

# PE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION

Newsletter 31

20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, and of paramount importance, we hope you are all keeping safe and well - the past year has been difficult on so many levels but we stand resolute in our support for one another and continue to make positive strides to combat COVID-19.

England's recent Euros campaign has brought to light the incredible power of sport and, despite certain behaviours of a small minority of supporters, has restored a sense of national pride and hope for the future.

The past academic year has been incredibly taxing on our PESSPA (Physical Education, School Sport, Physical Activity) provision but the children have maintained their enthusiasm throughout and adapted to an ever-changing set of parameters admirably.

For that and so much more, we thank you all.



## Activity data

Throughout the course of this Academic year, we have worked hard to ensure as much regular provision is readily available to our children. Class bubbles were allocated a set day for lunchtime activity clubs and 3 termly rotas have been in operation. Following analysis of the end of year data, it is with great pleasure that we record our highest ever year of attendance, with 98% involvement in Key Stage 1 and 88% across Key Stage 2 (a huge percentage given a pupil count of 323). Attendance patterns will support us in further enhancing this provision over the coming Academic years.



@BotleyPrimaryPE



## School Games Week

The week of Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 saw us play host to School Games Week - a week orchestrated by Energise Me (a sporting body working in association with Hampshire County Council) with the sole focus of engaging children in further opportunity in light of the limitations government restrictions have caused. Each day carried a different focus - Monday (leadership), Tuesday (competition), Wednesday (well-being), Thursday (culture) and Friday (physical activity). Classes engaged in this throughout curriculum PE time and relished each daily focus. Our school grounds provided a fantastic site for activity, especially that of well-being Wednesday.



## JRSO

In preparation for September 2021 and the start of the next academic year, two children from Year 5 were selected to become new JRSO's (Junior Road Safety Officers). Having received virtual training, they will shortly be tasked (amongst other things) with supporting our Active travel plans and spreading vital messages around the school regarding road safety and the importance of Clean Air.

## Active Travel

In line with our JRSO training, we made a movement focused on Year 6 (our current leavers cohort) to promote Active travel in preparation for their departure and start of Secondary school life. Visitors from Hampshire County Council held 2 meetings with Year 6 whereby travel plans/routes and important information about the local area was shared.



## Travel to Tokyo

As part of preparations for the upcoming Summer Olympics, a whole school challenge was launched to see which House (Air, Earth, Fire or Water) could complete a virtual trip from London to Tokyo, with scheduled stop off locations en route. Activities were logged via an online portal with the overall distance for each house displayed. Fire were the first House to complete the challenge and are currently making headway on a second trip around the globe. Air and Water have since completed their first trip, with Earth still chipping away at the distance.

## Euros

With the 2020 championships delayed a year, the European Championships got underway this summer. Whilst I've no need to discuss the actual competition itself, we did host our own version of the competition in each class - which were all played in fantastic spirit.



## Leadership

Due to social distancing guidelines and the use of class bubbles, our School Games captains have struggled to offer the diverse range of leadership tasks we have become accustomed to. However, with support of our SGO (School Games Organiser - Nick Hutton), they have spent several weeks of this summer term preparing for and leading a set of Year 2 multi-skill events. The leaders demonstrated maturity and were praised

for their fantastic organisation, communication and co-operation. Unfortunately, the Year 6 bubble went down before the leaders could host an end of year event.

## Paddle boarding

Following much communication with YMCA Fairthorne Manor, we were able to organise a 4-week Paddle boarding course for a small group of Year 6 children. The course was planned to be a mixture of river and lake based sessions by which the children could learn and refine basic SUP skills before exploring the local area. Once again, the Year 6 bubble went down before these sessions could be completed.



## Kit appeal

I would like to make an appeal for any PE kit that children are no longer using ([especially House tops from our Year 6 leavers](#)). We now have a shortage of spare PE kit within school and would gratefully receive any kit that children have grown out of.

**\*\* Could any kit currently borrowed please be returned, washed, as soon as possible. Despite previous requests, multiple items of school sport kit remain outstanding - as a school, we simply cannot function with such losses, as we do not have the funds to replace them. \*\***

## FIXTURES AND EVENTS

Following a slight ease in restrictions in the latter summer term, a much-welcomed return to competition saw an offering of 7 partnership events. As always, we jumped at each and every one ...



### Year 6 Rounders - 8<sup>th</sup> June

The first event saw a squad of Year 6 children travel to Fair Oak for rounders. In glorious sunshine, the children played brilliantly and came 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Year 3/4 Rounders - 15<sup>th</sup> June

Picking up from Year 6, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June saw the turn of Year 3/4 to compete in rounders. Our children were superb and performed to the best of their ability, finishing joint 3<sup>rd</sup> after a tense final match.



### Year 6 Cricket - 22<sup>nd</sup> June

The beautiful weather had unfortunately passed by the time our Year 6 squad took to the cricket field at Lapstone Park. This did not dampen their spirits and the duration on the event saw them claim 4<sup>th</sup> spot.

### Year 6 Golf - 29<sup>th</sup> June

As the cohort soon to depart, the upper school opportunity was once again handed to Year 6. For some of our children, this event provided a platform for their first ever school event and they set about evidencing why they were selected. A 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish was claimed and a quick departure was made given the fact the game clashed with England's Euros fixtures.



### Year 3/4 Golf - 6<sup>th</sup> July

The sun shone once more as Year 3/4 attended a golf event at Wildern. Having recently undertaken some practice during lunchtime activity clubs, the children once more showed the values of Botley PESSPA and walked away in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



**Year 3/4  
Tennis - 13<sup>th</sup>  
July**



Wildern played host to the final Key Stage 2 event of the year. We fortunately secured 2 team places for this event so were able to offer additional children this opportunity. Some great team tennis saw our B team finish 4<sup>th</sup>, with our A team claiming the title.

**Year 1/2 Multi-skills - 20<sup>th</sup> July**

This event was sadly cancelled as our Year 6 leaders were forced to isolate.

**House Sports**

The House Sports programme took a different approach this year whereby children participated virtually. Having selected their sports at the start of September, the children completed different challenges throughout the academic year during curriculum PE time with the scores collated centrally and points awarded accordingly.

The final league table is as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> place	Air	41 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Earth	36 points
	Water	36 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Fire	29 points

Congratulations to Air who claim the trophy for the first ever virtual House Sports.

**Sports Personalities**

Given the complications with bubbles in isolating, our annual Sports presentation awards ceremony has been pre-recorded and is available to view via the school's YouTube channel. The Sports Personalities and participation trophies will be handed to children/siblings on Friday.

## SPORTS DAYS



### Year R

Our Reception cohort held a lovely sports day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July. The event featured a variety of athletic activities (jumping, throwing, running) and was a joy to be involved with - well done to all our wonderful young sports boys and girls.



### Year 1/2

Key Stage One held their sports day during the morning of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. With bubbles retained, a mixture of track and field events resulted in a unique tie outcome - Air and Earth finishing joint 1<sup>st</sup> on exactly the same score, with Fire and Water equally tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> spot.



### Year 3/4

Year 3/4 relished the opportunity to compete during the afternoon of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Some fine individual and relay performances saw points shared across all 4 houses - Water eventually coming through on top and claiming the 2021 title.



### Year 5/6

As with every year, the Year 5/6 sports day was fiercely contested. Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July saw them take to battle - following an intense afternoon, Earth were crowned Champions for a second successive year.

As a closing note to those in Year 6 who are leaving us, I wish you every success in your future lives, both sporting and academic. To everyone else, I look forward to hearing of your continued progress as I action the difficult decision to move on from Botley Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Rowles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'A'.

Andrew Rowles  
Primary PE Specialist

*Heavenly Father,*

*We pray that you keep your hand over our children during their sporting activities. Shield them from injury and support them throughout their development. Their abilities are a blessing from you, God. We pray that they play fair and strong, and remember to thank you when victory is theirs.*

*- Amen*