

Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

25th March 2026
Spring 2 2025/26

Headteacher: Mr Joe Cooil
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Shuttle



This Year's INSET Dates

- ◆ 3rd September
- ◆ 3rd November
- ◆ 13th February
- ◆ 27th March
- ◆ 22nd June

Term Dates

- ◆ Last Day of Autumn 1: Friday 24th October
- ◆ First Day of Autumn 2: Tuesday 5th November
- ◆ Last Day of Autumn 2: Friday 19th December
- ◆ First Day of Spring 1: Monday 5th January
- ◆ Last Day of Spring 1: Thursday 12th February
- ◆ First Day of Spring 2: Monday 23rd February
- ◆ Last Day of Spring 2: Thursday 26th March
- ◆ First Day of Summer 1: Monday 13th April
- ◆ Last Day of Summer 1: Friday 22nd May
- ◆ First Day of Summer 2: Monday 1st June
- ◆ Last Day of Summer 2: Wednesday 22nd July (1.15pm finish)

Headteacher's News

Dear Parents,

It has been a short half-term, but one that has been filled with many amazing achievements by the children and left us with much to celebrate.

In the field of performing arts, the children have excelled by producing a wonderful Easter production in Year 3/4, representing the school wonderfully at the Wildern Music Festival and in performing at our Spring Music Concert. It is fantastic to see so many children shining in their performances and they are obviously putting in a huge amount of hard work and effort to develop their skills. A huge thank you must also go to all of the staff and volunteers involved in helping to foster this love of performing and inspire the children in all of the various areas.

It has also been a half-term of sporting success with our indoor athletes participating in the County Finals and coming in fourth place overall - a wonderful achievement!

This half-term, the children have enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day and participating in a range of exciting activities for British Science Day. The weather has also finally begun to be much better and this has enabled us to start getting into the school gardens. The daffodils have looked absolutely stunning this year and the gardens remain a beautiful addition to our school.

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.

Please remember that after the Easter holidays, we will be moving to our summer uniform for all children. See the website for more information.

We will be finishing the term with our traditional Easter service over at All Saint's Church. Please feel free to come and participate at 9:30am and if you have children in younger year groups and are able to help get the children across to the church that would be very much appreciated. 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

- ◆ 6th October
Individual Photos
- ◆ 6th/8th October
New Teacher Meetings
- ◆ 9th October
Harvest Festival (All Saints' Church 9:30am)
- ◆ 13th October
Year 6 Residential (4 nights)
- ◆ 24th November
Year 5 Residential (2 nights)
- ◆ 9th / 10th December
Year R Christmas Performance
(2:00pm and 6:00pm)
- ◆ 16th / 17th December
Year 1/2 Christmas Performance
(2:00pm and 6:00pm)
- ◆ 18th December
Christmas Service (All Saints' Church 1:30pm)
- ◆ 25th February
Sibling Photographs
- ◆ 27th February
Mid-Year Achievement Summaries to Parents
- ◆ 3rd / 4th March
Parents Evening (3.30-6.00pm)
- ◆ 23rd / 24th March
Year 3/4 Easter Celebration
(2:00pm)
- ◆ 26th March
Easter Service (All Saints' Church 9:30am)
- ◆ 6th May
Class Photos
- ◆ 11th May
Year 6 SATs Week
- ◆ 1st June
Swimming Lessons start
- ◆ 1st June
Year 4 Multiplication Check Window
- ◆ 17th June (Reserve Date 24th June)
Lower School Sports Day (9:30am/1:00pm)
- ◆ 18th June (Reserve Date 23rd June)
Upper School Sports Day (12:30pm)
- ◆ 7th / 8th July
Year 5/6 Performance
(2:00pm and 6:00pm)
- ◆ 10th July
End of Year Reports to Parents
- ◆ 14th July
End of Year Open Classroom
- ◆ 15th July
Sports Presentation Evening
- ◆ 22nd July
Leavers Service (All Saints' Church 9:30am)

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.

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.

2026/27 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 and Year 4 will also be a mixed year group next year whilst Year 5 and Year 6 will continue as individual year groups. There will be three additional spaces in next year's Year 3 as that cohort moves into Key Stage Two and Year 6 continues to have spaces. 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.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please ensure you have signed your child up for extra-curricular clubs for after Easter if they would like to participate. There have been some changes to the available clubs and the new clubs introduced this half-term will continue to operate. There are spaces in cricket, girl's football and dodgeball as well as Lego and art club. Mr Ayres is adding archery and darts to this term and an extra athletics session. Information about clubs is available on the school website using the link below.

<https://www.botley.hants.sch.uk/extra-curricular-activities/>

Headteacher's Awards Spring 1

The winners of the Headteacher's Award for the first half of the Spring term are shown below. Well done to all of these children for showing our school values so well each and every day in school, for being wonderful role-models to others and impressing everyone with their attitude and effort.

Emilia (Dragonfly), Mabel (Bumblebee), Thomas (Robin), Lola (Butterfly), Olivia (Kingfisher), Joseph (Fox), Austin (Otter), Eleanor (Badger), Rose (Deer), Levi (Hedgehog), Finleigh (Rabbit), Sofia (Woodpecker) and Erin (Eagle).

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.

INSET Days 2026/27

A reminder of the INSET Days that have been agreed by the school's Governing Body for the next academic year: Tuesday 1st September 2026, Monday 2nd November 2026, Friday 12th February 2027, Thursday 25th March 2027, Friday 25th June 2027.