

Sport at Otford 2022-23

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was a busy and successful year for sport at Otford last school year. With Covid restrictions relaxed, normal sporting fixtures, leagues and competitions were back on. Otford had over 90 pupils from KS2 take part in competitive fixtures across a range of sports. The children demonstrated excellent skills, teamwork and school spirit and there was a lot of success, enthusiasm and experience gained. Below is a roundup of events Otford participated in this year and how we got on.

Football League

Otford won the football league after a successful season. The squad was made up of Year 5 and 6 pupils with different children playing on different dates. Otford won all of their games but one and showed some great talent on the pitch.



A special mention also goes to Ben, Jack and Teddy who were selected for the U12s 2023/24 West Kent Schools Football Association squad, with Otford being the best represented primary school.

Tag Rugby Festival

The Tag Rugby Festival was held back in October at Sevenoaks Rugby Club. There was a large number of participating schools and pupils and it was a fantastic event. Otford took two teams to the festival and the children all had a great experience and showed great sportsmanship. The blue team played incredibly, winning all their games and the trophy from their group! Thanks to Mr Macrae for his super coaching skills.



Girl's Football Tournament

In November, it was the girls turn to show off their football skills in the Girls' Football Tournament at Knole Academy. The girls played fantastically, really gelling as a team and supporting each other. After a string of successful games, the girls won the tournament and brought home the shield to Otford.



Year 3/4 Sports Hall Athletics

A group of Year 3 and 4 pupils travelled to Aylesford for a brilliant Sportshall Athletics competition in January. The competition was really well run and the children competed in both field and track events (in a sports hall), including running, jumping and throwing. The children gained some excellent experience and for most it was their first-time representing Otford.



Jessica Roper Athlete Visit

In February Otford was lucky enough to have a visit from Jessica Roper, a kickboxing champion. The whole school took part in fitness circuits with Jessica Roper as a fundraiser and we raised an incredible £2900, which will be used towards buying new sports equipment for school. A massive thank you to the whole school community for your support.

The children demonstrated such enthusiasm during their fitness circuits along with great team spirit. Afterwards, Jessica led an assembly where she shared her story. She didn't start kick boxing until she was 19 and she lost her first five fights! She also shared her moto, dream big, start small and never give up! It was a really inspiring day!



Year 5/6 Hockey

After the initial event was postponed due to bad weather, the Year 5 & 6 hockey team finally got to play in the hockey tournament at Hollybush Hockey Club in March. The team played incredibly and placed second out of 13 teams. Thanks go to Mr Smit for coaching the team.



Year 4 Football friendly

In May a group of Year Fours played a friendly football game against Seal Primary School. They showed great teamwork and resilience to come back to finish the game four all.



Year 5/6 Cricket

In June a team of Year 6 children played in the cricket tournament at The Vine in Sevenoaks. They came a fantastic second place out of 12 schools, showing excellent skills and teamwork. They won all of their matches, just being beaten in the final match. Thanks again go to Mr Smit for sharing his cricket expertise and coaching the team at the event.



District Sports

July saw the new format of District Sports, this year it was held at Tonbridge School. The event was broken down into three smaller events, with schools competing with schools of a similar size. Otford competed in the larger school's category and took just over 40 children from Years 3 to 6. A fantastic effort from all the children who took part and an amazing experience competing on an athletics track. A special mention goes to Ted for a gracious victory in the long-distance event, timing his race to perfection!



Sports Day

Well done goes to all the pupils at Otford for their participation in Sports Day with every child trying their very best and giving everything a go! Congratulations go to Air who won with 486 points. Thank you to parents, carers and family members who came to support and the PTFA for the refreshments throughout the day.



Hever Castle - Triathlon Experience Day

A group of 26 pupils from Years 3 to 5 took part in a triathlon experience day at Hever Castle. A stunning setting for an incredible and inspiring day. They were introduced to the three different triathlon sports (swimming, cycling and running) and even swam in the lake! There was also a session on transitioning between the events as well of a range of activities around the castle. The children held a barn owl, had a go at archery and tried to stay dry in the water maze (some more than others). They represented the school beautifully and some children have been even been inspired to participate in the Hever Triathlon in September. We cannot wait to hear how you get on!



It was a busy year for sport at Otford but a few events we were unable to attend. The Year Twos were keen to participate in a Heptathlon at Riverhead Infants but unfortunately it was cancelled due to thunder. The Year 5/6 swimming Gala unluckily clashed dates with the Year 6 school journey. Both events we will look towards attending next year.

I would like to send thanks to all parents, carers and adults that have supported children to get to these events and stayed as cheerleaders. Without you it would not be possible! Thank you to all the staff members who have also given their time to coach, supervise and attend these events. A huge thank you goes to the PTFA who have supplied the school with a brand-new football kit, that we are looking forward to playing in next year as well as school swimming hats.

We are looking forward to another successful, fun and inspiring year of sport at Otford this school year! If you have any skills or experience in a particular sport and feel you could support Otford in any way, please do get in touch via the school office.

Many thanks,

Miss Poulter
PE Lead

