

Botley School



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we have been thinking about and celebrating the Harvest, culminating in our Early Years Harvest 'Stay and Play' session yesterday morning and the Harvest Assembly today. The children in Early Years were excited to welcome their families into the classroom and showcase the learning experiences they have been part of. There was a wonderful atmosphere throughout the setting, with families and children actively participating in a range of activities. The children took great pride in leading their families on a tour, confidently sharing their learning and classroom environment.



This morning's harvest assembly was a lovely event, made all the more special by the number of parents who attended as well. Each class presented something about harvest, including harvest poetry, information on where foods come from around the world, and why food waste is such an issue in our world. Our pupils and families have been so generous with their contributions, which we will be passing onto the Oxford Food hub to help families within our community who may need more support. Of course, we also sang our harvest songs, from the traditional 'Cauliflowers Fluffy', to the new, 'We'll say thank you'. Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the assembly and for all the wonderful contributions.



Our Sports Leaders and House Captains received their new hoodies and T-shirts this week, to help them stand out on the playground when they are leading games and activities for pupils. I'm sure you'll agree they look very smart!



This week a letter was sent out by the school on behalf of Mr Nathan Thomas, the CEO of Acer Trust with the link to the parent contract. If you did not receive this communication, you can find the letter by following the link: [Letter to AT Parents and Carers.docx](#)

Finally, Friends of Botley School (FOBS) are already working hard to organise the upcoming Fireworks evening. I am sure you probably wonder what happens to all the amazing funds raised by FOBS. In the last year, FOBS funded the annual pantomime, SEND resources, book bags and books for new Reception pupils, our new PA system and nearly £5k towards the mini iPads. This is a fantastic achievement and makes a hugely positive impact for the pupils at Botley School. Thank you so much to FOBS and to all the volunteers and supporters who help with all the events.

Good luck to our pupils running in the Oxford Half Marathon School Challenge this weekend and any parents in our community who are also running in the main event!

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Reid

Upcoming Events

- 12 Oct** – Oxford Half marathon school's challenge
- 14 Oct** – NSPCC workshops for years 2, 5 and 6 pupils
- 14 Oct** - Phonics parent meeting online 4pm
- 21 Oct** – Prospective Parent Tour
- 21st Oct 3:30** PGL yr 6 parent meeting
- 3 Nov** – INSET day
- 4 & 5 Nov** – Parent consultation meetings
- 7 Nov** – Poetry week assembly 9:15
- 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

Apply for Year 7 Secondary place

The admissions portal for parents of year 6 pupils to apply for secondary school places is now open. Please see further details later in the newsletter.

Parent-teacher meetings on 4 and 5 November

Parents will soon be able to book individual appointments with their teacher on 4 or 5 Nov to discuss their child's progress. The appointments are 10 minutes long, between 3:30 and 6pm, and happen online using Teams. The booking will open next week and will be on MCAS.

Staffing updates:

We are very sad to announce that Mrs Helen Spahiu will be leaving Botley at the end of this half term to take up a position closer to home. I know you will join me in wishing her well in her new school.

TA vacancies:

As a result of Mrs Spahiu leaving and some additional pupils, we do currently have Teaching Assistant vacancies being advertised on My New Term. If you, or anyone you know is looking for a role and would be an excellent addition to our team, please do use the following link to access the details and the application forms. [Vacancies | Botley School](#)

MCAS – using the app

If you're not yet using the MCAS app now is a really good time to start, so you are ready for booking parent-teacher meetings. The app is a good way to stay updated on key school communications, rather than having to check the MCAS portal for announcements.

So please do download the MCAS app from the Play Store/Apple Store/wherever you get your apps from usually, and use your MCAS log in details the first time. Also it's best to enable notifications (for example via settings/notifications/app settings but it may be slightly different on your phone).

There are a number of parents who have the app but haven't used it for the last month. Now would be a great time to log back in and check your access. If you have any problems or need a password reset, just email operations@botley.oxon.sch.uk. Thanks!

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.

PGL 2025 Meeting

We will be holding a meeting for parents of year 6 pupils coming to PGL residential in November. The meeting will provide information about the venue, the activities we will be participating in and the staff who will be accompanying the pupils. The meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st October at 3:30 in Cypress classroom.

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](#)

INSET Day

Please note that Monday 3rd November is an INSET day so the school will be closed to pupils.

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

Apply now for Year 6 secondary school place:

The application portal is now open for families of Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school place for September 2026.

We strongly encourage families to apply online via the following link: [Year 7 - secondary school applications | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

If online applications are not possible, forms can be printed from the school office or completed digitally.

Key Dates:

The portal opened on 12 September 2025 and will close on **31 October 2025** (deadline for **on-time applications**).

Reminder for parents of the following important points:

- **Apply on Time**
Late applications will not receive an offer on National Offer Day (**2 March 2026**) and may reduce the chance of securing a place at a preferred school.
- **Address Updates**
If families have recently moved or are planning to move, they must upload proof of address (e.g. tenancy agreement, Council Tax bill, or exchange of contracts) alongside their application. They should also inform their child's current primary school to avoid discrepancies in the system.
- **Sibling Information**
Parents should include details of any siblings already attending the schools they are applying to.
- **List Multiple Preferences**
Encourage families to list more than one school preference (up to four can be selected).



Could You Help a Child Discover the Joy of Reading?



The charity obtains enhanced DBS checks on all volunteers before placement
Charity Number 1146276

ARCh Assisted Reading for Children is an award-winning Oxfordshire charity that transforms children's lives by helping them grow in reading ability, confidence, and wellbeing- all through the power of one-to-one support.

We're looking for more volunteers across Oxfordshire to spend a little time each week during the school day, supporting children one-to-one in a local primary school.

Whether you're retired, working part-time, or looking for something meaningful to do alongside work, there's a place for you at ARCh. Full training, ongoing support, and resources are all provided- just bring your warmth and enthusiasm!

If you, or someone you know, might be interested, please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!
info@archoxfordshire.org.uk
www.archoxfordshire.org.uk



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 will have spaces for new students from September if any prospective parents would like to get in contact and reserve their place. Thank you

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

Every Wednesday during term-time 4.00 - 5.30pm



Outdoor Explorers

Hill End
A place of possibilities



£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

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

OCTOBER 2025

TECH & STEM CAMP

WITH TAKE HOME INVENTIONS!

GET READY FOR SPOOKY TECH FUN!

Robots



Inventions

Minecraft + LEGO



Engineering

VR



Tech Fun!

OCTOBER HALF TERM 2025

What's on?

Different activity theme each day, please check website for your specific camps activities



REVOLUTING R•B•TICS



EERIE ENGINEERING



MYSTERY MINECRAFT



SPOOKY FILM MAKING



TERRIFYING TECH FUN

NEW Take Home Inventions



20th -31st October LIMITED SPACES

WHAT TO EXPECT:

At Next Thing Education, our goal is to ignite curiosity, fuel creativity, and empower young minds for the future!

This October, children will explore micro-robots, video game design, LEGO WeDo2, animation, augmented reality, 3D pens, movie making, VR, Minecraft Marvel, and even launch their own science rockets — with a Spooky Dress-Up Friday to finish the week!

★★★★★

"My son LOVED camp — he came home buzzing, with the things he made!"

Kate Sarjeant - Google Review

★★★★★

"My son had a wonderful time and was begging to go again."

Gill Coleman - Google Review

★★★★★

"Staff who truly care about children and will ensure that they enjoy the camp."

Wendy Shrimston - Google Review

LIMITED SPACES, BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE TODAY!

W: www.nextthing.education T: 01442 873150

Dragon School, OX2 6SS

Ages 5-11, 9 am - 4 pm daily
£39.99 per day

5 days for only £175
Save £25!

Book now: www.nextthing.education

Scan me 



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

Edible Botley

Do you have an edible (for humans) fruit/nut tree/bush that is accessible from the pavement/public space that might benefit from a sign to enable any fellow humans to help themselves when ripe?

If so please contact Melissa Kinnear @

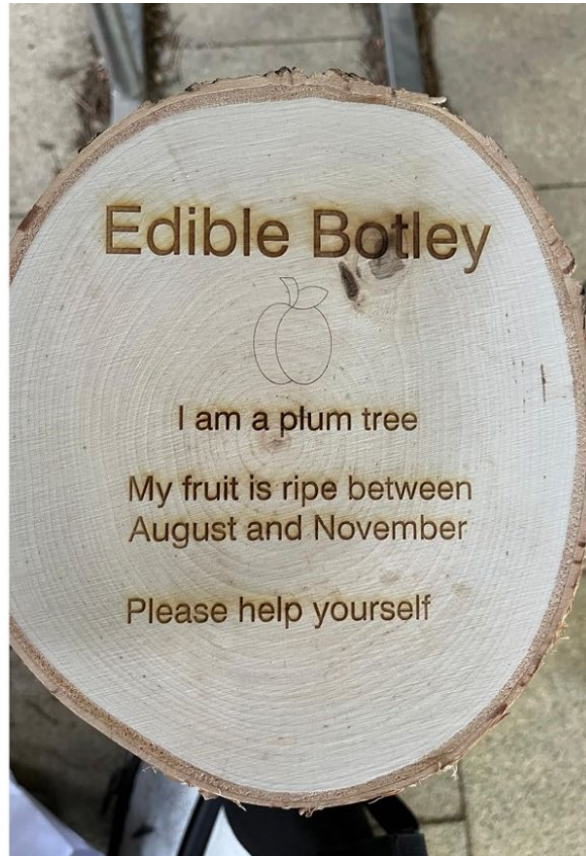
melissakinnear@yahoo.co.uk

In the email please let her know:

1. the address for the tree/bush
2. the type of tree/bush (so she can work out when the fruit/nuts are ripe).

Once this information has been gathered she will start crafting signs for all the trees/bushes in Botley!

Looking forward to harvesting with neighbours!



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



October 2025

October Holiday Clubs

Open to all children aged 3 to 11 years, with funded places available for children in Reception to Year 6

Activities include dodgeball, dance, drama, yoga, multi skills, ball games, art and crafts, team and confidence building activities and much more.



LOCATION:
St Nicholas' Primary School, Oxford

COST:
£38 per day
All childcare vouchers accepted

DATES:
Monday 27 to Friday 31 October

TIMES:
8.00am to 5.00pm

In Year 6?
Join our Young Leader Programme running over Half Term focused on leadership, initiative and creativity

Scan the QR code to book

rattleandrollperformance.com

07722 014301



£9.50 (child)
£11.50 (adult)
ticket includes lunch



Autumn Adventures - Family Days
Wednesday 29 & Thursday 30 October

10am - 2pm

Come and enjoy the great outdoors at our wonderful site this half term!

- * natural arts / willow weaving * Halloween jokes trail *
- * campfire & s'mores * conkers * woodcraft *
- * explore & play *



hill_end_centre
HillEndOEC
Hill_End

Hill End Centre, OX2 9NJ

01865 863510

Registered charity: 1173087

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



Go Wild This October Half-Term!
Monday 27 & Tuesday 28 October

WILD DAYS for 7-12 year olds

Bushcraft, nature walks, campfire cooking, and den-building in the stunning surroundings of Hill End and Wytham Woods.

From pond-dipping to minibeast hunting, our expert tutors will lead exciting hands-on activities, making learning fun while kids connect with nature and new friends.



Booking Essential: <https://hill-end.org/news/wild-days>

HillEndOEC Hill_End hill_end_centre

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510

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





Browse and book now for free

www.if-oxford.com
Over 100 events and activities

17 Oct – 2 Nov 2025
A taste of the Festival...



if-oxford.com



Download and browse the Festival programme (PDF, 16MB)



Arts and performance

Treister exhibition, Modern Art Oxford (all Festival),
Shaping Destiny, UPP Cinema (Sun 12 Oct),
Moth x Human, Natural History Museum (Fri 17 Oct), **A Monstrous Discovery & Poetry of Science**, Westgate Library &
Myth Monster, Pegasus Theatre (Sat 18 Oct),
Almost Nothing But Blue Ground, History of Science Museum, (Thu 23 Oct),
Orbit, by Creation Theatre, ZONE ONE (Fri 24 Oct), **Great Big Bug Show!**, Natural History Museum (Mon 27 Oct), **Jericho Comedy**, North Wall (Tue 28 Oct),
Masecki concert, University Church (Wed 29 Oct), **Adventures in Science**, Pegasus Theatre (Sun 2 Nov).



Interactive Festival zones

Packed with hands-on activities for families, teenagers and adults on weekends, evenings and during half term:
Science Saturday & EXPLORAZONE (18 Oct), **ZONE ONE** (24 Oct), **TECHWORKS** (25 Oct), **BLAST!** (27 Oct) & **Explore the Moon** (30 Oct)



IF Oxford is a vibrant, inclusive Festival where you, your family and friends can get hands-on with science, meet experts and explore big ideas through a huge range of activities like comedy nights, performances and talks.



Follow and post about IF Oxford:



Talks and discussions

Fusion Energy, Almost There? (Mon 20 Oct)
The Anti-Catastrophe League (Tue 21 Oct)
Think Like a Mathematician (Thu 23 Oct)
Whose IP is it Anyway? (Sun 26 Oct)
The Ig Nobel Prizes, Tom Crawford (Sun 26 Oct)
Women's Pain: science & systems (Tue 28 Oct)
Once Upon in a Time in Space (Tue 28 Oct)
Tangled up: Alzheimer's disease (Thu 30 Oct)
Modelling Undead: zombies & health (Fri 31 Oct)
Art of Uncertainty with David Spiegelhalter (Sat 1 Nov)



Start a hobby?

Learn coding with **Glow Your Own** or join: **Hack Your Planet!** (Thu 23 Oct), **Photographing Big Science at Culham** (Sat 25 Oct), **Creativity in Conservation** (Sat 25 Oct), **Is Bread Alive?** (Mon 27 Oct), **Fusion Fix it Workshop** (Fri 31 October).



Try tours!

UKAEA Open Day (Sat 11 Oct), **Cemetery Geology** (Sat 18, Sun 26 Oct), **A Story in Stone** (Sat 18 Oct), **Unnatural Histories** (Sun 19, Tue 28, Thu 30 Oct), **History of Oxford Science** (Sat 25 Oct).