

# Owslebury News

The latest news and views from our small but mighty school

Collaboration

Aspiration

Resilience

Respect

Nurture



## Message from Mrs Chaplen

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so lovely to see some sunshine back in our lives this week, even if it has been a little cooler. One part of school life that has really benefitted from this has been our brand-new outdoor learning provision- OWLS (Owslebury Wild Learners). Baybridge Class are two weeks in and already thriving: making wormeries, going on bug hunts, and embracing the chance to get muddy, creative and enjoy the wellbeing boost that comes with learning in nature.

I had the very tough but very enjoyable job of reading through application letters from our aspiring leaders in Hensting Class. The quality was simply outstanding! The presentation, penmanship and thought that went into them was clear to see. Some even went as far as to seek endorsements from their own sports coaches! Announcements are below, and every role is thoroughly deserved. Congratulations to all who applied.

In our staff meeting this week, we explored the science behind retrieval practice and considered how this might look in our classrooms. One strategy is the use of knowledge organisers, which gather the key information for a topic into one place. Morestead Class have already trialled this approach and are showing great progress, confidently recalling the countries that make up the UK. Parents might like to try retrieval practice at home too- something as simple as regularly quizzing your child on key facts from a topic, or encouraging them to explain their learning back to you, can really help strengthen memory and long-term understanding (the Education Endowment Foundation has some excellent blogs on this if you'd like to explore further).

Wishing you all a lovely weekend x

## ATTENDANCE

CLASS	Weekly Attendance	Average This Year
Marwell	100%	98.8%
Morestead	97%	94.9%
Baybridge	97.8%	96%
Hensting	94.9%	97.4%



Thank you to everyone who has really made an effort to improve attendance so far this year, especially with their punctuality. It has made such a difference to the start of the day in helping children feel calm, settled and ready to learn.

SCHOOL  
SUCCESS

STARTS WITH  
ATTENDANCE

#BeHere



We are pleased to announce that this year's head students are Arthur and Olivia.

They will be well supported by the new house captains for this year:

**Emerald-** Amelia   **Citrine-** Gergo   **Sapphire-** Wilf   **Ruby-** Peter



Sports Crew will be made up of the dedicated team– Humphrey, Isaac and Betsy.



Congratulations to our new pupil leadership teams. We look forward to seeing your hard work in supporting our school community.

*If you have any sports crew tops or jumpers at home, please can you send them into school ASAP to be passed down to the new team. Thank you.*



Don't forget to follow us on Instagram at [owslebury.primary](https://www.instagram.com/owslebury.primary) for updates on school life and snapshots of our learning adventures.

# Dates for the diary



Friday 3rd October 9.30am	Harvest Festival Service at the church– all welcome. No parking at the Village Hall.
Monday 6th October	Photographer in school for individual photographs
Monday 13th October	OPEN MORNING—YrR 2026
Tuesday 21st October	Baybridge Class trip to Butser Farm
Thursday 23rd October	Morestead Fairy Tale Celebration Day– dress-up
Friday 24th October @2.45pm	Celebration Assembly
Friday 7th November- 8.45-9.30am	Morestead PLT Open Class – Drop-in
Monday 10th November	OPEN MORNING—Yr R 2026
Tuesday 11th November	Bags 2 School collection
Monday 17th November	Parents Evening 3:30-5:30pm
Thursday 20th November	FLU immunisations (whole school—see email sent out earlier this week)  Parents Evening 3:30pm—5:30pm
Friday 28th November @2.45pm	Celebration Assembly
Monday 1st December	INSET DAY CLOSURE
Thursday 9th December	Hensting class trip to the Planetarium
Wednesday 10th December 9:30am	Nativity Performance
Thursday 11th December 2:15pm	Nativity Performance
Friday 12th December 2pm	Christmas Carols at St Andrews Church—all welcome
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Lunch in school
Friday 19th December 1.15pm	Celebration Assembly & Carols around the tree

## **NOTIFICATION OF PE and FOREST SCHOOL Autumn Term 1 2025**

**OWLS** Baybridge Class MONDAY PM wellies and waterproof coat needed

### **PE DAYS**

MONDAY MORESTEAD  
TUESDAY BAYBRIDGE/ HENSTING  
WEDNESDAY MARWELL, MORESTEAD, BAYBRIDGE & HENSTING

Children wear PE kit to school on PE days, except for Marwell Class. Marwell class wear uniform and change into PE clothes.

## **INSET DAY CLOSURES FOR 2025-26**

**Monday 1st December 2025**  
**Monday 23rd February 2026**  
**Monday 1st June 2026**

# INFORMATION



## Year 6 Parents

As you may be aware, applications for children transferring to secondary school in September 2026 are now open.

Applications can be submitted [online](#) or parents can request a form by emailing [admissions.team@hants.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.team@hants.gov.uk). The deadline for applications is 31 October 2025.

- Name three schools on your application to maximise your chances of being offered a place at one of your preferred schools.
  - Submit your application on-time, before the 31 October deadline.
- Use the County Council's [school catchment area finder](#) to check the catchment school for your address
- Read the school's admission policies to find out how many places are available and what criteria will be used to allocate places if the school is oversubscribed.
- Think about how your child will get to school. See [travel to school](#) to help plan your journey and find out if you are eligible for help with transport. You must name your catchment school(s) if you have one, as a preference if you wish to apply for travel assistance.

**OPEN EVENT**

**THE WESTGATE SCHOOL**  
Hampshire's First 4-16 'All Through' School

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding Provider

Wednesday 17 September & 1 October 2025  
9.00 am - 11.00 am  
Thursday 18 September - 5.00 - 6.45 pm

For an opportunity to visit our school, please book an appointment visiting our website.

The Westgate School, Cheriton Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 5AZ

[www.westgate.hants.sch.uk](http://www.westgate.hants.sch.uk) Facebook Instagram [contact@westgate.hants.sch.uk](mailto:contact@westgate.hants.sch.uk)

## Would you like to be a school governor?



Hi Everyone,

At our school, there are many ways to get involved and make a real impact. One of the most rewarding ways to contribute is by joining our School Governing Body. Currently, we have a fantastic team of 7 governors, but we have space for two more passionate individuals who want to help shape the future of our school.

Being a governor is a fulfilling and impactful way to be an active part of our school community. Your insights, skills, and support could make a big difference to the children and staff. If you are interested in joining us, we would love to hear from you!

More info is available [here](#) on the Hampshire County Council website, including a short video.

If you would like to have a chat with one of the current team, please contact the office at [adminoffice@owslebury.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@owslebury.hants.sch.uk)

Thanks,  
Allison, Isobel, Trevor, Nicky, Adrian, Brigid and Amy  
(Owslebury Primary's Governing Body)

## Wrap Around Care contact details

07764 781368

[ben@active8minds-winchester.co.uk](mailto:ben@active8minds-winchester.co.uk)

[www.active8minds-winchester.co.uk](http://www.active8minds-winchester.co.uk)



**Active8 Minds**  
Sport & childcare specialists

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

### 1 KNOW THE TYPES



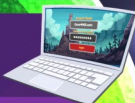
While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

### 2 COVER ALL DEVICES



Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

### 3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH



While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

### 4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS



Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

### 5 BLOCK APP SPENDING



Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

### 6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT



Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

### 7 MIND THE GAPS



There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

### 8 KEEP THINGS SECURE



Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

### 9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY



Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

### 10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP



The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Owslebury Primary School

**MENTAL  
HEALTH  
SUPPORT  
TEAM**

# PARENT WORKSHOP

## Supporting Emotional Regulation

In response to feedback from our Summer 2025 parent survey, we're offering a 90-minute Emotional Regulation Workshop for parents and carers.

This session will explore practical strategies to help children understand and manage their emotions—supporting their wellbeing both at home and in school.

✓ **Sign up via Arbor to secure your place!**

### For More Information

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/issue/mental-health-support-teams/>



9-10.30AM  
THURSDAY

**9**  
**OCTOBER**

