

Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

19th December 2025
Autumn 2 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,

As we head into the Christmas holidays, we can look back on a very busy half-term here at Botley C of E Primary School.

Year 5/6 headed off on the Harry Potter studio tour, whilst Year 3/4 visited Butser Ancient Farm as part of their learning. There was a fantastic theatre visit for Year 1/2 and the children in Year R enjoyed their first ever school disco, had a very successful "snuggle and read" event and loved their Gruffalo crumble day. The FOBs Fireworks night was also a real success and was received very positively (by those that attended!)

I also need to say a huge thank you to all of the children and staff in Years R, 1 and 2 for their Nativities that we have been able to enjoy over the last two weeks. I am sure that anyone who watched them would agree that everybody involved did a wonderful job and really got us all in the Christmas spirit! It takes a huge amount of effort to put on a production from both the children and all of the adults involved and the fantastic result of all of that hard work was there for everyone to see. I would also like to say a huge thank you to the donations that were made after the shows which raised a significant amount of money for the school and FOBs. The generosity of our community is very much appreciated.

The build up to Christmas in a primary school is always very exciting and this year has been no exception! We hope those that

attended enjoyed the Christmas grotto and thanks to the FOBs team for putting together a wonderful experience. The Christmas Present Sales were also as popular as ever and I know you will find some fantastic gifts from your children under the tree on the 25th December! There was a huge selection of presents this year and it is amazing that so many different items can be sourced at the right price point. I know this takes a huge amount of effort from everyone in FOBs but also a lot of other volunteers from the school community that support at the sale and wrap a huge amount of gifts!

Our school tours this year for children joining in Year R in September 2026 have been very successful, we even had to add extra tours as we had so many families wanting to look round! It is always so lovely to get such positive feedback from those looking around the school. They appreciate the calm and purposeful atmosphere within the school, comment on how tidy and organised it is and how well the children are behaving and how happy they are. This year we found many more families who had looked around multiple local schools and left with a really positive impression of us here at Botley.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year from everyone at Botley C of E Primary School.

Mr. Joe Cooil

Headteacher

Headteacher's Awards Autumn 1

The winners of the Headteacher's Award for the first 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!

Blu (Dragonfly), Riley (Bumblebee), Aaron (Robin), Leah (Butterfly), George (Kingfisher), Harriet (Fox), Madigan (Otter), Delilah (Badger), Kamsi (Deer), James (Hedgehog), Finley-Kenza (Rabbit), Mia (Woodpecker) and Jess (Eagle).

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)
- ◆ 24th / 25th March
Year 3/4 Easter Celebration
(9:00am and 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)

School Staffing

Whilst teachers are out of the classroom undertaking their statutory Planning, Preparation and Assessment time your child's class may be covered in different ways. Tuesday to Friday, Mr Ayres may be in teaching PE, learning may be led by our Higher-Level Teaching Assistant, Mrs Sinclair or by Mrs Shuttle. At other times when cover is needed within the classroom, Mrs Marsh or Mr Cooil may be leading classes. We have two very experienced Early Years Assistants in Mrs Plumley and Mrs Nicol and on occasion they may be registering, managing and dismissing classes within Year R. We also have Mrs Roberts who is non-class based and can step into a class if required. We have, over the last few years, avoided using supply teachers from outside of the school community because we have seen that it has worked much better when the children are taught by adults who know them well, understand their needs and have a good understanding of our school ethos and values.

Reminders for 2026

- It is important that children wear the correct school uniform. Proper black school shoes are a must and trainers or boots are not acceptable footwear for school.
- Please ensure your child is wearing a tie to school every day (Year 1-6) unless they have been excused from doing so by a member of the School's Leadership Team.
- If your child has lost their school tie you will need to purchase them a new one.
- Please check if your child is entitled to free school meals (even if they are in KS1) if you are on a low income or in receipt of benefits as this could trigger additional financial support at school.
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals/juniorsecondary>
- FOBs would welcome more parents getting involved in helping to organise and run activities for the children which also raise money for the school. Please keep an eye on their Face Book page.
- Please ensure that you remember to order lunch for your child before the 8:00am deadline.
- Please ensure that you cancel any lunches by the 8:00am deadline if they are no longer required so food is not wasted.
- Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school at all times. If they take it home for any reason during the week, they need to bring it back in the next day.
- Please do see if there are any opportunities for you to visit the church on a Sunday with your family as Revd. Gregg would love to see you there!

Loving God,

As we celebrate Christmas, we thank you for the joy, kindness, and hope this season brings.

Help us to share love with our families and friends, and to care for those who feel lonely or sad.

Guide us to be patient, thoughtful, and brave, so that our school and community can shine with peace.

May laughter fill our homes, may our hearts be full of gratitude, and may we look to the new year with excitement and confidence.

Amen.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS: Please ensure you have signed up for clubs for after Christmas if your child would like to participate. Information about clubs is available on the school website.

PARENTAL FOOTBALL: Get fit in the New Year! As part of our commitment to being a Healthy School in the widest possible sense the school continues to run parental football sessions on a Monday evening on the Botley MUGA thanks to the ongoing support of Botley Parish Council. These sessions costs £5 and run from 7:00pm until 8:00pm. If you are interested in playing, please feel free to contact Mr. Cooil.