

Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

22nd May 2026
Summer 1 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,

Firstly, a huge well done all of the Year 6 children who worked exceptionally hard to complete their SATs during the week beginning the 11th May. These are the statutory assessments that the school is required to undertake with all Year 6 children every year - alongside every other school in the country. This cohort of children had a very positive attitude and were all striving to do the best that they could do - which is all we can possibly ask. We try to have a middle ground when it comes to SATs, taking a block of time to prepare the children so they are in a strong position to show what they can do but not losing all of Year 6 to SATs preparations.

The Year 6s will now have a range of exciting events to look forward to during their final half term here before they move onto their secondary education. This includes our Leavers services at both Portsmouth Cathedral and All Saints' Church, Leavers Picnic, Pool Party and of course our end of Year Production - which this year will be Madagascar. There will also be a few other surprises coming. You may have recently noticed Year 6 children are now wearing their leaver's hoodies, which they are now able to use as part of their school uniform.

One of highlights for me personally every year is the sports days and these will be coming up soon! All children get the

opportunity to compete and represent their House. If you are able to, please do come along and see your children participate. It will be a bit different this year as we have changed the position of the running track. Hopefully this will be a positive change but in my twenty-two years at the school this is the first time I have seen the running track in a different position so I have to say I am a little nervous regarding this change!

As you have previously been informed, we found out very late that the intake for next September would be 60 rather than 45. Increasing the numbers in the school and the intake each year will be hugely beneficial for all of the children. This is because of the per-pupil funding which financially will support us to further develop and enhance the provision for the children here at the school.

As we move towards the warmer months the school gardens will develop into a spectacular burst of colour. Every summer we have a huge amount of butterflies, bees and other creatures calling this area home. You are always welcome to have a look around the school gardens at collection time to really appreciate their beauty.

I hope you all have a lovely half-term break and bank holiday weekend enjoying the wonderful weather that is forecast.

Mr. Joe Cooil
Headteacher

*Father, we thank thee for the night, and for the pleasant morning light;
For rest and food and loving care, and all that makes the day so fair.
Help us to do the things we should, to be to others kind and good.
In all we do, in work or play, to grow more loving every day.
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

The swimming pool has been carefully prepped and is ready to be used by children across the school from the week after half term. There will unfortunately be a very slight delay as training needed to be rebooked but this is scheduled for the first few days after half term. You will have received information about when your child is swimming and what they will need to bring with them on their swimming day. Please ensure that you have read this letter carefully so that you have all of the information that you need.

Just a reminder that it costs around £10,000 a year to open and operate the pool and teach swimming over the second half of the summer term. There is no financial support from Hampshire County Council for this. We have politely requested a minimum donation of £15 per child to support swimming because we want to continue to enable all children to swim at school each year. At present, we have raised 60% of the target sum. Thank you if you have contributed - it is appreciated. If you are able to make a donation that would be fantastic. Donations can be made through Arbor and are very much appreciated thank you to those who have already contributed. We would also once again like to say thank OSB Group (One Savings Bank) who have also made a £500 contribution towards the pool funding this year.

Attendance

As I am sure all parents are aware, having good levels of attendance is absolutely vital in supporting children at school, both with their learning and with their social development. Children should be in school unless they are too ill to be so. As a school, our overall attendance is positive at 96.4% compared to 94.9% nationally. However, we need to continue to strive for every individual child to have the highest possible levels of attendance. There should be very few children that are classed as "persistently absent" as they have an attendance level less than 90%. Please ensure your child is in school on time as often as possible. Unfortunately, term-time holidays will not be authorised.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please ensure you have signed your child up for extra-curricular clubs for after the half-term break if they would like to participate. There have been some changes to the available clubs from last half-term. Rather than just a cricket club on a Monday morning there will now be a cricket/rounders club operated by Mr Ayres. A new running games club will be running on a Friday. Many more opportunities have now also been opened up for Year R children. Information about clubs is available on the school website using this link: <https://www.botley.hants.sch.uk/extra-curricular-activities/>

Headteacher's Awards Spring 2

The winners of the Headteacher's Award for the second 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 super role-models and impressing everyone with their attitude and effort.

Aurora-Mae (Dragonfly), Joshua (Bumblebee), Teddy (Robin), Jenson (Butterfly), Toby (Kingfisher), Matthew (Fox), Evan (Otter), Huxley (Badger), Boux (Deer), Jake (Hedgehog), Charli (Rabbit), Harry (Woodpecker) and Elodie (Eagle).

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.

Hot Weather

Please ensure your child has a hat for warm lunchtimes on the field next half-term. They may also bring sunglasses to school and should have sun cream applied in the morning before school. It is vital that all children come to school with a water bottle.