

Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

13th February 2025
Spring 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,

We are now half way through the academic year and if your child is in Year 3 they are now half-way through their time in primary school! Once again the academic year has gone extremely quickly and it will be the summer holidays before we know it!

It has been an incredibly busy half-term, filled with exciting learning experiences and memorable moments for the children. Year 5/6 started their thematic unit by "flying" to Peru whilst Year 3/4 got to undertake a visit to Winchester Cathedral. Year R have had a visit from the Bug Man and had their monster day whilst Year 1/2 have loved building castles and discovering the Golden Eggs around the school!

We have also continued to have a range of opportunities for children to represent the school in sport having had teams participating in netball, hockey, cross country and indoor athletics. In total over one hundred children have participated in these various events. We have qualified for indoor athletics county finals and have eight children qualified for the county cross country final. We are also really looking forward to our talented musicians participating in a music concert in the school hall next half-term. We will be fortunate enough to be able to hear the singing squad perform as well as pianists, recorder players and ukuleles too.

Mid-Year Progress Summaries for your children will be coming out to you after

half term. Please remember these will be downloadable from Arbor so ensure you are signed up to the App well in advance. 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. Part of these reports will be to identify what your children need to focus on in order to continue to make progress. If you are able to support your child at home in these areas then it will help them hugely.

We 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 a brilliant opportunity for the children and we are so pleased that the school is able to offer this to every child. As there is 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.

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

- ◆ ~~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

As always, at the end of the last half-term, each teacher chose a child who had impressed them with a particular focus on our school Christian heart values of courage, stewardship and respect to be awarded with the coveted Headteacher Award. The winners were as follows: Imogen (Dragonfly), Elsie (Bumblebee), Grace (Robin), Ava (Butterfly), Hugo (Kingfisher), Olivia (Fox), Arya (Otter), Levi (Badger), Olivia (Deer), Harry (Hedgehog), Jude (Rabbit), Noah (Woodpecker) and Reuben (Eagle).

Congratulations to all of these children!

Safeguarding

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.

Smartphone Free Childhood Movement

A movement that is gaining some traction at the moment and one that has been discussed by local cluster Headteachers is the Smartphone Free Childhood. This community of over 150,000 parents was founded a year ago after a WhatsApp group went viral. The website states that "We've made it our mission to provide solidarity, support and solutions to parents struggling with what's become one of the defining parenting challenges of our time." The website provides lots of information and may be of interest to parents. As a school, we have certainly seen an increase in issues linked to smartphone use. <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

INSET Days 2025/26

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

- Wednesday 3rd September 2025
- Monday 3rd November 2025
- Friday 13th February 2026
- Friday 27th March 2026
- Monday 22nd June 2026

This means that the school year will begin on Thursday 4th September 2025 and will finish on Wednesday 22nd July 2026. 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.