

Botley School

Newsletter – 20th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term has gone so quickly, I cannot quite believe we have reached the end of term already. There has been much to celebrate this half term, including the fantastic work the pupils have been producing and the extraordinary dedication and effort displayed by our staff in ensuring the best possible provision for our pupils. Please see the end of term letter from Sue Miller, our Chair of Governors, on the next page.

We have enjoyed a very festive week in school this week. Panto in a Day visited on Tuesday afternoon with their performance of Cinderella. The children definitely got into the spirit of the show and had a wonderful afternoon joining in the fun.



On Wednesday, we held our Christmas lunch, playground disco and class parties. The teachers joined the classes for lunch in the canteen and the lunch was delicious. All the children I spoke with were happily tucking in and giving the Christmas meal enthusiastic reviews. There were some truly groovy moves happening on the playground, and not just from the pupils! When I visited most of the classes in the afternoon, the pupils were happily enjoying their chosen party activities.



This morning we held our Christmas Assembly, with all our pupils performing Christmas or winter themed songs in their classes, as well a performance by the school choir and the newly formed school wind band. We also presented prizes to the winners of our school Christmas Card competition.



It was a suitably festive way to end a very busy and successful term in school for our pupils. Thank you all the pupils, staff and families for all their hard work and support this term. I hope you all have a relaxing, festive and wonderful break and come back refreshed and ready for another brilliant term at Botley.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Mrs Reid



Upcoming Events

6th January – INSET day, staff only

7th January – Pupils return to school

13th to 17th January – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion week

15th January – Deadline for Applications for Reception class 2025

15th January – 3:15 International food Event

30th January – Yr 5 & Yr 6 to Young Voices, Birmingham

3rd to 7th February – Well-being week

11th February – Internet Safety Day

26th & 27th February – Parent Consultation Evenings

4th March – Pancake Day Events

6th March – World Book Day

10th to 14th March – STEM week

28th March – Workshare afternoon

3rd April – 1:30 end of term

4th April - INSET day, staff only

End of Term Letter from Sue Miller, Chair of Governors.

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the start of the holiday season, I thought you might like to know some of the things school governors have been discussing this term.

The school year started with the long-awaited report from Ofsted. The Inspectors picked up on so many of the wonderful qualities of Botley School – the fact that it is welcoming, inclusive, and diverse and that the Headteacher, her senior leadership team, and all the staff are so committed to supporting each and every pupil in the school. As one of the last schools in the country to receive a one-word designation, it was frustrating that the inspectors did not give us a 'Good' rating, but they were keen to stress all the positives, and they told us that they felt that the changes that we need to make are all within our grasp. So, this term, I have been encouraged to see how hard everyone in the school has been focused on the changes that the inspectors highlighted, by bringing in new initiatives and improving a range of standards that we are confident will help us achieve an improved report next time they visit.

Meantime, in these financially challenging times for schools throughout the country, we have ended the year in a better financial position than we had originally thought, and we are applying for additional funding next year from the pot of money that the government recently announced for SEND provision that will help improve the position still further.

We were particularly delighted that the annual fireworks display raised a staggering £4,000 for the school. Huge thanks should go to everyone who contributed to making the evening so successful – the sponsor, the wonderful, hardworking FOBS team who spent so much time and effort making sure the evening was fun, and to everyone who came along on the evening. We are truly grateful to you all.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable break and can I wish you, on behalf of all the governors, a happy, healthy and peaceful festive season.

Sue Miller
Chair of Governors

Notices and Reminders

Helping Parents Choose the Right Games for Their Children

The **Family Gaming Database** is a valuable tool for parents to find age-appropriate games while ensuring their child's online safety. Alongside detailed reviews and age ratings, it highlights games with features like in-app purchases or online interactions, helping families make informed decisions. The site also provides advice on setting up parental controls to manage screen time and protect against potential online risks.

Visit familygamingdatabase.com to explore safe, fun, and engaging games for your child!

International Food Day/DEI week

Our annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion week will be taking place in the second week of term after Christmas. We are currently planning for events and speakers and would like to invite parents, grandparents, carers and members of the community to come in to school during the week and give talks or share experiences with our pupils. We would love to have guest speakers who can talk about ethnicity, religion, careers, or any other themes linked to diversity. If there are any talented members of the community who would like to share traditional stories, songs, dances or clothing with the children, we would love to hear from you. Please use the link below to let us know you are interested in supporting the school during the week.

[Botley DEI Week 2025 Volunteer Form](#)

If you are unable to volunteer in school, you can still support the event by sharing food with the school on our very popular International Food Day event, which will be held on Wednesday 15th January in the school hall at 3:15. Please see the flyer for the event below. Children are encouraged to come to school on the 15th wearing clothing or costumes that represent their cultural identity.

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



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Tel: 01865 519215



*International Food Event
Wednesday 15th January 2025*

Our International Food Event will be happening again this year on Wednesday 15th January 2025. Botley School is incredibly lucky to have pupils and their families representing many different international countries, and we feel that this is something to be celebrated. We will be opening our doors for an International Food Tasting Party at 3:15 in the main hall. In order to make this event as fantastic as in previous years, we are asking for your help with the following:

- Donations of food from your country of origin for people to have a taste. Sweet or savoury foods is gladly accepted. Please include a note of any eggs, nuts, gluten used in the recipe. Donations to the school office, please.
- Could your child bring in a story or an item representing their identity?
- Children are also welcome to come to school dressed in clothing to represent their identity.

If you are able to volunteer to help set up and run the event, please let us know.

Thank you in advance and we look forward to seeing you there.

The Botley School Team

Step into Narnia...

THE STORY MUSEUM

Galleries open daily from 17th Dec until 5th Jan

Closed 25th & 26th Dec

storymuseum.org.uk
Tel: 01865 807 600

The Story Museum registered charity no.1107809

Little seeds music presents

Cinderella

ice cream seller

THE STORY MUSEUM

21st - 31st December
11am & 2:30pm*
Tickets: £14pp
Box office: 01865 807600
storymuseum.org.uk

A delicious new musical for children aged 5+ and their families
Written and composed by David Gibb

*23rd Dec 11am: Relaxed Performance
No afternoon show 24th Dec

The Story Museum registered charity no.1107809

CREATION THEATRE

HANSEL & GRETTEL

Written & Directed by PAUL BOYD

"A spellbinding Creation Christmas spectacular"
- *Ox in a Box*
(*The Tale of the Beauty and the Tail of the Beast*, 2022!)

"A family feast for Christmas"
- *Newbury Today*
(*A Christmas Carol*, 2023)

1 Dec 2024 - 4 Jan 2025

The North Wall Oxford

creationtheatre.co.uk

1 December - 4 January | The North Wall Oxford | Written and Directed by Paul Boyd

HANSEL & GRETTEL

In the heart of a shadowy woodland, the Witches of Winter rise from the frozen earth. The eerie light of the Winter Moon compels Hansel and Gretel's mother to lead her children deep into the forest to join the mysterious Priestess of Winter – for dinner ...

"As fun, edgy and unique as ever, Creation has really pulled it out of the bag this year"
- *Ox in a Box*
(*A Christmas Carol*, 2023)

"Another winner for Oxford's leading theatre company"
- *Newbury Today*
(*Annual Form*, 2024)

Join a host of bewitching characters and feathered friends as they serve up a musical menu of catchy songs and mystical spells, all with a touch of winter magic. This acclaimed adaptation of one of the world's best-loved fairy tales unfolds in an atmospheric winter wonderland full of enchantment, mystery, and misadventure.

PERFORMANCES AT
10am, 2pm, 6pm & 7.30pm

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES
Touch Tour - 14 Dec at 1.15pm
Captioned - 20 Dec at 6pm
Relaxed - 21 Dec & 3 Jan at 2pm

Age guidance 5 - 105

TICKETS
£13.50 - £32
Concessions and group discounts available

creationtheatre.co.uk
01865 766266

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UNIVERSITY
CHURCH

CRIB SERVICE CHRISTMAS EVE 4.30PM

The true story of Christmas is the greatest story ever told. Join our Crib Service at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve to meet the baby Jesus in the manger. For the young and the young at heart, this will be the perfect way to start your Christmas celebrations. Come dressed in costume or pick up a costume at the door.



University Church of St Mary the Virgin
High Street, Oxford
OX1 4BJ



OXFORD ATHLETIC FC

COME AND TRY A
WEEK IN THE LIFE OF
AN OAFc PLAYER

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

OAFc



SWAN SCHOOL
TRAINING
6 JANUARY 6 PM



HORSPATH SPORTS GROUND
ACADEMY TRAINING
9 JANUARY 5 PM



TBC
MATCHDAY
11 JANUARY 10 AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US:
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TEL: 07423 711776