

Botley School



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the half term break. I hope you all had a wonderful relaxing week. I also hope that you had some lovely poetry recitals at home as the pupils were getting ready for our first ever 'Poetry Slam' competition. The pupils have all been working really hard on learning and memorising poems to take part in the class heats this week, and the school corridors have echoed with cheers and applause as each child performed for their class. The winners for each class performed their poems in our poetry week assembly today, starting with our winner from Ladybirds class, through to our winner from Year 6 Cypress class. We were then treated to a recital of a whole class poem from each class including classic nursery rhymes such as '1 2 3 4 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive' to stirring poems about Roman soldiers and classics such as 'The Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll.



Ladybird class have been learning about firefighters this week and had a special visit from some of our Oxfordshire fire service with their fire engine on Wednesday. The children spent time exploring the fire engine, the different tools and equipment. The fire fighters shared the 'spreaders' and 'cutters' that are used to cut cars and release people. They looked at the different hoses and were very lucky and had a go at using the hose to shoot water across the playground at the cones. This was great fun! The children got to sit in the fire engine, and the fire fighters showed us the sirens and lights which they loved! At the end of the session, they said goodbye and watched the fire fighters drive out of our school car park. There were many comments of 'this is amazing!' 'Wow' which was great to hear. They were also able to tell me all about it in our learning time on Thursday morning when I had the joy of teaching in Ladybird class. They had clearly taken on a lot of information and had a fantastic time.



On Tuesday, students from Year 5 and 6 took part in an exciting maths tournament at Matthew Arnold School. The event involved a series of challenging problem-solving and reasoning activities that really put their mathematical thinking to the test. Our pupils showed fantastic resilience, teamwork, and determination throughout the competition and represented Botley School brilliantly. We are very proud of how well they performed!



Next week is an important week for our free school breakfast club, as our funding depends on the number of pupils who use the service next week. The more pupils who come to the free breakfast club, the more funding we will receive! There will be an extra scrummy breakfast to tempt you next week, so why not take advantage of the offer and help the school receive more funding at the same time!

Finally – don't forget to purchase tickets for next Friday's Firework Evening at Botley – It is always such a fantastic evening and well worth buying your tickets in advance as last year we did have to turn some people away once we had hit our capacity!

Have a fantastic weekend
Mrs Reid

Upcoming Events

- 14 Nov** – FOBS Fireworks
- 17-21 Nov** – Yr 6 Residential
- 19 Nov** – Prospective Parent Tour
- 21 Nov** – Yr 4 trip to Chedworth
- 27 Nov** – Yr 3 trip Ashmolean
- 11 Dec** – EYFS Christmas stay and play 9:15
- 11 Dec** – KS1 performance 4:00
- 12 Dec** – prospective Parent tour
- 12 Dec** – Workshare
- 17 Dec** – Xmas lunch/party day
- 19 Dec** – Christmas Assembly 9:15

FOBS Fireworks – next Friday!

Tickets are available on ParentPay until Thursday, and are cheaper in advance than on the door. Last year tickets sold out so don't leave it too late! Feel free to invite friends and family – they can buy tickets from Botley Library.

FOBS also needs lots of volunteers to help at the event. Please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/iSUJTXb> if you can help.

Please help us to recycle as much as possible at the event by putting your rubbish in the right bins/bags.

FOBS WhatsApp group

Friends of Botley School has a WhatsApp group to communicate about events and opportunities to volunteer. All parents/carers are part of FOBS and it would be great to build up the WhatsApp group. If you would like to join it, please email fobs1930@gmail.com or let the school office know.

Free breakfast club

It's working well without a weekly booking form so we will continue this – there is no need to book, children can arrive from 8am and will be registered on arrival. (You do still need to book for the paid club for arrivals before 8am).

There are lots of benefits to coming, for pupils and parents:

- A nutritious breakfast
- An inclusive, safe and fun space
- Impact on wellbeing and learning
- 30 mins free childcare
- Help with cost of living pressures.

It would be especially good to boost numbers this week (10-14 November) so if you are thinking of trying the club, come along then! Mrs Guilfooy has bought extra waffles and croissants 😊

Lights, camera, action!

We're excited that we will soon be making a school film for our website. This is not something we've been able to do up until now due to costs, but happily Kier's communications team have agreed to make a film for us for free, as part of them giving back to the Botley community. It won't need to mention Kier, it's purely to showcase the school and help us to attract more families.

We are busy planning the content and there will be a day of filming in April. We would love to include as many pupils as possible in the filming, and we think they will enjoy it. We have video permission already for most pupils. For those where we don't, we will be contacting parents soon to see if you would like to give permission for your child to be part of this specific video activity.

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

To apply for 'Free School Meals' and pupil premium, please download the application form using the link below. If your child is in KS1, they will get a free meal anyway, but please still complete the form if you are eligible, as this also then provides additional funding for the school to use in other ways. If you are not sure if your family is eligible, please do speak to the wonderful office staff or Mrs Yasin, who will be able to help you.

[Free School Meals application form](#)

Term Dates 2025-2026

Term 1

Thursday 4th Sept 2025 –
Fri 19th December 2025

Half term Holiday:
27th – 31st October 2025

Term 2

Tuesday 6th Jan 2026 –
Friday 27th March 2026

Half term holiday:
16th Feb – 20th Feb 2026

Term 3

Monday 13th April 2026 –
Friday 17th July 2026

Half term holiday:
25th May-29th May 2026

INSET DAYS

Monday 1st September
2025

Tuesday 2nd September
2025

Wed 3rd September 2025

Monday 3rd November
2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 1st June 2026

Monday 20th July 2026



Contact details

Office.2569@Botley.oxon.sch.uk

01865 248573



E-mail: office@acertrust.org.uk

Tel: 01865 519215

Nursery parents: Apply now for their Reception class place:

We are letting you know that applications for Reception places for children starting school in **September 2026** is now open. The deadline for applications is **15 January 2026**.

We strongly encourage families to apply online via the following link: [Reception applications | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

If online applications are not possible, I've attached forms that can be printed or completed digitally.

We would be grateful if you could share this information with parents of children born between **1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022**, who are eligible to start school in September 2026.

Key reminders for parents:

- Read the Starting School Guide on the website
- Apply on time – late applications won't receive an offer on National Offer Day (16 April 2026)
- Update addresses – upload proof of address and inform current nursery/school (if there has been a change)
- Include sibling details where relevant
- List multiple preferences – up to four schools can be selected

Late applications are far less likely to secure a place at a preferred school, so it is important that parents apply on time.

Are you looking for a Nursery or Reception place for your child?

Find out what exciting learning opportunities Botley School has to offer!



Open Events!

We have several events for you to be able to come visit our Early Years and the school.



Parent tours:

Tuesday 21st October
1.30pm

Wednesday 19th
November 3.30pm

Friday 12th December
9.30am

Come and play sessions:

(including Botley Bridges)

Monday 13th October

Monday 8th December

10.00-11.00am

Tuesday 13th January 3.30pm

Come along to have a cuppa and we will help you apply for the school place.

To sign up for an invitation to the events please email your details to

Office.2569@botley.oxon.sch.uk

Was your child born between

1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022?

Find out more about Brilliant Botley on our school website

<https://www.botleyschool.org.uk>



Don't forget to apply for your Reception school place between 1st November 2025 and 15th January 2026

BOTLEY SCHOOL FIREWORKS

Elms Road

Friday, 14 NOVEMBER 2025

*Gates open 18:00 pm
Display at 19:00 pm*

BBQ and Refreshments available from 18:00pm
~Cash and Cards Accepted!~



Tickets available in advance from
~ Botley Library until 11 November;
~ Parentpay (Botley school only) until 13 Nov:

- Children 3 + : £4 (advance) / £5 (on the door)
- Adults: £7 (advance) / £10 (on the door)
- Family **: £18 (advance) / £25 (on the door)

* Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

** 2 adults and dependent children

From 5-6pm EYFS and KS1 children can join us for the Bear Trail, treasure hunt, and crafts in the EYFS Gardens (siblings welcome).

£1.50 per child payable on the door or free if you have a fireworks ticket. Please bring a torch, snacks will be available

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GUITAR LESSONS



- Spaces available for beginner to advanced players. No need to own a guitar
- All styles covered - rock, pop, blues, classical, metal. Grades, performance, composition and theory all covered
- Lessons take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the school, with each 25 minute session taught on a 1-1 basis at £16 per lesson
- Fun, informative lessons tutored to inspire those interested in music!



For more information and to book a lesson please contact:

Lee Luland (School Guitar Teacher)

Email: LeeLuland@live.co.uk
Tel: 07872478886

Piano lessons

Every week on
Mondays and Tuesdays
during school hours



For more information contact Diyana
Mob: 07707216175
Email: divchevcurr@yahoo.co.uk

Please note Lee has spaces for new students on Thursdays if any prospective parents would like to get in contact, Thank you

Please note Diyana has spaces for new students if any prospective parents would like to get in contact and reserve their place. Thank you



Girls aged 7-10 Years old

Do you want to have Fun,
Make New Friends
& Learn New Things?

Then join 2nd Botley Brownies

Tuesdays 6:15pm to 7:45pm

Contact:

secondbotleybrownies@outlook.com



ART CLASSES



A PLACE TO BELONG, GROW & CREATE

BOOK A TRIAL NOW!

- Art Classes for Children 6+
- Teen Art Classes
- GCSE & A-Level Support
- Holiday Art Workshops
- Seasonal Family Workshops
- Birthday Parties & Events

COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING | OFSTED REGISTERED | CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



07384 670391
 oxford@art-k.co.uk
 art-k.co.uk/class-oxford
 37 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7JN



GIVE YOUR CHILD AN INVALUABLE LIFE SKILL AT WHITE HORSE LEISURE AND TENNIS CENTRE

Do you want to improve your child's water confidence and give them the ability to swim? Discover how to kick-start your child's confidence in the water at better.org.uk/swim-school



BETTER



WHAT'S MORE, YOUR CHILD WILL...

- Develop social skills whilst having fun with new friends
- Feel motivated as they progress through stages
- Improve their confidence with every stroke
- And most importantly, learn a life saving skill

Better Swim School offers affordable lessons for all ages and abilities taught by qualified teachers with our own industry leading swim school programme. Our safe and friendly environment will ensure your child enjoys life long fun in and around the water.

Book now to secure your child's place at better.org.uk/swim-school

Every Wednesday during term-time 4.00 - 5.30pm

Outdoor Explorers



£8.00 per child p/w

Experience the magic of nature & the joy of outdoor adventure, together with your children, after school each Wednesday:

- Fun outdoor self-led activities
- Hands-on nature exploration
- Unwind, connect with the environment & make friends

www.hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510



Forest Tots

2 - 6 years

10.00am - 11.30am
 Mondays (term time)



Let your little explorers experience the magic of the outdoors! Packed with adventure, creativity, and discovery Forest Tots will help your child grown in confidence & independence and encourage a life long love for nature.

And for the grown ups... you can build friendships, explore nature with your little one(s) and enjoy some woodland well-being for yourselves.

Please visit our website for full details:

<https://hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events>

£8.00

per child

@Hill_end_centre @HillEndOEC @Hill_End

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510

OXFORD SPORT & TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS

UNLIMITED FREE TRIAL!

Botley Primary School
BEGINNER KARATE
LESSONS

3yrs +
Tuesdays
Thursdays

BOOK NOW | TOMWD@OSTMA.CO.UK | 07464 631446

Could you inspire the next generation of cyclists?

We are searching for **Cycle Instructors** to join our expanding **Bikeability** team.

We are looking for confident communicators to deliver fun and inspirational cycle training in schools.

If you have loads of enthusiasm to share and are looking for rewarding work to deliver during school term time, we would love to hear from you.

Role: Variable Hours Contract

Hourly Rate: £13.20 plus holiday pay. We have an employee benefits scheme too!

Training and Support: we provide full, free training and ongoing support including nationally recognised qualifications.

For more information, please contact:
jobs@outspokentraining.co.uk, 01223 473820

www.outspokentraining.co.uk

Iranian Community Network (ICN)

English Language Classes & Digital Skills

2025 Hybrid (Online_Offline)

Designed to help you to improve English Language with everyday digital skills

Practical classes with interactive instruction to help you feel comfortable, communicating in English and integrating into your local community.

To reserve a place, please text or email us your contact details

We operate under GDPR rules and regulations, your information will be stored securely and in confidence.

admin@icn-uk.org or Text **07951 035096**

WWW.ICN-UK.ORG
 CHARITY REGISTRATION NO: 1198007

TRY A CLASS FOR FREE

Now showing, CONFIDENCE!

Drama, dance & singing classes designed to help 4-12 year olds shine

**** My son has adored his first term at Perform. He has blossomed and I've seen his confidence grow every week. ****
 Pippa Wotton

Play is a POWERFUL THING

Perform classes help boost children's **confidence, concentration, coordination** and **communication** skills, as well as being lots of fun.

Our expertly designed drama, dance and singing sessions for 4-7s and 7-12s are run by experienced teachers, hand-picked for their warmth and approachability. They'll be with your child every step of the way - inspiring and encouraging them to develop vital life skills as they discover the joy of performing.

What does Perform offer?

- Performing arts-based games and exercises
- Focus on a different social skill each week
- Small classes and feedback on your child's progress
- Specially created scripts, videos and apps
- End of term presentation for family and friends

Ready to try for free?
 Your child's first class is free, so why not give it a go? Classes take place all over, have a look online or call us:

perform.org.uk/try 020 7255 9120

** Perform helps develop all key areas of a child in a fun, supportive and engaging way. It gives my daughter a brilliant sense of fun, community, purpose and pride in her achievements. **
 Begum Bari

Botley Bridges Baby & Child First Aid



MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2025
WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE, 1 - 3PM
OR BOTLEY SCHOOL, ELMS ROAD, 5 - 7PM

Suitable for parents/carers/grandparents or babysitters
Email coordinator@botleybridges.org to reserve your space

Thames Training

Learn what to do in an emergency:
CPR, choking, bumps, bleeding, breaks, burns,
febrile seizures, meningitis awareness

£30 per person OR £55 per couple

For more information, visit botleybridges.org
Registered charity number 1192139



DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE

Steam Into Christmas






Enjoy unlimited train rides and help Santa find his missing reindeer!

Find each of Santa's lost reindeer, culminating in a visit to Santa's workshop to meet Santa.

BOOK NOW - 01235 817200

www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk





Cumnor Pre-school presents...

NEARLY NEW SALE

Cumnor Primary School Hall



**£2
entry**



Saturday 15th November, 5-7pm
Sunday 16th November, 10am-12pm

Buy and sell top-quality children's clothes
(baby to primary school age), toys, books,
games, maternity and nursery equipment
Bargains always on offer!
Card payments accepted



To sell (60% seller 40% pre-school split) or for more
information email:
nearlynewsalecumnor@gmail.com



FREE ENTRY!

Christmas Fayre 25

Benson Village Hall
Wallingford OX10 6LZ
10AM - 4PM
Sunday 30th November



Santa's Grotto
Craft Stalls
Raffle
Café
Children's Games & Activities
Tombola
AND MUCH MORE

Santa's Grotto Pre-Bookings available now on our Website!

Event held by Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue. Reg Charity Number 1194050