

Botley School



Newsletter – 29th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from last week's newsletter item about our visit from faith leaders and members of the Oxford Dialogue society, there is an invitation flyer later in the newsletter for the Oxford Dialogue Society's Christmas Community event taking place on Thursday 5th December.

We also had another faith leader visit this week when Rabbi Zvi Solomon visited Botley and gave an assembly to the school on the theme of light linked to different religions and the Jewish Festival Hanukkah. During the morning, he led workshops in KS1 where he taught the children about Sukkot and how Jewish people build Sukkah shelters. He also talked about the Shabbat meal.



In other events this week, year 4 had a wonderful morning making soda bread with one of the chefs from Caterlink, our school meal providers. The bread included cheese and turmeric and there was a gluten free option for children who do not use wheat products. I was extremely delighted to receive a special present of a loaf of the soda bread, straight from the ovens while it was still warm and fresh and I can say it was absolutely delicious! Unfortunately, the children and adults were having such a good time, they forgot to take any photos, so you'll have to use your imagination to picture what year 4 looked like after working with flour and dough!

Next week we have our year 5 Bikeability week. Please can year 5 pupils bring their bikes straight to the playground on Monday morning rather than locking them in the bike racks when they arrive in school.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Reid

Upcoming Events

2nd December – Yr 5 Bikeability week

10th December – 1:30 KS1 nativity performance

11th December – 4:00 KS1 Nativity performance

12th December – 8:45 – 9:30 EYFS Christmas stay and Play

13th December – Christmas Jumper Day

13th December – Year 3 Cake Sale

17th December – Panto in a Day performance for children

18th December – Christmas Lunch

20th December – Christmas Assembly

Notices and Reminders

Changes to payment methods

The school office will be moving away from taking cash payments in early 2025. To get ready for this, we need all children to have at least one parent set up on ParentPay so that lunches, clubs, trips, uniform etc can be paid for on ParentPay. Most families are on ParentPay but not all. We will be contacting relevant parents soon with the details of how to sign up for ParentPay, which is quick and easy. All children need to have at least one parent on ParentPay by mid-December.

Having a clear out?

If anyone has any pre-loved games, toys or activities that are still in reasonable condition, After School Club would be very grateful for them. Please take to the After School Club building on any day at pick-up time and give to Mrs Guilfooy. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept soft toys. Thank you!

Illness in school

There have been a number of pupils who have had a virus that includes high temperatures and headaches amongst other symptoms. This appears to be a new strain of the 'flu virus. We decided to look at the correlation between the pupils who have been ill, and the pupils who had the 'flu vaccination earlier in the term. Although some of the children who have been ill were vaccinated, the majority of those who have been ill did not have the vaccine when it was offered in school in September. This suggests that those pupils who are not vaccinated are more likely to get the illness. As a school, we recommend every child is vaccinated each year to prevent the spread of illnesses such as this, so please do consider this when the 'flu vaccine is offered next year in school. If your child has not been vaccinated and has not had the virus, we recommend discussing the vaccine with your GP or a healthcare professional.

Botley Bridges Xmas Hampers

The Botley Bridges Christmas Hampers are back! We'll be collecting and packaging food and gifts into hampers for local households who would find it helpful. We are open for donations, financial contributions, volunteers and hamper requests.

Together, let's spread some Christmas cheer in and around Botley!

WHAT TO DONATE:

Food items

- Tea / Coffee / Hot Chocolate / Squash / Soft Drinks (no alcohol)
- Christmas treats (Mince Pies, Biscuits, Selection packs)
- Jam / Marmalade / Honey / Syrups
- Tins or Jars - Fruit / Tuna / Baked Beans / Pasta Sauces / Soup
- Crackers / Biscuits / Rice / Pasta

Gifts

- For Adults - toiletries
- For Children
 - Bubbles / activity books / small craft sets / small construction sets
 - Books (for a variety of ages) / cards etc.



OTHER WAYS OF HELPING:

- To make a financial contribution, please go to our website <https://botleybridges.org/donate/> OR email treasurer@botleybridges.org for bank payment details
- To volunteer to take in deliveries, pack hampers or deliver, please contact Sue Dowe - sue@botleybridges.org / 07769 275084



DONATIONS DROP OFF:

- St Peter and St Paul's Church Hall, Botley on Wednesday 18th Dec 8am-7pm
 - Cumnor School, Botley School, West Oxford School or any Botley Bridges session during the week of 9-13th Dec
- If you cannot drop off at these times please email sue@botleybridges.org to arrange an alternative.

TO REQUEST A HAMPER:

- Fill in our request form <https://botley-hampers.web.app> or use the QR code
- Download form from the website and send via email to sue@botleybridges.org
- Ask for a paper form from your local school or preschool and hand it in



For more information, visit botleybridges.org Registered charity number 1172139



Term Dates 2024-2025

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Botley School



THE | OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School is for boys and girls aged 7-13 who love to sing. The Singing School was established to give children the opportunity to experience great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop their confidence and ability in singing and performing.

Pupils will learn some beautiful music and at the same time gain a background in vocal technique, music theory and history. Families are most welcome to come and listen to an informal concert at the end of each day.

For more information and to book, please see www.oxbridgesingschool.com

Sat 21 & Mon 23 December 2024
Oxford



**You are invited to our
Christmas Community Event**

5TH DECEMBER 2024

Thursday

18.30 -20.30

with the theme of "Voices in Unity"

The Oxford Academy, Sandy Lane, OX4 6JZ

Please RSVP by the 3rd of December to

oxford@dialoguesociety.org

Refreshment will be available

