

It was fantastic to see a wonderful report in the Daily Echo on the 28th October (see below and <https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/young-reporter/33542/>) all about our beautiful school mural. This is such an amazing piece of work which has added so much to our school.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in planning, contributing and completing the mural including FOBs for their financial support and B&Q for providing some of the paint.

We would also like to say a special thank you to teacher, Gill Westlake, and parent, Laura Guy, for all of their hard work in planning and co-ordinating it all! It took a huge amount of effort on their behalf, but the outcome is absolutely stunning and well worth it.

SOUTHERN Daily Echo

Botley Primary School marks their legacy

26th October 2025



Botley Primary School student council (Image: Kezia Swain)

By Kezia Swain,

Deer Park Secondary School

This article was written by one of our Young Reporters, a scheme that gives 14 to 18-year-old school students a chance to write for a real newspaper. Find out more at the [Young Reporter website](#).

Botley Primary School have embraced their school community through the creation of an inspiring, new mural, designed and painted collaboratively by pupils, staff and parents.

The mural beautifully reflects the school's core values of courage, stewardship and respect and marks 170 years since the school was founded in 1855.

Planning began in February, with painting taking place throughout May and June, and the finishing touches completed by the start of July.

Botley's student council informed that it featured all the different class animals — from Dragonfly to Woodpecker — with each child adding a personal touch.

Years R, 1 and 2 marking a fingerprint, Years 3 and 4 creating colourful hand-printed leaves and Years 5 and 6 helping to paint the class animals.

At the heart of the artwork is the school's beloved mascot, Botley Bear, accompanied by four symbolic trees representing the school's sports day houses: Air, Water, Fire and Earth.

Alongside, a creative height chart displays each teacher's height and initials, adding a fun and wholesome addition.

As part of the project, pupils researched influential figures who have made a positive impact on the world, such as Martin Luther King, Greta Thunberg and Mother Teresa.

They then worked together to select meaningful quotes from each individual, including Bible passages to accompany the artwork.

A special highlight of the mural is a touching contribution from Simeon Turner in Year 3 Deer class, who wrote the heartfelt message "Be kind to the world", summing up the intent behind the piece perfectly.

Headteacher Joe Cooil commented *"We are extremely proud of the beautiful mural that has been created. It is a wonderful addition to the school. So many different people within our whole school community have worked so hard to bring it together, and it is a real testament to the ethos and culture that we have here, and we would like to thank everybody involved."*

Congratulations Botley Primary School for creating a legacy that will touch the hearts of future generations to come.

The Young Reporter Scheme provides a platform for student voices and articles are submitted online by school pupils aged 14 to 18. We do not actively moderate, monitor, or edit these contributions. However, as these young contributors are not trained or qualified journalists, mistakes can happen, and we take all legal and accuracy matters seriously. Therefore, if you have any issues with the Young Reporter content, please contact djarvis@newsquest.co.uk so we can act accordingly.