

Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

24th October 2025
Autumn 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,

I hope that your children have settled in well to the new academic year over this half-term. I hope that they have enjoyed getting to know their new classmates, teachers and the other adults who they will be working with during the year. We continue to be proud of all of the children and the school that they help to create where they behave well and show a fantastic attitude towards their learning and the work they produce. This continues to be a school where the children are polite and engaged and it always a lovely calm and purposeful atmosphere as I walk around the school.

I want to say a huge well done to all of the children in Reception who have all made a super start to their time at the school. They have settled in well and have already shown a real development in terms of their learning behaviours and impressed all of the staff with their progress so far.

There has been lots of exciting activities going on in the school across this first seven weeks. Year 6 has undertaken their residential trip to Windmill Hill and have also participated in a hands-on science day in which they undertook some higher-level work preparing them for what they will do in secondary school. Year 3/4s learning about rivers has led to a visit from the explorer dome and the opportunity to make their own playground rivers to see geographical processes in action. Year 1/2 children loved their Superhero Day and it

was brilliant to have both the fire service and the police visiting us in school. The SCARF workshop visited to undertake PSHE learning with the children in Years 1-4 whilst there have been a range of special activities going on in Year R, including today's pumpkin day!

We have also had two new Junior Road Safety Officers from Year 5 trained up by Hampshire County Council and we are looking forward to them promoting the message of safe and sustainable travel to the whole school community.

Already this year we have had approximately 110 children participating in inter-school sport competitions and our intra-school House Sports competition has also started well.

There are even more exciting opportunities lined up for the children over the rest of the year, including in the first week back!

I would just like to remind you that our open mornings continue. Please let any friends and family members who live locally and have children who need a school place know we are showing parents around for next September. Currently we now just have spaces in Year 5.

Have a great half-term and thanks for your ongoing support for the school.

Mr. Joe Cooil

Headteacher

School Communication

We have attempted to rationalise our school communications to make it easier for you as parents. Headteacher's newsletters come out half-termly and the "Week Ahead" briefing sheet every Friday. There will also be letters for different year groups which you will receive as required. The majority of communications should now come through the Arbor App and you should be notified when there is anything new for you.

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 Sustainability

We are currently writing a School Sustainability Plan. The aim of this is to produce a strategy to reduce the school's environmental impact by implementing specific actions across areas like energy efficiency, waste reduction and biodiversity. We are obviously very fortunate to have our wonderful school gardens and as a result our levels of biodiversity are very high. The huge numbers of butterflies in the summer and mini beast scrawling around is testament to this. We would love to improve our energy efficiency rating where we can (currently Band E, 110), although this can be quite challenging in a large, older building - as I am sure you can imagine. We have a group of Year 6 children who are working on how we might do this in the classrooms and we were fortunate enough for them to plan and present a whole school assembly earlier this week. Thank you to Darcie, Elodie, Sophia and Bea for their efforts with this so far.

Safeguarding

We have focus on having a very strong safeguarding culture at this school. All staff know that safeguarding is the most important thing we do, that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone and we have the attitude that "it could happen here". We are professionally curious about the children and always act in a way to ensure that they are safe. If that involves a need to refer children to the local authority because of any disclosures they make or concerns we have then we will do so. This is important because the children are our number one priority.

We ensure that we fully meet the requirements of the government's Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance. A link to this document is available on the school website alongside a range of other safeguarding information. If you have any queries regarding safeguarding please contact us using any of the email addresses below or see the relevant section on the website:
Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mr. Joe Cooil: j.cooil@botley.hants.sch.uk
Deputy DSL - Mrs Rebecca Shuttle: r.shuttle@botley.hants.sch.uk
If you ever have any safeguarding concerns, please ensure you contact us immediately.

Heavenly Father,

As the seasons turn and autumn's colours fill our days,
we thank You for the beauty of Your creation
and for the harvest of learning, friendship, and kindness in our school community.

Bless our pupils, staff, and families with peace and patience
as we continue our journey through this term.

Help us to see Your light in one another,
to care for those in need,
and to use our gifts to make the world a little brighter.

May we find joy in our work,
hope in our challenges,
and gratitude in all that we share together.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

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