

Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

3rd April 2025
Spring 2 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,

As we reach the end of the second half of the Spring Term, I want to reflect on what has been a wonderful and productive time at the school. The past few weeks have been filled with exciting learning opportunities, enriching experiences, and lots of happy moments that make our school such a special place.

This half-term, the children have enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day, participating in a range of exciting activities for British Science Day and undertaking different live-action history workshops. Year 1/2 had a real life Great Fire of London in the playground to see how the fire spread whilst Year 3/4 prepared for and performed a wonderful Easter celebration. A parent emailed me afterwards to say thank you for the Year 3/4 performance and noting that the children are always so happy at school - which was really lovely feedback.

We have also been so proud of what the children have achieved in both sport and music. Coming third in the Hampshire Indoor Athletics finals is a real achievement, as is getting to the county netball finals. Our Spring music concert was a real success which the audience thoroughly enjoyed, The Wildern Music Festival gave a large group of children the opportunity to perform at the Berry Theatre - a great experience for them!

Year 6 have been busy preparing for their SATs assessments that will be undertaken in the first full week of May. We ensure that the children have a focused preparation time so that they are best prepared to show what they can do and do their very best. It is important that children achieve well as the outcomes indicate to secondary schools what the children should be attaining in their GCSEs. I know that in some schools the Year 6 children lose the majority of their final year to SATs but that is not the way we want to do it here. Hopefully, this gets the balance right for the children to still have a positive experience of their last year in primary school as well as being supported to attain well in their SATs.

I would like to finish by saying a huge thank you to FOBs for all of their efforts to raise money for the school in order to provide additional resources for the children at school. They have recently provided a brand new set of six picnic benches as well as a brand new set of iPads to support the children's learning. They have also provided funding for a new outdoor activity trail that we are planning and will hopefully open soon.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter with your families!

Mr. Joe Cooil
Headteacher

Dear Lord,

May I realise afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and

Your willingness to offer Yourself to me.

In Jesus' Name, 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 listed below who were chosen by their teachers to be the winner of the Headteacher Award for the first half of the Spring term this year. These are children that have really impressed their teachers with their levels of effort and how well they follow our school values of **Determination, Stewardship and Courage**. Well done to all of you. The winners were as follows:

Wilfred (Dragonfly), Tommy (Bumblebee), Jessica (Robin), Clara (Butterfly), (Ladybird), Max (Kingfisher), Sophie (Fox), Rhett (Otter), Kian (Badger), Eli (Deer), Aelyana (Hedgehog), Darcie-Rose (Rabbit), Bethea (Woodpecker) and Freya (Eagle). Congratulations to you all and thank you for living our school heart values!

2025/2026 School Structure

Next year we will continue our journey back down to a 1.5 form entry Primary School with an intake of 45. This is our correct Pupil Admission Number, which is lower than the 60 we had joining the school in some previous years when there were not enough school places within the local area. As a result we will have two smaller Year R classes and we will continue with mixed Year 1/2 classes in Key Stage One. Year 3 will be a smaller cohort that cannot exceed 48 children (currently 44) and will remain separate before becoming mixed again in 2026/27. Next year Years 4, 5 and 6 will continue as individual year groups. Whilst Year 4 will be full there will be spaces for new children in both Year 5 and 6. It is important to remember that children from this school that live in the shared Deer Park and Wildern catchment area transition directly to Deer Park. If you know anybody locally looking for a school for their children in a year group in which we have space (and would like their child to go to Deer Park) please encourage them to contact us and come and have a look around.

Swimming Pool

We are continuing to prepare the swimming pool for use in the second half of the Summer term. We are very fortunate to be able to offer all of the children the opportunity to swim as part of their curriculum time for six or seven weeks every year. In most schools there is only one half-term swimming unit once during a child's entire time at primary school.

This year we have had to purchase and fit a brand new cover for the pool after damage sustained in one of the storms last winter. It costs around £10,000 a year to open and operate the pool and teach swimming and there is no financial support from Hampshire County Council for this. Therefore, may I politely remind parents that if you are able to make the voluntary minimum donation of £15 it supports the school and is very much appreciated. I would also like to thank OSB Group (One Savings Bank) who have also made a £500 contribution towards the pool funding this year.

Staffing

Very sadly Mrs Gracie Turner has left her role as an LSA at the school this week. She has worked at the school for several years within different year groups and has worked particularly with children on developing their speech and language and on their physical development - areas in which she has a great deal of expertise. She will be very much missed and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her hard work and effort and to wish her the best of luck for the future.

Parental Football

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 by email (j.cooil@botley.hants.sch.uk) or just come along to give it a go!