

# Botley School



Dear Parents/Carers,

In last week's newsletter we added a short message regarding the take up of school meals on Census Day and how important it is to the funding of the school, but I also wanted to highlight the fantastic service the pupils are receiving since we moved to our new catering partners, Aspens. Genuinely, the food is the best I have ever seen being served in any of the schools I have worked in. It is cooked brilliantly and presented like a café so children can see and be tempted by the food on offer. I have added some photos, but they really don't do service to how great the food is. You really have to try it to understand how fresh and tasty it is.



When there is left-over food at the end of lunchtime, we often get provided with the excess in the staffroom and it is a real treat that we all look forward to - the quiche this week was absolutely delicious! Of course, delicious as the treats are for the staff, we would much prefer that the children were enjoying this amazing food. There will be various events planned over this term and next term to provide parents with the opportunity to try the food for themselves as a way of encouraging more pupils to eat a filling, nutritious lunch prepared by trained chefs every day. Please do encourage your children to make the most of this opportunity.

In other news this week, today we held our first Governors' day of the year. The governors spent time in class finding out about our new Monster Phonics and Superhero Spelling schemes, as well as finding out about our pedagogical principles – in other words, how we teach our pupils at Botley School and the research we use to decide on our strategies. They finished the day with some brilliant pupil conferences, where they had the opportunity to hear how the pupils feel about learning in school. My thanks go to the governors who volunteer their time and are so supportive of the school and the pupils, and have oversight of the developments we are implementing as we continuously strive to create the best learning opportunities for our pupils.

Don't forget that our Harvest assembly is coming up next Friday morning 10<sup>th</sup> October at 9:15.

Have a lovely weekend.  
Mrs Reid

## 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.

## MCAS – using the app

If you're not yet using the MCAS app now is a really good time to start, before we begin all the communications about the upcoming 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](mailto:operations@botley.oxon.sch.uk). Thanks!

## Upcoming Events

- 9 Oct** – EYFS harvest stay & play
- 10 Oct** – Harvest assembly 9:15
- 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
- 21<sup>st</sup> 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

#### **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 21<sup>st</sup> October at 3:30 in Cypress classroom.

#### **Help from Kier**

We are delighted that Kier have agreed to help the school to give a benefit to the local community while it completes the Botley Road/station works. So far, their team has tarmacked the strip at the edge of the car park, which used to have beautiful planters on, but which had become overgrown with weeds. They have also removed the unnecessary bollards from the school playground and tarmacked here too. We are grateful for their help and look forward to more Kier improvements which the school would otherwise struggle to afford to do.

#### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:Office.2569@Botley.oxon.sch.uk)  
01865 248573



E-mail: [office@acertrust.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:info@archoxfordshire.org.uk)  
[www.archoxfordshire.org.uk](http://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

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

## 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 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](http://www.hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events)

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510



**TECH & STEM CAMP**  
WITH TAKE HOME INVENTIONS!

**OCTOBER 2025**

**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."

Irini Shimkova - Google Review

**LIMITED SPACES, BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE TODAY!**  
W: [www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education) T: 01442 873150

**GET READY FOR SPOOKY TECH FUN!**



Robots  
Inventions



Minecraft +LEGO  
Engineering



VR  
Tech Fun!

**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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> Botley Brownies

Tuesdays 6:15pm to 7:45pm

Contact:

[secondbotleybrownies@outlook.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 @

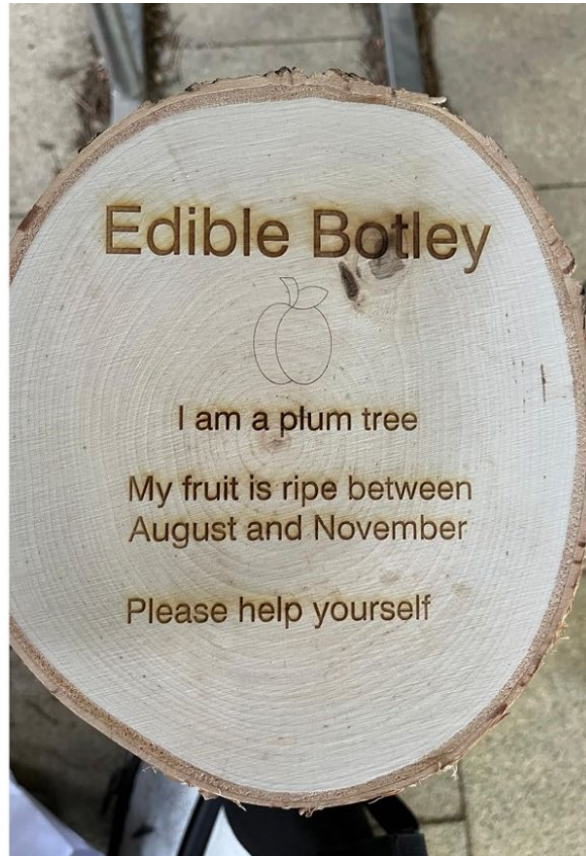
[melissakinnear@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:melissakinnear@yahoo.co.uk)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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: 1173987

[www.hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events](http://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](http://www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk)



*Respect*

*Resilience*

*Kindness*

*Creativity*

*Inclusivity*

*Teamwork*