

Botley School



Newsletter 7th March 2025

There was a lot to celebrate this week with both our annual Pancake events and World Book Day as well as the sunshine arriving for the start of Spring! For Pancake Day, the children ran races in the playground, tossing their pancakes as they went. The Nursery Children had their own Pancake Races and everyone enjoyed decorating their pancakes with healthy fruit options and eating the pancakes afterwards. Some of the winning designs are below, alongside a picture of our KS1 and KS2 Race winners.



For World Book day, our pupils dressed up in costumes for their favourite books. We had 'Show and Tell' sessions to share their favourite books and pupils wrote book reviews to persuade their friends to read their books. We also set up the hall as a library at lunchtime, with beanbags, cushions and mats, so pupils could come in and enjoy sharing books together over their lunch break.

Year 6 were excited to have one of their parents visit the class this week. Lucy came in to teach us about her home country of Bulgaria and some of their spring traditions. The children had great fun making spring good luck bracelets with their friends and learning a traditional dance. Thank you Lucy. If any other parent would like to share anything about their heritage, religion or career please do contact the school – we would love to hear from you!

Enjoy the sunshine!

Mrs Reid

Free Breakfast Club from April!

Please fill in this survey to help us plan for our new breakfast club:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Dq2bsMwTHW>

Thank you to those who have already done it. We need lots more responses so we can start to plan in detail next week!

In case you missed the announcement, we are going to be offering a free breakfast club from 8am to all children from 22 April onwards. This is part of a government pilot scheme. We will still be open from 7:30am for the families who need this.

Please email operations@botley.oxon.sch.uk if you have any questions.

Notices and Reminders

Are you free on 15 March?

If anyone is free on Saturday 15 March in the morning, we really need some help getting shingle into the Quad in the middle of the school. We have a pallet truck and lots of bulk bags of shingle, but we need some hardy volunteers who can help brush/rake it across the Quad. Please email operations@botley.oxon.sch.uk if you can help between 10am and 12:30. Even an hour will help! Thank you.

KS2 Choir Club

KS2 choir club has started again on Wednesday lunchtimes. We will be working towards two performances in the summer term, Festival of Voices in Dorchester Abbey and the Botley Community Concert here at the school. If your child wishes to be part of the choir for these events, please complete the [KS2 Choir Club Form](#) so Mrs Reid can add them to the register.

Upcoming Events

10th to 14th March – STEM week

28th March – Workshare afternoon

3rd April – 1:30 end of term

4th April - INSET day, staff only

Easter Break

22nd April – Start of Summer term

23rd April – Living in England Day

25th April – Yr 4 Trip to Hill End

1st May – Assessment period for KS1 begins

1st May – Farmer Gows Mobile Farm Visiting EYFS

5th May – Bank Holiday

12th May – SATs Assessment week for Year 6

19th May – Assessment week for rest of school

22nd May – May Celebration

22nd May – Workshare

23rd May – INSET Day Staff only

2nd June – Year 4 Multiplication check week

9th June – KS1 Phonics check week

2nd July – MAS transition morning for year 6 pupils

3rd July – Year 3 Acer Trust

performance at the Sheldonian

4th July – Sports Day Morning

9th July – Year 6 performance

9th to 10th July – Year 4 residential at Hill End

16th July – Transition morning

16th July – Botley Community concert

18th July – Year 6 Leaver's Disco

21st July – Botley's Got Talent

22nd July – End of term 1:30

Ramadan 2025

Ramadan begins next week and is an incredibly important time for many in our community. A MCAS message was sent to parents with the Ramadan Fasting Policy and letter attached at the start of the week. A prayer space is available to all staff and pupils who wish to pray at lunchtime. If your child will be fasting this year, please read the letter and policy before completing the Fasting Notification Form. This can be found in the appendix to the policy, or can be completed online using the link below. There will also be paper copies available in the office.

[Ramadan Fasting Notification Form 2025](#)

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Research shows that better food in schools is improving what children eat during the school day, and there's evidence of a clear link between what children eat at lunchtime in school, where they eat it and how they focus with their teachers in the afternoon.

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools in England are eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals. This includes infant pupils in maintained infant and primary schools, free schools, academies, special schools and pupil referral units.

Free School Meals are also available to pupils in years 3 and above whose parents receive certain benefits and register using this application form. Please return this form to your child's school if you think you qualify for Free School Meals.



Pupil Premium - completing this form could also raise money for your child's school...



The Pupil Premium is a Government scheme that provides funding to schools of £955 - £1,345 per pupil whose parents receive one of the qualifying benefits listed on this application form.

The school can use this money to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers

Q. How can I apply?
A. Simply complete this application form and return it to your child's school

Q. Why should I apply?
A. Your child will benefit from free school meals which could save you hundreds of pounds a year and the school could benefit from Pupil Premium funding worth £955 - £1345 per pupil.

Q. My child is in Reception, year 1 or year 2 and automatically receives Universal Infant Free School Meals, do I still need to complete this form?
A. Yes! Pupil Premium is only paid to a school if the parent registers using this form and is receiving one of the qualifying benefits listed. Even though your child automatically receives free meals at school completing this application form may entitle your school to Pupil Premium funding.

To apply for free school meals and pupil premium, please download the application form using the link below.

[Free School Meals application form](#)

Term Dates 2024-2025

Term 1

Thursday 5th Sept 2024 –

Fri 20th December 2024

Term 2

Tuesday 7th Jan 2025 –

Thurs 3rd April 2025

Half term holiday:

17th Feb - 21st Feb 2025

Term 3

Tues 22nd April 2025 –

Tues 22nd July 2025

Half term holiday:

26th May-30th May 2025

INSET DAYS

Monday 6th January 2025

Friday 4th April 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025



Contact details

Office.2569@Botley.oxon.sch.uk

01865 248573



E-mail: office@acertrust.org.uk

Tel: 01865 519215

Year 5 and 6 Maths for Parents

FREE 5 week course

Day: Mondays
Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Dates: 3rd March - 31st March
Online using Microsoft Teams

This course explains the current teaching methods used to help you feel more confident supporting your child.

The following topics are covered:

- Column Addition and Subtraction
- Multiples and Factors
- Long Multiplication
- Long Division



To book a place please contact Oxfordshire Adult Learning:

01235 216 278

Visit the website and search 'Family Learning'
www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk

SEND TOGETHER

A DAY FOR PARENT CARERS TO CONNECT, SHARE AND LEARN

THURSDAY
13TH MARCH
9AM - 3PM
THE KINGS CENTRE,
OX2 0ES

- Workshops and Information Sessions
- Panel Discussion and Q&A
- SEND Advice Clinics
- SEND Marketplace

FOR REGISTRATION OR MORE INFO: WWW.TINYURL.COM/SENDOGETHER

A LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP EVENT

BOB Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System | **OXFORDSHIRE PARENT CARERS FORUM** A Place for Parent Carers to Network | **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

Oliver & James

PROVIDING A FIRST-CLASS SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

CHARITY CAR WASH

WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH FROM 12:30 - 16:30
at 4 Elms Parade, Botley, Oxford, OX2 9LG
Suggested donation of £5 but any amount welcomed.
Proceeds will be donated to raising money for
Cancer Research UK

DIGNITY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council
BNHPC

Community Fair & Annual Parish Meeting

THURSDAY 13th MARCH
6:30PM - 8:30PM
SEACOURT HALL


Send your **topics & questions** to the Clerk by 10th March
clerk@botleynorthhinksey-pc.gov.uk

Discover :


- Activities for all ages
- Environmental groups
- Craft & music groups
- Food & support services
- Local campaigns

News & updates on:

- Botley Skatepark
- Louie Memorial Pavilion
- Public Art in Botley
- West Way shops area
- and more



Join author Tom Palmer in this free family event to celebrate World Book Day



Sat Mar 8, 2025 2:30pm £0.00 tompalmer.co.uk/meet-me

Oxford Story Museum, 42 Pembroke Street Rochester House, Oxford OX1 1BP

FOREST TOTS AT HILL END

Come and join us at Forest Tots for child led free play in the beautiful ancient woodland of Wytham Woods. Activities vary by season and include bug hunting, nature crafts, stories, mud kitchen, simple tool use, hammocks and campfire cooking.

Tuesday & Thursday mornings, term time

<https://foresttots.wordpress.com>



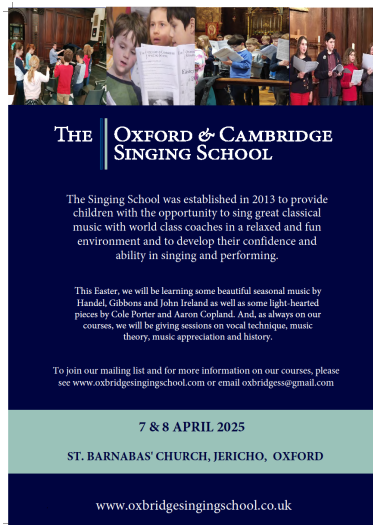
FAMILY DANCE PARTY

JOIN US FOR A 'HIP-HOPPING, TOE-TAPPING' DAYTIME DISCO FOR ALL OF THE FAMILY

DATES AND TIMES:

- SPRING FAMILY DANCE PARTY
SATURDAY 8TH MARCH | 10:30AM & 1PM
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, KIDLINGTON, OX5 1DD
- MAY FAMILY DANCE PARTY
SATURDAY 10TH MAY | 10:30AM & 1PM
CUTTESLOWE PAVILLION, CUTTESLOWE PARK, OX2 8ES
- SUMMER FAMILY DANCE PARTY
SATURDAY 5TH JULY | 10:30AM & 1PM
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, KIDLINGTON, OX5 1DD

BOOKING INFO:
Pay what you can, under 2yrs go free!
01865 319450
www.thenorthwall.com
contact@thenorthwall.com

THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Singing School was established in 2013 to provide children with the opportunity to sing great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop their confidence and ability in singing and performing.

This Easter, we will be learning some beautiful seasonal music by Handel, Gibbons and John Ireland as well as some light-hearted pieces by Cole Porter and Aaron Copland. And, as always on our courses, we will be giving sessions on vocal technique, music theory, music appreciation and history.

To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see www.oxbridgesingschool.com or email oxbridges@gmail.com

7 & 8 APRIL 2025

ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH, JERICO, OXFORD

www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk



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

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

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

WWW.ICN-UK.ORG
CHARITY REGISTRATION NO: 1194007



The next monthly **Forest Foxes Nature Social** will be held on 15 March from 2-4:30 at Hill End Outdoor Centre OX2 9NJ. Ten to twelve year-olds are welcome to join for adventure and friendship in the woods, around the fire. Admission cost- free.

Facilitator and volunteers are wilderness/Forest School trained and DBSed.

To book contact JuliaD@quaker.org.uk by **Monday 10 March**.



EASTER

Messy Church

Good Friday 18 April 2-4pm

Crafts **Food** **Story**

Specially for primary-age children with an adult — or bring the whole family!

FREE!

at St Andrew's, Orchard Rd OX2 9BH

Book your places: office@cumnor.org
 Parish office: 01865 861541

www.standrewsdeancourt.org.uk

PARISH OF CUMNOR

ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW

SAT 14TH JUNE 2025

ABINGDON AIRFIELD / DALTON BARRACKS
10AM - 4.30PM
OX13 6JQ

25th ANNIVERSARY

CAR PARKS OPEN 7.30AM
PEDESTRIAN GATE OPEN 9.30AM
SHOWGROUND OPENS 10AM

PUBLIC ENTRY & EXIT BY VEHICLE IS ON BARROW ROAD - OX13 6JQ

TAKE A34 MARCHAM INTERCHANGE ONTO GOZZARDS FORD / BARROW ROAD.
what3words: drifter.worms.developed

ADULT (16 YEARS +) £20 / £25 ON THE DAY
SENIORS (65 YEARS +) £10 / £15 ON THE DAY
CHILD (6-15 YEARS) £7 / £8 ON THE DAY
UNDER 5'S FREE

NOTE: 'ON THE DAY' TICKETS CAN STILL BE PURCHASED EITHER ONLINE OR BY CASH ON THE GATE - NO CASH MACHINES ARE ONSITE

More information and online tickets at www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

Hilton Garden Inn, Masterpiece, Chancellors, Manbury, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 3PS

OLA OUR LADY'S ABINGDON

EASTER HOLIDAY SWIMMING LESSONS

MONDAY 7TH-FRIDAY 11TH APRIL

Confidence building: £60 per week (30 minute lesson)
 Beginners: £60 per week (30 minute lesson)
 Stroke improvement: £90 per week (45 minute lesson)

To book or for further information please email Abbie at swimminglessons@ola.org.uk

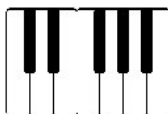
Lessons will run in the mornings between 10:30-12:15

Radley Road | Abingdon-on-Thames | OX14 3PS | 01235 524658 | www.ola.org.uk



Come and try our engaging music courses
on Sunday 23 March - book now!

Children start their music journey with us between
the ages of 2 - 7 and can continue through to 18



Matrix Arts Centre
Sutton Courtenay OX14 4UA
www.matrixartscentre.org.uk



Music taster lessons! Matrix Arts Centre is offering families an opportunity to experience their music courses on Sunday 23 March. Parents of 2 and 3 year olds attend an information session; 4 – 7 year olds have a taster lesson. For more details and to book, please visit <https://www.matrixartscentre.org.uk/yamaha-music-school>

EASTER PERFORMANCE NETBALL CAMP OXFORD



SKILLS - STRATEGY - GAME PLAY

IMPROVE YOUR NETBALL SKILLS, STRATEGY AND
DECISION MAKING WITH THIS PERFORMANCE CAMP.



TARGET NETBALL ACADEMY
EST. 2024

Spaces are limited
— reserve your
place today and
improve your play!

£60
PP

11th APRIL 2025

10-4PM

7-10yrs

LED BY CHARLOTTE DUNKLEY
OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL
targetnetballacademy@gmail.com

07469196478

SIBLING DISCOUNTS • EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS



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



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

Better is a registered trademark and trading name of G2 (Greenwich Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no. 277038. Registered office: Millerside House, The Royal Arsenal, London SE14 5ER. Internal Reference Charity no. 1061196.