

OCCOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL

January 2026
Newsletter



Diary Dates



Friday 6th February

Y6 Hartismere transition session (Music lesson)

Tuesday 10th February

Parents evening for whole school
(additional date for Otters on Wed 11th Feb)

Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th February

3 Days of STEM - PTO for more information

Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February

Half term

Friday 27th February

Non-uniform day & eco enrichment afternoon
Friends Film Night straight after school

Tuesday 3rd March

Foxes to Hartismere to watch Chicago production

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day

Wednesday 11th March

Otters to Carlton Marshes - more information to follow

Thursday 12th March

Foxes to Gressenhall - more information to follow

Tuesday 17th March

Poetry by Heart competition - time tbc

Friday 20th March

Non-uniform Day (chocolate bingo donations)

Monday 23rd March

Y6 Hartismere transition session (English lesson)

A message from Miss Thornton

January has been a busy month in school and we certainly haven't let the dark, dreary weather dampen our spirits!

We've had several governors helping with various activities in school recently, and it has been lovely to hear them talk so positively about the children's behaviour, enthusiasm and brilliant work.

Well done, Occold!

As you can see from the long list of diary dates, there is much to look forward to during the rest of the spring term.

As always, do keep an eye on our Facebook page @OccoldPrimarySchool to keep up-to-date with lots of the lovely things we have been doing in school.

Poetry by Heart 2026!



Our annual Poetry by Heart competition is back for another year! Children in Otter Class & Fox Class have signed up and will be assigned their poems to learn next week.

We'd love you to come and watch the children perform on stage in the village hall on the afternoon of **Tuesday 17th March**. For more information about the national competition, please visit: <https://poetrybyheart.org.uk/>

Breakfast Club



We offer breakfast club from 7:45am each day.

In addition to this, we are still offering our government funded **free** breakfast club from 8:15am each day.

If you wish for your child to eat breakfast at breakfast club, please ensure they arrive by 8:20am so they have enough time to eat it before registration begins at 8:45am.

3 Days of STEM 2026

3 Days of STEM is back and we've got some exciting things planned...

Wednesday 11th February

Day 1 of our STEM week is all about Computing! We will be computer programming using our brand new Crumbles; learning about staying safe online; exploring video and photo editing on the iPads and learning all about the safe and responsible use of AI. If you'd like more information on this year's

National Safer Internet Day visit:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Shazan Foods for their generous donation of £500 to our school which we have used to purchase our brand new Crumble Kits!

Thursday 12th February

Day 2 of our STEM week is all about Maths! During the morning, we will be splitting off into our House teams for a maths competition where we will work together in teams to complete various maths challenges involving time, money, shape, measure, problem-solving and more!

We'd like to invite you into the school from 2:45pm to complete some fun maths games and activities alongside your children.

Friday 13th February

We are thrilled to announce that Mark Thompson, who you may know from BBC Stargazing Live, The One Show or his nationwide theatre tours, is visiting our school during the morning to deliver his Spectacular Science Show! We will then enjoy spending the rest of the day carrying out a variety of science investigations.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the Bedingfield Land

Trust Charity for their generous donation to our school which has funded our Science Show!



Rabbits

Rabbit Class are really enjoying learning about castles in history this half term. They have dressed up as knights, studied the main features of castles and are making a castle model to use in drama sessions.

Rabbit class and year 2 have been looking at light and dark in their science lessons. They have carried out experiments to see whether different materials are opaque, transparent or translucent. They have also had great fun exploring shadows with torches and seeing what happens when they move the light source.



Otters

In Otter Class this term, the children have started their new science topic of 'What's the matter?', where they have looked at the differences between solids, liquids and gasses and the changes which occur when materials are heated and cooled. In history, they have been learning about the Benin Kingdom and discovering this African Kingdom's location, religion, social structure, and trade links with Britain. Still life has been this term's art focus, with the children learning about still life artists and how they use colour and shadow in their work.



Foxes

Fox Class have started their new history topic, WW2, and have so far learned about how the war started, the home front, evacuation and the holocaust. Year 6 are thoroughly enjoying reading *Once by Morris Gleitzman* which is about a young Jewish boy who escapes an orphanage in Nazi-occupied Poland and is a must-read for both Year 6s and adults!

In Computing, the class have been making online quizzes using Purple Mash.

Finally, in PE, the children are learning a variety of new moves in Parkour lessons!

To keep up-to-date with all the exciting things that are happening in school, visit our Facebook Page 'Occold Primary School'.

