



OTTERHAM OBSERVER

FEBRUARY 2024

FROM ALL OF THE STAFF HERE AT OTTERHAM SCHOOL, HAVE A LOVELY HALF TERM BREAK. MAY THE SUN SHINE AND YOU GET TO SPEND SOME QUALITY FAMILY TIME TOGETHER. SEE YOU ON 20/02/24

STAYING SAFE ONLINE WITH THE STAY SAFE INITIATIVE

Our Online Safety and Digital Citizenship Day at the beginning of the Spring Term was enlightening for children and adults alike. As fed back to you in a specific newsletter regarding the day, the exposure of our children to potential harm is considerable. Indeed many of our KS2 children opened up about strangers making contact via online platforms. Mantras such as 'Stop, Think, Decide', will be revisited during regular online safety sessions here at school but are you equipped to keep your children safe online? Please complete the short informative sessions from The Stay Safe Initiative, the link for which was emailed to you.

8 tips to stay safe online

- 1 Be nice to people online.
- 2 Take care with what you share.
- 3 Keep personal information private.
- 4 Check your privacy settings.
- 5 Know how to report posts.
- 6 Keep your passwords safe.
- 7 Never meet anyone in person you've only met online.
- 8 If you see anything online that you don't like or you find upsetting, tell someone you trust.

ATTENDANCE

Following, what I'm sure you will agree, has been a relentless drive to improve our attendance here at Otterham, I am delighted to share with you that our much improved data has caught the eye of our Secretary of State for Education who has emailed her congratulations to the school—hurray!! Thank you for all of your efforts in helping us achieve this together.

Far more importantly however, we are seeing a real difference in the progress pupils are making—happy days!

Currently— 95.4% Target—97%

Family Worker Sessions

Starting on Monday 26th February, Lenka Peryer, a Family Worker, will be available on site for 4 half hour appointments. It may be that you have concerns of a non educational nature that you would like some advice and or support with.

Please contact Kerry to make an appointment.

Lenka will also be here on 22nd April and 17th June.



DIARY DATES

- 19/02—INSET
- 20/02—Back to School
- 23/02—Art Workshop CI 1
- 23/02—Ocean Protectors CI 1
- 26/02—Family Worker onsite
- 01/03—Ocean Protectors CI 1
- 06/03—Mental Health Assemblies for CI 2 and CI 1
- 07/03—World Book Day
- 07/03—CI 3 Barnstaple Theatre—Charlie Cook's Fav. Bk
- 08/03—Ocean Protectors CI 1
- 15/03—Red Nose Day
- 15/03—Ocean Protectors CI 1
- 18/03—CI 1 & 2 Penzance
- 21/03—Rock Your Socks!!
- World Down Syndrome Day
- 22/03—Ocean Protectors CI 1
- 28/03—KS2 Theatre Royal—The Wizard of Oz
- 28/03—The Last Day

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

We hope that you are always treated fairly and feel able to come into school to discuss issues. We are open to reviewing our equality policies. What does this mean? We aim, in everything we do, to treat all members of our school community fairly in all respects—gender, race, age, single parents, sexual orientation, disability and religious belief. If you feel that you are being treated less than fairly it is hoped that you feel able to discuss the matter with any member of staff here at school, or if you would prefer to discuss it with a parent Local Governor Council, please do so. The parent LGC representative here at Otterham is Lisa Ward.

NSPCC—All Children Have the Right to SPEAK UP and STAY SAFE

Is there a more important message for our children to understand? Obviously not and that is why we have delivered age appropriate assemblies to all of the children within the school and had workshops delivered to our Y2, Y5 & Y6 children. As this is a programme that we deliver regularly, over time, all children will eventually receive the same messages.

* Always remember that your body belongs to you. If someone asks to see, or tries to touch you, say 'NO' - and tell someone that you trust and like to speak to.

* Have an understanding of the different forms of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual & neglect) and what to do if you feel that either yourself or someone you know may be suffering from one or more forms.



LEARN THE UNDERWEAR RULE

TALK PANTS AND YOU'VE GOT IT COVERED!

P RIVATES ARE PRIVATE
Parts of your body covered by underwear are private. No one should ask to see, or touch them. No one should ask you to touch or look at parts of their body that are covered by underwear. Sometimes doctors, nurses or family members might have to. But they should always explain why, and ask if it's OK first.

A LWAYS REMEMBER YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU
It's your body, no one else's. No one should make you do things that make you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable. If anyone tries, tell an adult you trust.

N O MEANS NO
You have the right to say 'no' - even to a family member or someone you love. Remember, you're in control of your body and your feelings are important.

T A LK ABOUT SECRETS THAT UPSET YOU
Secrets shouldn't make you feel upset or worried. If they do, tell an adult you trust. You will never get into trouble for sharing a secret that upsets you.

S P EAK UP. SOMEONE CAN HELP
Talk about stuff that makes you worried or upset. An adult you trust will listen, and be able to help. It doesn't have to be a family member. It can be a teacher or a friend's parent - or even ChildLine.

ChildLine 0800 1111

NSPCC
Truly it makes most things FEEL BETTER

As well as all of the dates already booked in for the second half of the Spring Term, the likelihood is that there will be more added—it is always a very busy term. Please keep ahead of what is going on by checking the school website on a regular basis. Kerry is very efficient at keeping it up to date.

www.otterhamschool.co.uk

Open Afternoons

In addition to the diary dates on the front page, we are inviting you (parents/carers) to come in to school to spend time with your children, looking at the wonderful work they have produced throughout the year. There is a date set for EYFS parents only and another for the whole school. Please make a note of the following dates.

EYFS

Tuesday 19th March

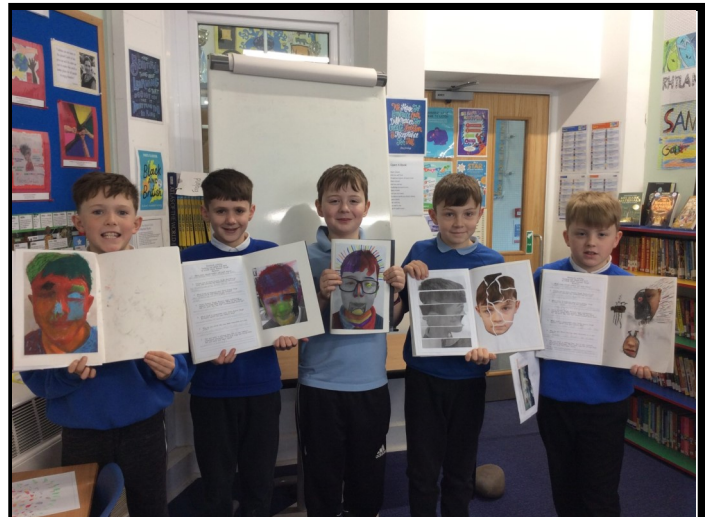
2:30pm—3:30pm

WHOLE SCHOOL

Tuesday 26th March

2:30pm-3:30pm

Further details to be sent mid March.



Inspired by a guided reading unit on The Beatles, the current unit of Art focussed on painting and mixed media portraits, entitled Changing Faces.

Artists discussed were Chila Kuman Singh Burman, Andy Warhol, Vincent Van Gogh and Rembrandt.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their learning and work of a high quality was produced.

FYI—NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK IS 8TH—17TH MARCH BUT HERE AT OTTERHAM WE SHALL BE CELEBRATING IT DURING THE LAST WEEK OF THE MAY HALF TERM (20TH—25TH MAY). WE ALREADY HAVE SOME EXCITING STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths) ACTIVITIES PLANNED AND ARE LOOKING TO HAVE A WHOLE SCHOOL TRIP TO PLYMOUTH TO EXPLORE THIS COASTAL CITY WHICH IS PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROTECTING THE OCEANS.