conversations at home. You can find the information for your child's year group below:

Nursery & Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6

We'll continue to review and update these pages as the school year progresses.

Help Us Grow Our School Library – Amazon Wish List

As part of the National Year of Reading 2026, we're continuing to develop our school library and encourage a lifelong love of reading. Our Amazon Wish List gives families, friends and members of the wider community the opportunity to purchase books for school, particularly to support our younger and developing readers.

We're delighted to have already received 18 lovely new books! Our House Captains have enjoyed receiving the deliveries and we're incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed, including our mystery donors!

There is absolutely no obligation to contribute, but if you'd like to take a look or share our Wish List, you can find it here:

https://amzn.eu/0fKweoND

A huge thank you for your continued generosity and support. Every book makes a difference!

Parent Pay

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

If you need any help with making a payment or have any questions, please feel free to contact us - we're happy to help. Your ongoing support makes a big difference!

- **School meals:** £2.50 per day or £12.50 weekly. Meals are free for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Nursery and Years 3 - 6 are charged. Please let the office know if your child will have packed lunches.
- **Free School Meals:** Families receiving Universal Credit may now be eligible. Please apply even if your child currently receives Universal Infant Free School Meals, as eligibility can provide additional funding for school. For further information and to apply, please visit Northumberland County Council – School Meals. Contact the office if you need any help applying.
- **Fruit:** Nursery - Year 2 receive free fruit at break time. Years 3–6 may bring a piece of fruit from home.
- **Swimming:** £4.00 per week. We would really appreciate contributions towards the cost of transport.

Childcare Provision – Breakfast & After School Club w/c 23rd November 2026

Bookings should be made via Parent Pay. If you need help with booking, payments or general 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

- Available Monday to 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.

Award Winners

Nursery/Recption

Star Award - Jonah

Years 1, 2 & 3

Star Award - Annalise

Maths - Mollie

Well done - Katie

Years 4, 5 & 6

Star Award - Jack

Other Awards - Laila C & Sybil





Have a lovely weekend,

Alison