Botley C of E Primary School Newsletter

23rd October 2026
Autumn 1 2026/27

Headteacher: Mr Joe Cooil
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Shuttle

This Year's INSET Dates

- ~~1st September~~
- 2nd November
- 12th February
- 25th March
- 25th June

Term Dates

- Last Day of Autumn 1: Friday 23rd October
- First Day of Autumn 2: Tuesday 3rd November
- Last Day of Autumn 2: Friday 18th December
- First Day of Spring 1: Monday 4th January
- Last Day of Spring 1: Thursday 11th February
- First Day of Spring 2: Monday 23rd February
- Last Day of Spring 2: Thursday 24th March
- First Day of Summer 1: Tuesday 12th April
- Last Day of Summer 1: Friday 28th May
- First Day of Summer 2: Monday 7th June
- Last Day of Summer 2: Wednesday 21st July (1.15pm finish)

Headteacher's News

Dear Parents,

I hope that all of your children have settled in well to the new school year over this half-term. I hope that they have really enjoyed getting to know their new classmates, teachers and the other adults who they will be working with during the year.

I want to say a huge well done to all of the children in Reception who have all made a very positive start to their time at the school. They have settled in well to the routines and have already shown a real development in terms of their learning behaviours and impressed all of the staff with their progress so far.

There has been lots of exciting activities going on in the school across these first few weeks. Many of the Year 6 children have undertaken their residential trip to Windmill Hill and the whole of Year 5/6 have been to Paultons Park to experience first-hand the forces of fairground rides. We also had the storyteller visit who worked with children across the school and a PSHE workshop for Years 3, 4 and 5. Year 3/4 also dressed up for their Potions Day. Year R children enjoyed the opportunity to "snuggle up and read" earlier this week.

There are even more exciting opportunities lined up for the children over the rest of the year, including in the first week back after the half-term break!

May I please take the opportunity to remind parents of the vital importance of regular attendance at school. Unless there is a very good reason then your child should be in school, on time, every day. Please remember that legally getting children into school is a parental responsibility.

I would just like to remind you that our open mornings continue. Please let any friends and family members who live locally and have children who need a school place know we are showing parents around for next September.

We would like to say a huge good luck to Mrs Lahive as she starts her maternity leave today. I am sure she will have a wonderful time being a mum for the first time and we cannot wait to hear all about her new baby soon! Miss Cross, who has previously worked at the school, will be returning after half term to take over in Hedgehog Class. We have welcomed two new LSAs to the school since the start of the year Mrs Battle and Miss Fryett. We were sad that Miss Littler left her role as an LSA at the beginning of this year and we thank her for all of her effort and hard work during her time at the school and wish her all the best for the future.

Have a great half-term and thanks for your ongoing support for the school.

Mr. Joe Cooil

Headteacher

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.

Important Dates

- ~~5th October~~
  ~~Individual Photos~~
- ~~9th October~~
  ~~Harvest Festival (All Saints' Church 9:30am)~~
- ~~13th/14th October~~
  ~~Parent Teacher Meetings~~
- ~~19th October~~
  ~~Year 6 Residential (4 nights)~~
- 25th November
  Year 5 Residential
- 1st December
  Year R Christmas Performance
  (9:15am and 2:00pm)
- 8th December
  Year 1/2 Christmas Performance
  (9:15am and 2:00pm)
- 18th December
  Christmas Service (All Saints' Church 1:30pm)
- 24th February
  Sibling Photographs
- 26th February
  Mid-Year Achievement Summaries to Parents
- 2nd / 3rd March
  Parent Teacher Meetings (3.30-6.00pm)
- 23rd March
  Year 3/4 Easter Celebration
  (9:15am and 2:00pm)
- 24th March
  Easter Service (All Saints' Church 9:30am)
- 5th May
  Class Photos
- 10th May
  Year 6 SATs Week
- 7th June
  Swimming Lessons start
- 7th June
  Year 4 Multiplication Check Window
- 23rd June (Reserve Date 30th June)
  Lower School Sports Day (9:30am/1:00pm)
- 24th June (Reserve Date 1st July)
  Upper School Sports Day (12:30pm)
- 6th / 7th July
  Year 5/6 Performance
  (2:00pm and 2:00pm and 6:00pm)
- 9th July
  End of Year Reports to Parents
- 13th July
  End of Year Open Classroom
- 14th July
  Sports Presentation Evening
- 21st July
  Leavers Service (All Saints' Church 9:30am)

School Uniform

Just a polite reminder that all children in Years 1-6 should be wearing as school tie unless it has been agreed with a member of the School's Senior Leadership Team. In addition, children should be in appropriate black school shoes and PE kits need to be in school at all times. Thank you.

Safeguarding

We have focus on having a very strong safeguarding culture at this school. All staff know that safeguarding is the most important thing we do, that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone and we have the 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. This is important because the children are our number one priority.

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 the email address below or see the relevant section on the website. If you ever have any safeguarding concerns, please ensure you contact us immediately.
safeguarding@botley.hants.sch.uk

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school is Mr Cooil, whilst the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Shuttle.

We recently invited Hampshire County Council into school to audit our Safeguarding provision. This was extremely positive and they found that we were meeting all of the requirements and that we have a huge amount in place to keep children safe. There were a couple of small suggestions to make things even stronger and as such you might see some minor changes over the next month or so for example on the safeguarding section of the school website.

Heavenly Father,
As the seasons turn and autumn's colours fill our days,
we thank You for the beauty of Your creation
and for the harvest of learning, friendship, and kindness in our school community.
Bless our pupils, staff, and families with peace and patience
as we continue our journey through this term.
Help us to see Your light in one another,
to care for those in need,
and to use our gifts to make the world a little brighter.
May we find joy in our work,
hope in our challenges,
and gratitude in all that we share together.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS: Please ensure you have signed up for clubs for after half-term if your child would like to participate. Information about clubs is available on the school website. Thank you.