



# AUTUMN TERM 2020

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year – and an especially warm welcome to our new parents. We are so pleased that the school has managed to remain pretty much open during this first half term – which couldn't be done without the support of all of you parents and our amazing teachers.

Similarly to the Summer term, we have kept quite a low profile as we are limited on the activities we can do at the moment, but we have been delighted at the response to the Fireworks goody bags and doughnut sale – we sold all of our bags and doughnuts and hope that the children enjoy the activities whilst watching some fireworks at home this year.

Our Christmas activities will also have to be different, but we really want this year to be about providing the children (and parents) with some activities in the run up to Christmas, so we are pleased to tell you about:

**Christmas Hampers:** Following on from the success of last years hampers which parents kindly donated to, we have asked all Class Reps to organise a themed hamper for each year group. These hampers will then be auctioned off on the PTA events website – they make great gifts for friends and family.

**Virtual Christmas Fair:** We would really like people to support our local businesses and crafts people, so we will be putting on a virtual Christmas Fair from 28<sup>th</sup> November. This is based on a Facebook open group which we encourage you all to join. We have some lovely local businesses already who will be posting things for sale from 28<sup>th</sup> November. On top of that we will launch the Christmas Hampers, then and we will be posting some Christmas related hints and tips. Space is not an issue for a virtual Christmas Fair so we really encourage as many local businesses or crafts people to join us – which will help make it a great resource for gift ideas – so please pass this on to others or let us know if you are interested in having a stall. Please email [opta@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:opta@hotmail.co.uk) or message us on Facebook to get more information.

**Christmas Raffle:** To save tickets coming home with children and cash being passed back into the office we have opted to join the 'Big PTA Raffle 2020' which has been launched by ParentKind. This is an online raffle where OPTA get 50% of all ticket sales and all tickets get the chance to win significant cash prizes. As usual, please encourage friends and family to buy a ticket, it can all be done online and the draws run daily from 7<sup>th</sup> December to the 18<sup>th</sup> December. More details are attached and will be coming soon to PTA events and our Facebook page.

**5 Days of Christmas:** Not quite 12 days we know, but we would like to offer a set of virtual activities during the week of the 14<sup>th</sup> December for the children to enjoy. We will remind you each day of the activity and will have prizes for the winner of each activity as well as that each entry will go into a 'Grand Prize draw' at the end of the week. More details on this to follow in the coming weeks.

The OPTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is being held online next week on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.45pm (Zoom details are available [on the OPTA facebook page](#)). Given that there is no need to leave your living room we really hope that people can attend online so that we can share with you last years successes and the plan for this year. The OPTA team have decided to step down from August 2021, so we are also looking for at least 3 volunteers to form a new committee in 2021.

Finally, one thing you can do that will really help is to register with 'Amazon Smile' and 'Easyfundraising' who will donate a percentage of your online shopping payments to OPTA – it's quick and easy to set up and will really help us raise even more funds for our schools!

Diary dates ... *more details to follow:*

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.45pm – OPTA AGM

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Virtual Christmas Fair

7<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December - Raffle Draw

14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December – 5 days of Christmas

Thank you!  
OPTA Team



Ottershaw  
Parent Teacher  
Association  
Enriching the lives of our children

# Parentkind



**Bring a little  
sparkle and  
festive cheer this year!**

**WIN  
UP TO £5,000**

**£3 ticket enters you in all 12 draws**



- ✦ Help boost PTA fundraising
- ✦ Tickets cost just £3
- ✦ 12 chances to win up to £5,000
- ✦ Tickets are limited so once they're gone... they're gone!

To buy tickets, visit: [bigptaraffle.co.uk](http://bigptaraffle.co.uk)  
and search for: Ottershaw C of E Infant & Junior Schools

**Don't delay - tickets are limited**

It is illegal for anyone under 16 years of age to purchase or sell raffle tickets. Anyone under 16 years of age who buys a ticket for the Big PTA Raffle 2020 will immediately forfeit the right to any prize. Closing date 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020. A raffle is a form of gambling. If you, or someone you know, needs information and/or help with a problem gambling, please call GamCare on 0845 6000 133 or visit [www.gamcare.org.uk](http://www.gamcare.org.uk)



*Please remember OPTA when you are  
Christmas Shopping*



### Easyfundraising Website

**Raise money for OPTA whilst you shop!**

You can buy goods through E-bay, Amazon, M&S, Argos, Major Travel Agents and thousands more retailers.

Every time you buy online the OPTA gets cash back and it costs nothing extra for you. So start raising funds today!

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Support the cause – 'Ottershaw Parent Teacher & Friends Association'

You can download an App to use on your smart phone or a web browser extension to remind you which websites are eligible.

### Amazon Smile

Anytime you shop with Amazon you could be raising funds for our schools. The big news is that Amazon has now enabled Smile in their smartphone apps. This is a brilliant enhancement of the app and of the AmazonSmile program, because once a user has turned on the Smile feature in their smartphone app, every eligible purchase made in the app will automatically generate a 0.5% donation to the selected cause – which is obviously OPTA!

To turn this feature on within in the app, you need to join Amazon Smile (via a web browser) and select your charity (we are Ottershaw Parent Teachers Association), then within the Amazon app, if you can't see AmazonSmile in your menu, click Settings and then AmazonSmile to turn it on.

### **AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app**

You can now support your  
favorite charity on iPhone &  
Android phones

