

# February 2026 – Spring Term 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

## A Fond Farewell

After 42 years of dedicated service to the schools, we are sad to announce that Dawn Mayled, our cleaner, will be leaving us at the end of this week. During much of her time at the schools, Dawn looked after Middlezoy School but kindly agreed to make the move with us to Othery in 2023. Dawn has seen many changes during her time and has regaled us with plenty of stories over the years. We will certainly miss her.



On behalf of the children and staff, I would like to thank Dawn for her many years of service. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her the very best and a very happy, well-earned retirement!

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Below are some of the highlights from this term. The children have continued to work incredibly hard and have fully embraced the opportunities offered to them. At the end of the letter, you will find the upcoming dates for Spring Term 2. These include dates for the Spring Term Parents' Meetings and to coincide with Comic Relief, we are also eagerly awaiting the first, "Othery School has Talent" show on Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Sports

### Hockey

Year 4 were lucky to be given the opportunity to go to Yeovil and Sherborne Hockey club for 3 sessions of hockey on a Thursday morning. They learnt basic skills such as ball control, dribbling, passing and shooting through a variety of fun activities. They all showed resilience in battling against the weather and showed great improvement throughout the sessions. In the final session they competed in mini challenges against all the other schools and we are delighted to say that they came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.



### Fencing

We were thrilled to have a visit this term from Premier Education.

They spent the morning working with all the children in the school, teaching them the fundamental techniques of fencing, including how to jab, attack and defend. The children all enjoyed the opportunity to have a go!



## After-school Clubs News

### Lego/STEM with Mr Cornish

We have been very busy this term in Lego club making things with moving parts such as helicopters, ice cream vans and cars and even had a go at making animals. We have switched our way of thinking with bricks that clip together on the sides and challenged ourselves to see how many bricks we could balance end-to-end. We have made several large-scale builds over the weeks that they all should be very proud of and it has been wonderful to see their creative ideas created out of bricks!

### Board Games with Miss Lester

We have had a fantastic time in board games club this half term. The children have enjoyed playing our usual games like snakes and ladders, sports trivia and connect 4. This term we ventured away from the boards and focused on some group games to get everyone involved. This included charades, Pictionary and a group favourite, the memory game, "What's missing?" It has been wonderful to see all the children get so involved and working as a team to figure out the answers in these new games. I look forward to continuing this next half term!



### Craft Club with Mrs Brown

Craft club have been turning their hands to learning embroidery this term. The children have been creating embroidered bookmarks using a variety of stitches such as basic running stitch to more difficult cross stitch. We hope to expand on this next half term by creating their own drawn-out designs on Binka.

### Art Club with Mrs Silver

In art club we have been busy making collages to find out about each other and what our favourite things are. We have also learnt about 'pointillism', a technique of painting with small distinct dots of colour. First, we made trees using our fingertips to create the leaves, then we made some beautiful dragonflies using cotton buds to add detail. All our activities have built on developing the children's fine motor and scissor skills.



## Outdoor Learning with Mrs Hall



This half term was the turn of half the Year 4 Group. We started with firelighting, using flint and steel sticks. We also enjoyed some delicious s'mores that week!

We have made leaf bowls, but these did not work out quite as planned. Lesson learnt! We have looked at basic first aid skills, teaching the children what to do in an emergency and showing them how to provide basic skills that could really help somebody. I was really impressed by them during this session.

With a look at the recent weather, we covered flooding and the defences available. The children had a go at building their own flood defences. They certainly enjoyed the hot chocolate that followed!

Most recently, we looked at our school pond and learnt about the eco system surrounding it, we carried out some pond dipping to see what creatures live in or near our little pond.



## World Book Day- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, a wonderful opportunity to promote our love of reading and share favourite stories together. To mark the occasion, children are invited to take part in an optional dressing-up day, where they may come to school dressed as a book character if they wish. Costumes are entirely optional. Children are equally welcome to come in their usual school uniform. Our focus for the day will be enjoying books, celebrating authors, and engaging in fun reading activities across the school.



## "Othery School Has Talent"

To coincide with Comic Relief, we have decided to run a talent show at the Village Hall on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. Tickets will be available nearer the time and an email will be sent out with further details. All children are welcome to audition for the show and we all look forward sharing a fun afternoon with you.

## Uniform

Once again, please ensure that all uniform is clearly named. Reuniting numerous jumpers and cardigans can prove a little tricky when items are not labelled. Please remember that there is no requirement for the children to wear the jumpers with our logo on. As lovely as these jumpers and cardigans are, the children do grow constantly, I really do appreciate how costly this can become. We do have some spare uniform, in very good condition, so please ask at the gate or in the office if there is anything you need for your child/children.

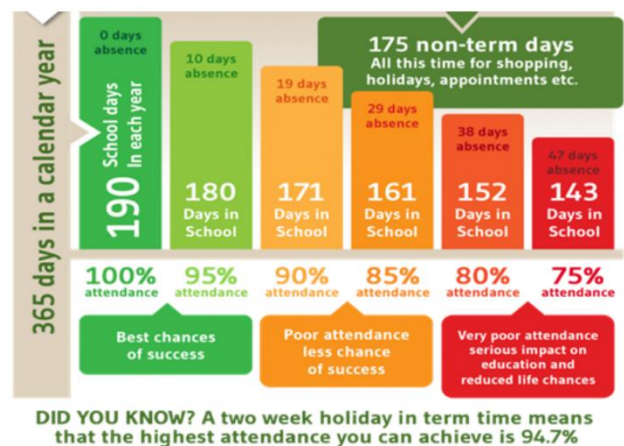


Please ensure your child/children have a warm, waterproof coat in school each day. We like them to get out in the fresh air as much as possible even on wet days! We do have a few coats available if you need one, please ask us.

On PE days, children may wear blue or black tracksuit bottoms and should bring their school jumper with them. There should not be any alternative colour tracksuit bottoms, jumpers or sweatshirts worn for PE days. We have been seeing a few examples coming through the gates in recent weeks. Earrings and jewellery should not be worn to school on Wednesday (PE days) or Thursday for Dragons class who go swimming. We really do appreciate your support with this.

## Attendance

Our combined attendance figure for both schools currently stands at 96.2%. Children whose attendance is below 90% are deemed as "persistently absent." Whilst we understand that much of the attendance is due to illness, we are required to inform parents of their child's attendance level. All authorised sickness is recorded as such; unauthorised absence is given when no reason is given for an absence or when leave for days off or holidays does not meet the criteria to be granted an exception. For your reference, our attendance policy can be found on our website.



## Parents' Meetings

Our next Parent Meetings will take place on the afternoons of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026. We will let you know when the bookings go live for this.

Thank you for your continuing support, we hope you all have a restful half-term break.

*Mrs Hayward and the Middlezoy and Otheyr Team*

## Upcoming Dates

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February** – Safer Internet Day

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February** – End of Spring Term 1

## **Spring Term 2**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** – Start of Spring Term 2

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day (**Optional**-Dressing up day)

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – Cross Country at Huish Academy 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Year Groups TBC)

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** – Unicorn Class – Mother's Day Assembly (invitations to follow)

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March** – Parent Meetings (No After-school Club tonight)

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** – Parent Meetings (No After-school Club tonight)

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** – Comic Relief '**Red Nose**' Day –  
"Othery School has Talent" @ Othery Village Hall 2pm  
Parents and carers invited to attend further details will follow

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** – Cross Country at King Ina 4:00 p.m. Start (TBC)

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March/** – Bikeability – Year 6 (Letter sent home on 5<sup>th</sup> February)

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March** - No Teacher-led Clubs this week

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – Easter Service in St Michael's Church, Othery at 2:00 p.m. (All welcome and children can be collected from the church following the service)

## Break-up for Easter

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April** – Start of Summer Term 1

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May** – SATs testing for Year 6 - Breakfast club from 8:00 a.m. Monday

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May** to Thursday - further details to follow

## Keeping Children Safe Online

In such a rapidly changing world, keeping up to date with the latest online games, platforms and crazes can be a challenge. To support you with this, there is a dedicated page on our website which, along with the links below, give some good guidance and advice.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/access-to-technology-for-different-ages/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://nationalcollege.com/parents>

All National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further games, hints and tips for adults.

# ONLINE CONTENT

## 10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.

- 1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS**  
Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.
- 2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT**  
Understand what's being shared or what seems to be trending at the moment.
- 3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS**  
Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age limit.
- 4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS**  
Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.
- 5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP**  
Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.
- 6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE**  
Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.
- 7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING**  
Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.
- 8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK**  
Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.
- 9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE**  
If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.
- 10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT**  
If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

**NOS National Online Safety®**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @nationalonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

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