

# Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

25<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
Autumn 1 2024/25

Headteacher: Mr Joe Cooil  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Shuttle



## This Year's INSET Dates

- ◆ ~~2<sup>nd</sup> September~~
- ◆ 4<sup>th</sup> November
- ◆ 14<sup>th</sup> February
- ◆ 4<sup>th</sup> April
- ◆ 23<sup>rd</sup> June

## Term Dates

- ◆ Last Day of Autumn 1: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October
- ◆ First Day of Autumn 2: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November
- ◆ Last Day of Autumn 2: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December
- ◆ First Day of Spring 1: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January
- ◆ Last Day of Spring 1: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February
- ◆ First Day of Spring 2: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February
- ◆ Last Day of Spring 2: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- ◆ First Day of Summer 1: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April
- ◆ Last Day of Summer 1: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May
- ◆ First Day of Summer 2: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June
- ◆ Last Day of Summer 2: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. They have certainly made a good start and impressed all of us and we continue to be proud of the calm and purposeful atmosphere that we have within the school that enables the teachers to teach and the children to learn.

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 in full time education. They have all settled in well and are showing strong learning behaviours - which is great to see! I am sure that they will all have a happy and enjoyable time at the school. We have also had quite a few new children joining us in Key Stage Two and it has been brilliant to see how well they have adopted our school values and bought into our ethos.

Already this year both Year 5 and Year 6 have been on residential trips and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to undertake some different types of learning activities and develop their skills in working as part of a team and taking on challenges. The opportunity to stay away from home on residential, with their friends from school, is a brilliant opportunity for the children and we are fortunate that we have staff from multiple year groups (as well as

volunteers) who are happy to attend in order to provide these opportunities for the children. I am very aware that these trips are not cheap for you as parents but the children do get a huge amount from them.

After half term, we will begin our open mornings for parents of children starting Year R in September 2025. Last year, less than 50% of our available spaces were filled with children from within our catchment. This is because our catchment area has repeatedly been decreased in recent years due to new developments being built with new schools. It is of course absolutely vital for the school as a whole that we have a full intake and locally, outside of Boorley Park which had too many catchment children apply for the spaces available, there were in-catchment spaces in all schools. If you know anybody who is looking at school's for their children in September 2025 please suggest that they come and have a look at us. We are confident that when we get parents in the building they recognise the nurturing, inclusive and caring ethos that we have and come away with positive views. We also continue to have spaces in Year 4 and 5 and feed directly into Deer Park, making us a good choice for parents who wish their child to attend this school.

Have a great half-term!

*Mr. Joe Cooil*

### A Prayer for the New School Year

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.  
Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.  
Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new year brings.  
Open our hearts and minds to new friends and new teachers.  
Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our learning.  
Jesus, inspire us all to do our very best this year!

### Important Dates

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

### School Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome the new members of staff here at Botley C of E Primary School for this academic year. Miss Molly Cross has joined us as a new teacher in Year 5 and has settled in really well. Miss Sophie French has joined us as an LSA in Year 1/2 and after half term Miss Hayley Dominy and Mrs Christine Aindow will also be joining us in this capacity. Mrs Aimee Curry began her maternity leave earlier this half-term and we are pleased to inform you has had a little boy called Mason. Mother and son are both doing really well.

### Safeguarding

At this school, we have a very strong safeguarding culture. All staff know that safeguarding is the most important thing we do, that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone and we have an 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.

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](mailto:j.cooil@botley.hants.sch.uk)

Deputy DSL - Mrs Rebecca Shuttle: [r.shuttle@botley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:r.shuttle@botley.hants.sch.uk)

If you ever have any safeguarding concerns, please ensure you contact us immediately.

### School Uniform and PE Kit

It is really pleasing to see so many parents ensuring that their children are following the updated school uniform policy even though this is a transition year. Every single day so many of the children come into school looking smart and ready to learn. Just a reminder that all children in Key Stage Two should be wearing buttoned shirts and ties after half term unless it has been agreed with a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team that this does not need to be the case because of their specific needs. This is an element of the policy that has not changed so does not fall under the transition arrangement. Under the new policy this is the same for Key Stage One children, although this does fall under the transition arrangement this year. Reception should continue to wear polo shirts. Tie ties are still available from the school office but elasticated ties now need to be purchased from Skoolkit.

#### Headteacher's Awards

At the end of the last academic year, each teacher chose a child who had particularly impressed them during the second half of the summer term to be awarded with the coveted Headteacher Award.

The winners were as follows:

Harry S (Dragonfly), Rueben-George W (Bumblebee), Freddy R (Robin), Emily S (Butterfly), Maxim S (Ladybird), Cleo (Kingfisher), Penny F (Fox), (Otter), Elodie B (Deer), Noah R (Hedgehog), Evie C (Rabbit), Martha B (Badger), Henry P (Woodpecker) and George B (Eagle).

Congratulations to all of these children!

#### 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 ([j.cooil@botley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:j.cooil@botley.hants.sch.uk)) for further information.