

Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

18th December 2024
Autumn 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,

I want to start by saying 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.

The build up to Christmas in a primary school is always very exciting and this year has been no exception. We hope anyone who came to the Christmas grotto enjoyed it and thanks to the FOBs team for putting together a wonderful experience for the children that attended. The Christmas Present Sales were also a big hit this year and I know you will find some fantastic gifts from your children under the tree on the 25th December! It was lovely to see the children taking such care in selecting gifts for their loved ones from the fantastic selection that was available to them. I think it is amazing that Carys and the other members of FOBs are able to find so many presents that they can sell for just £2. The Christmas raffle was also a huge success - well done to everybody who won a prize!

Our Christmas festivities will be completed during the rest of this week with our Lower and Upper school Christmas lunches

(drinks and crackers paid for by FOBs) and various Christmas parties for each year group. We cannot wait to all come together at the church on Friday morning to enjoy our Christmas service. This will enable us to celebrate Christmas with a range of musical performances and as a Church of England school that opportunity to be as one in the church is always very special. All family members are very welcome to join us but it is often a popular event so standing room only unfortunately.

We recently received some information regarding Christmas presents for children and how to watch out for those gifts that may be dangerous or cause harm. Please see the link below to the information from the Child Accident Prevention Trust:
<https://capt.org.uk/8-dangerous-gifts-to-avoid-this-christmas/>

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.

I hope you have a very enjoyable Christmas with your family and friends and are very much looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year on Monday the 6th January (there is no INSET at the start of the new term).

Mr. Joe Cooil

Headteacher

Dear Father in Heaven,

Thank You for giving us the gift of Jesus, the greatest Christmas gift of all. Please help us to remember why we celebrate, even as we eat Christmas Pudding and open presents. We are thankful for the real reason for the season and, without Jesus, we wouldn't have Christmas!

We love You and thank You for giving us this 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)

School Staff

Sadly we are saying goodbye to Mrs Lisa Maxted who will be leaving her role as a Learning Support Assistant at the school on Friday. We would like to wish her the best of luck for the future and thank her for all of her work and effort during her time working at the school.

We currently have an advert out for a role as an LSA at the school on the Hampshire Education Jobs website. If you or anyone else you know is interested in this role, then please have a look and let us know.

<https://south.education-jobs.org.uk/jobs/job/Learning-Support-Assistant-initially-until-August-2025/3195>

Singing Squad

We are so proud of our Singing Squad who have performed on a number of occasions over the last term. They have represented the school by singing to local members of the older generation in their care home close to the school, at the church and at several other events including the Autumn Fayre and the Boorley Christmas celebration last weekend. Singing Squad is open to children from Year 3 upwards and runs on a Monday after school. Thank you to Mrs Carroll for organising this club and running it alongside parental volunteer Lauren Rees. She kindly gives up her time each week and her role as a secondary school music teacher means she is a real expert and has supported the children to really develop. Contact the school office to enquire about places for next term.

Reminders for 2025

- 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.
- 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 remember that the car park is for staff use only in the interests of safety.
- Please ensure that your child's lunch account is in credit before a lunch is ordered.
- Please ensure that your children have 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.

Headteacher's Awards

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:

Ethan (Dragonfly), Franklin (Bumblebee), Rainy-Rae (Robin), Kailia (Butterfly), Martha (Kingfisher), Neave (Fox), Josie (Otter), Felicity (Badger), Lillie-Mae (Deer), Florence (Hedgehog), Sofia (Rabbit), Samuel (Woodpecker) and Harriet (Eagle). Congratulations to all of these children! We look forward to discovering our Autumn 2 winners after the Christmas holidays.

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 or just come along to give it a go.