

Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

12th February 2026
Spring 1 2025/26

Headteacher: Mr Joe Cooil
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Shuttle



This Year's INSET Dates

- ◆ ~~3rd September~~
- ◆ ~~3rd November~~
- ◆ 13th February
- ◆ 27th March
- ◆ 22nd June

Term Dates

- ◆ ~~Last Day of Autumn 1:
Friday 24th October~~
- ◆ ~~First Day of Autumn 2:
Tuesday 5th November~~
- ◆ ~~Last Day of Autumn 2:
Friday 19th December~~
- ◆ ~~First Day of Spring 1:
Monday 5th January~~
- ◆ Last Day of Spring 1:
Thursday 12th February
- ◆ First Day of Spring 2:
Monday 23rd February
- ◆ Last Day of Spring 2:
Thursday 26th March
- ◆ First Day of Summer 1:
Tuesday 13th April
- ◆ Last Day of Summer 1:
Friday 22nd May
- ◆ First Day of Summer 2:
Monday 1st June
- ◆ Last Day of Summer 2:
Wednesday 22nd July
(1.15pm finish)

Headteacher's News

Dear Parents,

We have now reached the point where we are half-way through this academic year. I am sure you will agree with me when I say it is flying by! If your child is in Year 3 this year then it is quite a scary thought that they are now half way along their primary school journey!

As always, this half-term has been a busy one and the children have loved having a range of visitors coming into the school to support them with their learning. There have been living history workshops in both Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 and Year R have enjoyed a monster day and a visit from Bug Fest too. We were also really proud of our Singing Squad's performance at the church for the Christingle service. We are very much looking forward to seeing our musicians perform during the spring concert next half-term as well as the Year 3/4 Easter production.

Mid-Year Progress Summaries for your children will be coming out to you after half term. Please remember these will be downloadable from Arbor. I would encourage everyone to have a good read of these and take the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher in order to discuss their progress at our Parent Teacher consultations which are also happening early next half term.

I am really pleased to say that we have had a huge number of applications for Year R for September 2026. Schools in the local

area are always under pressure to get sufficient numbers as there are now too many school places with not enough children to fill them. This has continued to be the case, but our school has once again proved to be very popular with the first-choices for this school easily exceeding the places we have. I think this is a fantastic reflection on our school community and the ethos and culture we have.

School staff will soon start preparing the swimming pool to be used during the second half of the summer term. The aim will be for the children to undertake seven swimming sessions during their curriculum time (dependent upon the weather). This is of course a brilliant opportunity for the children and we are so pleased that the school is able to offer this to every child. I think that this is one of the things that makes the school a special place and supports us in providing a great primary school experience for the children. As there is unfortunately no funding from Hampshire County Council for the swimming pool, we will shortly be writing to you requesting a voluntary contribution. If you are able to support then it would be very much appreciated and it enables us to continue to keep the pool functioning and open for future years as well as this one.

I hope you all have a lovely half-term break.

Mr. Joe Cooil
Headteacher

Dear Heavenly Father,
We thank You for the gift of learning, and for the joy of being together as a school family.
We pray that You will guide us with Your wisdom,
Help us to be kind, compassionate, and respectful towards one another.
May we work hard, do our best, and always seek to grow in faith, hope, and love.
Amen

Important Dates

- ◆ 6th October
Individual Photos
- ◆ 6th/8th October
New Teacher Meetings
- ◆ 9th October
Harvest Festival (All Saints' Church 9:30am)
- ◆ 13th October
Year 6 Residential (4 nights)
- ◆ 24th November
Year 5 Residential (2 nights)
- ◆ 9th / 10th December
Year R Christmas Performance
(2:00pm and 6:00pm)
- ◆ 16th / 17th December
Year 1/2 Christmas Performance
(2:00pm and 6:00pm)
- ◆ 18th December
Christmas Service (All Saints' Church 1:30pm)
- ◆ 25th February
Sibling Photographs
- ◆ 27th February
Mid-Year Achievement Summaries to Parents
- ◆ 3rd / 4th March
Parents Evening (3.30-6.00pm)
- ◆ 23rd / 24th March
Year 3/4 Easter Celebration
(2:00pm)
- ◆ 26th March
Easter Service (All Saints' Church 9:30am)
- ◆ 6th May
Class Photos
- ◆ 11th May
Year 6 SATs Week
- ◆ 1st June
Swimming Lessons start
- ◆ 1st June
Year 4 Multiplication Check Window
- ◆ 17th June (Reserve Date 24th June)
Lower School Sports Day (9:30am/1:00pm)
- ◆ 18th June (Reserve Date 23rd June)
Upper School Sports Day (12:30pm)
- ◆ 7th / 8th July
Year 5/6 Performance
(2:00pm and 6:00pm)
- ◆ 10th July
End of Year Reports to Parents
- ◆ 14th July
End of Year Open Classroom
- ◆ 15th July
Sports Presentation Evening
- ◆ 22nd July
Leavers Service (All Saints' Church 9:30am)

INSET Days 2026/27

The following INSET Days have been agreed by the school's Governing Body for the next academic year:

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Monday 2nd November 2026
- Friday 12th February 2027
- Thursday 25th March 2027
- Friday 25th June 2027

This means that the school year will begin on Wednesday the 2nd September 2026 and will finish on Wednesday the 21st July 2027 for the children. With the exception of our forward planning June INSET Day, all of the others are either before or after a holiday to hopefully provide you an easier get away or return if you are holidaying.

On that note, please remember it is only in the most exceptional of circumstances that any non-medical absence during term can be authorised. Essentially this would need to be that you have absolutely no choice whatsoever for your child to not be in school. Taking your child out of school for holidays will lead to a penalty notice if the criteria is met. Just to be absolutely clear these rules are made by the Department for Education and not the school and any money collected goes to Hampshire County Council - the school does not see a single penny of any penalty notices enforced. We would also remind parents of the importance of paying any issued penalty notices within the set time period because if you do not the Local Authority will take you to court even if non-payment is an over-sight.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please ensure you have signed your child up for extra-curricular clubs for after half-term if they would like to participate. Information about clubs is available on the school website using the link below. Just a reminder that there are some new clubs starting next half-term.

<https://www.botley.hants.sch.uk/extra-curricular-activities/>

Headteacher's Awards Autumn 2

The winners of the Headteacher's Award for the second half of the Autumn term are shown below. Well done to all of these children for showing our school values so well each and every day in school, for being wonderful role-models to others and impressing everyone with their attitude and effort. Thomas (Dragonfly), Fiadh (Bumblebee), Reece (Robin), Chloe-Ava (Butterfly), Mila (Kingfisher), Max (Fox), Thomas (Otter), Megan (Badger), Joe (Deer), Freya (Hedgehog), Martha (Rabbit), Olivia (Woodpecker) and Sofia (Eagle).

Smartphone Free Childhood

Just a reminder that this school, in line with all of the other primary schools within this cluster and many more widely within Hampshire, remains a part of this movement. As you have been informed, all primary schools locally will be smartphone free from September 2026. As such, from that point forwards any mobile phone brought into school will need to be "brick" phones without internet connectivity. A list of non-smart phones that your child could have in school are listed at the following link:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>