

Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

23rd May 2025
Summer 1 2024/25

Headteacher: Mr Joe Cooil
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Shuttle



This Year's INSET Dates

- ◆ 2nd September
- ◆ 4th November
- ◆ 14th February
- ◆ 4th April
- ◆ 23rd June

Term Dates

- ◆ Last Day of Autumn 1: Friday 25th October
- ◆ First Day of Autumn 2: Tuesday 5th November
- ◆ Last Day of Autumn 2: Friday 20th December
- ◆ First Day of Spring 1: Monday 6th January
- ◆ Last Day of Spring 1: Thursday 13th February
- ◆ First Day of Spring 2: Monday 24th February
- ◆ Last Day of Spring 2: Thursday 3rd April
- ◆ First Day of Summer 1: Tuesday 22nd April
- ◆ Last Day of Summer 1: Friday 23rd May
- ◆ First Day of Summer 2: Monday 2nd June
- ◆ Last Day of Summer 2: Tuesday 22nd July (1.15pm finish)

Headteacher's News

Dear Parents,

Firstly, a huge well done all of the Year 6 children who worked exceptionally hard to complete their SATs during the week beginning the 12th May. This cohort of children had an especially good attitude and were all striving to do the best that they could do - which is all we ask. We try to have a middle ground when it comes to SATs, taking a block of time to prepare the children so they are in a strong position to show what they can do but not losing all of Year 6 to SATs.

The Year 6s will now have a range of exciting events to look forward to during their final half term here before they move onto their secondary education. This includes our Leavers services at both Portsmouth Cathedral and All Saints' Church, Leavers Picnic, Pool Party and of course our end of Year Production - which this year will be Matilda. You may have recently noticed children Year 6 are now wearing their leaver's hoodies, which they are now able to use as part of their school uniform.

One of my personal highlights of the whole school year is the sports days and these will be coming up soon! All children get the opportunity to compete and represent their House so if you are able please do come along and see your children participate.

FOBs continue to do a great job at running events that provide brilliant opportunities

for the children and raise vital money for the school. There are several exciting events coming soon including the Colour Run and the Inflatable play session on the school field. There are also the Revels on the Rec being run by the Parish Council shortly (see attached poster) and FOBs will be present at this event too raising money for the school. It would be great to see parents of the younger children at the school getting involved in FOBs. If anyone would like to become more involved and help to organize any of the events, please speak to any of the current committee members or to me.

As previously stated we will have some spaces within the school from September and we would love to fill these up! There will be a few spaces in Year 3 and Year 6 and there will be plenty of room in Year 5. We have long waiting lists but only in the year groups that are full! You are very welcome to recommend the school to anybody you know that is looking for a school place in these year groups. Knowing that children at this school feed into Deer Park ensures that here is lots of interest in joining us here at Botley.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break.

Mr. Joe Cooil

Headteacher

*Father, we thank thee for the night, and for the pleasant morning light;
For rest and food and loving care, and all that makes the day so fair.
Help us to do the things we should, to be to others kind and good.
In all we do, in work or play, to grow more loving every day.
Amen.*

Important Dates

- ◆ 7th October
Individual Photos
- ◆ 2nd October
Year 5 Residential (2 nights)
- ◆ 15th/16th October
New Teacher Meetings
- ◆ 17th October
Harvest Festival (All Saints' Church 9:30am)
- ◆ 21st October
Year 6 Residential (4 nights)
- ◆ 10th / 11th December
Year R Christmas Performance
(2:00pm and 6:00pm)
- ◆ 17th / 18th December
Year 1/2 Christmas Performance
(2:00pm and 6:00pm)
- ◆ 20th December
Christmas Service (All Saints' Church 9:30am)
- ◆ 26th February
Sibling Photographs
- ◆ 28th February
Mid-Year Achievement Summaries to Parents
- ◆ 4th / 5th March
Parents Evening (3.30-6.00pm)
- ◆ 26th / 27th March
Year 3/4 Easter Celebration
(9:00am and 2:00pm)
- ◆ 3rd April
Easter Service (All Saints' Church 9:30am)
- ◆ 7th May
Class Photos
- ◆ 12th May
Year 6 SATs Week
- ◆ 2nd June
Swimming Lessons start
- ◆ 2nd June
Year 4 Multiplication Check Window
- ◆ 18th June (Reserve Date 26th June)
Lower School Sports Day (9:30am/1:00pm)
- ◆ 19th June (Reserve Date 27th June)
Upper School Sports Day (12:30pm)
- ◆ 8th / 10th July
Year 5/6 Performance
(2:00pm and 6:00pm)
- ◆ 11th July
End of Year Reports to Parents
- ◆ 15th July
Open Classroom
- ◆ 16th July
Sports Presentation Evening
- ◆ 22nd July
Leavers Service (All Saints' Church 9:30am)

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to all of the children who were chosen by their teachers to be the winner of the Headteacher Award for the second half of the Spring term. These children have stood out for following our school Christian heart values of **Determination, Stewardship and Courage**. Well done to all of you.

The winners were as follows:

Arjan (Dragonfly), Safia (Bumblebee), Robert (Robin), Rory (Butterfly), Holly (Kingfisher), Caia (Fox), Oscar (Otter), Kiara (Badger), Tom (Deer), Dylan (Hedgehog), Evie (Rabbit), Isla (Woodpecker) and Reuben (Eagle).

Attendance

As I am sure all parents are aware, having good levels of attendance is absolutely vital in supporting children at school, both with their learning and with their social development. Children should be in school unless they are too ill to be so. As a school, our overall attendance is positive at 96.3% compared to 94.8% nationally. However we need to continue to strive for every individual child to have the highest possible levels of attendance. There should be very few children that are classed as "persistently absent" as they have an attendance level less than 90%. Please ensure your child is in school on time as often as possible. Unfortunately, term-time holidays will not be authorised.

Swimming Pool

The swimming pool has been carefully prepped and is ready to be used by children across the school from the week after half term. You will have received information about when your child is swimming and what they will need to bring with them on their swimming day. Please ensure that you have read this letter carefully so that you have all of the information that you need. This year swimming will be taught by both Mrs Shuttle and an outside swimming coach, Mr, Rowles, who has previously worked at the school.

Just a reminder that it costs around £10,000 a year to open and operate the pool and teach swimming over the second half of the summer term. There is no financial support from Hampshire County Council for this. We have politely requested a minimum donation of £15 per child to support swimming because we want to continue to enable all children to swim at school each year. At present, of the 370 children at the school we have not received any donation linked to 190 of them. If you can make a donation, please do so as otherwise we will not be able to use the swimming pool in subsequent years as we simply will not be able to afford it. Donations can be made through ScoPay and are very much appreciated thank you to those who have already contributed. We would also once again like to say thank OSB Group (One Savings Bank) who have also made a £500 contribution towards the pool funding this year.

Staffing

Miss Ellie Major will be leaving us at the end of the academic year as she moves on in her teaching career to Sparsholt Primary School to work in Key Stage One. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work, effort and dedication whilst she has been at the school and look forward to having her here for one final half term. Just before the summer holidays we will be welcoming back Mrs Aimee Curry from her maternity leave.

2025/26 Classes

After half term, we will start constructing the classes for the next academic year. As per the letter from Mr Cooil on the 19th May, if there is anything you want us to be aware of as we build the classes please ensure that you have emailed him to let him know or spoken to your child's class teacher. For children in Years 2 - 5 they will have the opportunity after half-term to choose some friends that they would like to be in a class with. You might wish to discuss this with your child in advance. They will be placed in a class with at least one of these children.