

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Newsletter

Botley C of E Primary School



Upcoming dates

February 2023

Date to be confirmed

Parent/Carer coffee
morning

At Botley All Saints Church
10-11am

Important links

Information report

[Click here](#)

SEN Policy

[Click here](#)

SEND Support links

[Click here](#)

Hampshire Local Offer

[Click here](#)



Welcome to Botley C of E Primary School's newsletter dedicated specifically for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

A huge thank you to those who attended the first parent and carer coffee morning in September. It was lovely to meet and talk to so many parents. Nicola Shergold from the Primary Well-being Service shared some great tips for helping children with anxiety. For those unable to attend, I have attached a few top tips from the session. I look forward to seeing those of you who attend the next coffee morning where we discussing ways to support parents with challenging behaviour of children at home.

Pupil Passports

Pupil passports were sent out prior to parents evening for all those children on the schools SEND register. Thank you for to those who have returned a signed copy. If anyone hasn't seen their child's passport, please let their teacher know.

Difficulties with home learning

We get a lot of parents come to us who are struggling with getting their children to complete work at home. Firstly, I think it's important to know that you are not alone and this can be challenging, particularly with those children who have additional needs. It is an important life skill they need to learn so rather than completely avoid it here are a few ideas that may help:

- **Don't try and do it all:** Split the homework into smaller tasks, focus on one area and then extend this when they feel able e.g. reading, spellings, SeeSaw or TTRS.
- **Keep what you do short and sharp:** Clearly set the amount of time you expect your child to spend on it. This will be personal to each child and it could be as short as 5 minutes to start with.
- **Be consistent:** Have a set day and/or time when to do it.
- **Remove distractions:** Turn off the TV or any screens.
- **Provide Support:** allow your child to have a go by themselves but help if required. If they have completed something by themselves and it is wrong, don't panic. It doesn't have to be perfect and sometimes it is better for the teachers to see where they have struggled so they can make adjustments in the classroom.
- Lastly, in my household, regular snacks also help!

All about fear and anxiety

1. When we are anxious about something, we can get all sorts of funny feeling in our bodies – shaking, feeling sick, wobbly legs, blurred vision, feeling like we can't breathe, can't swallow, feeling dizzy, tight chest, looking pale and many more.
2. These feelings are horrible but in fact they are completely harmless.
3. These feelings are just our body getting ready to escape from something that we are scared of.
4. If you child gets these feelings, be very calm and confident. Tell them it is ok and that the feelings will go away in a bit.
5. Even if you are really alarmed by the feelings that you child is having in their bodies, don't let on. If you look upset, your child will think there really is something to worry about!
6. If children avoid things that they are scared of, they never get used to them and they never learn that they can cope with them. **Remember, if we avoid things, the worry just gets bigger.**
7. Kids can learn to be afraid of things just by watching us be scared. If you are scared or worried by something, try to cope well so as not to pass the worry on to the child.

CAMHS – Anxiety [Click here](#)

Introducing the Learning Support Assistant Team in Key Stage 1

Mrs S Plumley **Early Years Assistant**



I have worked at Botley School since 2008 in the reception unit. My official job title is Early Years Assistant and I got my NVQ III whilst working in Year R. Before having my children I was a graphic designer. My children both came to Botley School and are now grown up, so I have been part of the school community for a very long time. I was an active member of FOBS when my children were here and I served as a school governor for about eight years. I love teaching children to read and I try to instil in them a love of books and stories. I even love maths! (I went back to college at the age of fifty, and got my GCSE maths).

Mrs S Tucker **Higher Level Teaching Assistant**



I moved to Hedge End from Eastleigh when my children were in key Stage 1 and I volunteered at their school as a parent helper. I helped at school discos and on school trips. I then started as a lunch time assistant but I knew I wanted to go back in the classroom to support and teach children. I started to volunteer in the classroom as an LSA. I listened to readers and joined the school for many school trips. I really enjoyed this and wanted to become an LSA so I went to evening college to gain my Teaching and Learning level 2 qualification. I started working at Botley in 2020 as a learning support assistant. Since then I have and have worked hard and trained as a HLTA. I have thoroughly enjoying covering classes across the school and love my role!



Mrs L Maxted
Learning Support Assistant

I started as an LSA several years ago. After a career break to raise my youngest daughter, I started in a voluntary position at Botley C of E Primary School which I became aware of through my grandson who is a student at the school. Due to COVID, this position came to an end. After working in another school, I took the opportunity to re-join Botley in 2022 as an LSA. My primary role within the school is working 1:1 with a child in key stage 1. I am passionate about providing care and support to help children become more independent and confident in their own learning abilities. Every day is rewarding and I enjoy celebrating the successes each day. In my spare time, I enjoy going to the theatre, cinema and museums. I love spending time with my family.



Mrs L Morse
Learning Support Assistant

I started working at Botley in September and I am currently working in Year 2. Since I left university, I have worked in education. Firstly as an LSA in a special needs school and then in administration at a local college. I really missed working in a school during this time and jumped at the chance to work at Botley when a position became available. I love being in the classroom and building relationships with the children and watching that spark in their eyes when they learn something new.



Mrs S Mildren
Early Years Assistant

Before starting at Botley C of E Primary School, I worked at Fair oak Infant School in the reception class as an Early Years Assistant. I then moved to Botley C of E Primary School in 2016 and have been here ever since. I have worked from reception to year 4 and I love working with all the children but particularly with reception. I am the lead First Aider in school and have a qualification in paediatric first aid. Through the years, I have run lots of intervention groups to support those with additional needs - Lego therapy, ELSA and phonics to name some. I have a passion for English and history, and it gives me great pleasure to impart my love of reading to the children I work with.



Mrs G Turner
Learning Support Assistant

I am based in Year 1 in the mornings and currently undertaking training to do speech and language in the afternoon alongside, gross and fine motor skills. Before joining my boys at Botley C of E Primary School, I worked for the NHS. I love sports and am passionate about getting children active. I help out with school football and athletics. Outside of school I am a local cub leader and have been involved with scouting for 17 years. I'm a little odd and the kids know it! I think it's important to wear my weirdness on my sleeve (or my dungarees) and show the kids it's okay to shine in irregular ways.

Mrs Wilcock

Early Years Assistant / Speech and Language Support



After 18 years of being at Botley School I have decided to retire at Christmas. I have really enjoyed my time at Botley School.

I started as a member of FOBS when my daughter was in reception. I was encouraged to become an LSA and, as part of Fobs, and being a LSA was supportive of restoring the pool to function, enabling all pupils of Botley School to learn to swim. I helped to run the after-school club and contributed to the creation and management of the school run breakfast and after-school club for the benefit children and working parents. Thanks to the training and dealing with outside agencies I have been able to help children with Speech and Language, sometimes one to one, also with Fine and Gross Motor difficulties. I have enjoyed the confidence of the children and parents in those activities. I have found it very rewarding to see the children grow in confidence and overcome such difficulties.

But as I said earlier after 18 years it is time to indulge more of my own interests and hobbies and to make more time available for those. I hope to make further contributions to the school when I am able to, and to perpetuate my association with the school (only rather more loosely). I would like to thank all the staff for their support and wish them all the best for the future.

A huge thank you Mrs Wilcock for everything you have done for the school over nearly two decades. You will be greatly missed by so many but deserve to put your feet up!

As we move into the final week of the autumn term, please enjoy all the Christmas festivities in school and if you have any questions or concerns, please come in and see us or send an email to myself or Mrs Atkins.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs Kate Roberts

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