

Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

21st July 2026
Summer 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,

I have now completed twenty-two years as a teacher in total and this was my thirteenth as a Headteacher (all spent at Botley!). Every year has always seemed to go very quickly, but I have to say this year has gone quicker than any of the other (very many) academic years I have known. It seems like only a few weeks ago that we were welcoming the children back to school last September!

Whilst we are of course very much looking forward to the summer break and the exciting changes that will be coming up as children move year groups, class, teachers and even schools it is also of course a sad time too as we say goodbye to members of our school community that are leaving us. We wish the best of luck for the future to all of the Year 6 children as they head off on the next step of their education and their exciting adventure to secondary school. They have been prepared well for the challenges ahead and we hope that they are in a position to make the very best of all of the opportunities that they will have presented to them. I hope that they will look back on their time at Botley with many happy memories. As I said in my letter last week, they achieved extremely well in their SATs with the school's figures significantly higher than those nationally. They also worked so hard on putting on a wonderful end of year production of Madagascar. Thank you to all of the children - and of course the staff - who

put so much time, effort and energy into the production. I hope that you really enjoyed it if you came to see it.

We are also saying farewell to a number of members of staff. HLTA, Mrs Sharon Sinclair is moving to Whiteley Primary School to teach French - thank you to her for all of her hard work over the year at the school. Year 5 teacher, Miss Molly Cross is also leaving us for a short while before returning to the school to cover Mrs Lahive's maternity leave next term. Also returning will be Mrs Rubens from her maternity leave in September to teach in Year 6. Mrs Esther Parker has also been appointed internally to the role of HLTA.

What an amazing year it has been for FOBs! They have put on so many brilliant events and raised significant funds for our school. We are incredibly fortunate to have such an active and well-run PTA, which benefits not only the school but also enhances the children's experiences, providing additional resources that enrich their curriculum and learning. I know we are, as ever, looking for additional support for FOBs to help them throughout the year. It has been suggested that we look for additional grandparent support rather than just parent support. If you know someone who would be interested then please let FOBs know.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful summer. I hope you and all your families have a lovely break.

Mr. Joe Cooil - Headteacher

Dear Lord,

We put ourselves into Your hands, and pray that You will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer.

May we all help make our home a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety.

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
Glass 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)

This Year's School Attendance

As we come to the end of the school year the overall attendance here at Botley is 95.9%. This compares favorably to the national primary school figure of 94.9%, but is below our annual target. It has been disappointing that attendance has really decreased in the last few weeks of term. The percentage of children who are classed as persistently absent - less than 90% - sits at 7.1%. Again, this is lower than the national school primary school figure of 13.2%. However, this remains higher than we would like as a school. The school figure for unauthorised attendance this year at this school is 1.2% compared to the national figure of 1.4%.

Congratulations to the thirty-seven children (10.1%) at the school who have 100% attendance for the whole year and the additional forty children who have 99% attendance. It is important that all parents strive to ensure that their children miss as little school as possible. Every missed day at school will impact upon a child's learning and development and impact upon their outcomes.

2025-26 House Competitions

The table below shows how each of the houses did in this year's sports days and the overall house points competition.

	Fire	Earth	Air	Water
Year R Sports Day	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st
Year 1/2 Sports Day	3 rd	1 st	2 nd	4 th
KS2 Sports Day	3 rd	2 nd	1 st	4 th
House Points	2 nd	4 th	3 rd	1 st

Summer Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to all of the children listed below who were chosen by their teachers to be the winner of the Headteacher Award for the first half of the summer term and those chosen for the second half of the term and given their awards just yesterday. These are children that have been showing all of our school values of **Courage**, **Stewardship** and **Respect on a consistent basis**. Well done to all of you. The winners in each class were as follows:

Dragonfly: Freya and Jesse Bumblebee: Alex and Beatrice
 Robin: Isla and Tristan Butterfly: Gracie and Oliver Kingfisher: Louis and Hallie
 Fox: Ella and Mason Otter: Alex and Neave Deer: Ruby and Ronnie
 Badger: Noah and Cody Rabbit: April and Kian Hedgehog: Isaac and Olivia
 Woodpecker: Scarlett and Hugo Eagle: Ben and Ariana

Uniform - Ties, Ties, Ties!

Please remember that in line with our School Uniform Policy, children should return after the summer holidays in our standard school uniform, which includes a button up shirt and tie. Ties that need to be tied are available from the school office and elasticated ties from Skoolkit. Children in Year R in September will be able to wear a polo and no tie is required. If your child is in Years 1-6 in September they should only have a variation on our standard uniform if this has been discussed and agreed by a member of the school's Senior Leadership team. Thank you.

2026/27 INSET Days

As a reminder, please see below the INSET dates for next year.

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Monday 2nd November 2026
- Friday 12th February 2027
- Thursday 25th March 2027
- Friday 25th June 2027

The children will return to school on Wednesday the 2nd September 2026.

Summer Swimming

A reminder that the swimming pool will be open on Thursday the 23rd and Friday 24th July for swimming sessions. Please book a slot at drop off or collection on the school gate or come on up on the day to swim. Sessions cost £5 and all money raised will go directly to funding improvements to the pool. Sessions run from 10:00am, 10:45am, 11:30am and 12:15pm. Refreshments will also be available.