

Botley School



Newsletter – 13th December

Dear Parents/Carers,

We had an exciting visit from Let's Go Zero last week –two Climate Advisors spent the morning helping us think about our carbon footprint and how we can reduce it. The Eco Warriors gave them a tour of the school, pointed out our excellent solar panels (see photo) and showed them our Forest School. We also learnt how to use a thermal imaging camera to see where heat might be escaping from our buildings. Let's Go Zero is going to help us come up with a Climate Action Plan, and there'll be more details about this next term.



The Christmas events in school started this week with our KS1 performance, 'The Nativity!' The children gave a fantastic performance of the Christmas story with beautiful singing, brilliantly clear speaking and smiles on their faces.



This week, the Early Years team also held their Christmas & Winter themed 'Stay and Play' sessions. On Monday the children welcomed some families from Botley Bridges for a come and play session. The children loved showing the families around the classroom and invited them to join their play. On Thursday, the EYFS had their Christmas/Winter stay and play for their families. It was an amazing to see so many families and feel the buzz in the classrooms. The children loved showing their families the variety of themed activities and their workbooks.



To end the week, we have all been wearing our Christmas Jumpers. This year, the pupil council and class councils have voted on which charity they want to support with their fundraising. The result of the vote is that this year we will be focussing our charity efforts on raising money for the RSPCA. Last year we managed to raise £1000 for Sobell House, so we will see if we can match or exceed that this year! Thank you for all the donations to start the pupils' fundraising campaign for this year.

Have a great weekend

Mrs Reid

Upcoming Events

16th December – Red Team House Points Party

17th December – Panto in a Day performance for children

18th December – Christmas Lunch

20th December - 9:15 – Christmas Assembly

20th December 1:30 school finishes for Christmas break

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!

Christmas Assembly

The Christmas assembly will be held on Friday 20th December at 9:15. The KS2 classes will be performing a carol each, the Choir will be performing the carols they had been practicing for the Oxford University event last week that unfortunately had to be cancelled owing to the weather, and the school wind band will be performing. As always, there may be some audience participation at the end, so those of you who have attended before, you might want to practice your 12 days of Christmas actions!

Becoming a cashless school

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. We sent home letters last week to the families who need to sign up. Please use these details to get onto ParentPay by **Monday 16 December**. Thank you.

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





*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

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 benefit from a little extra help. 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



Oxfordshire Junior Chess is excited to announce that we will be holding the annual county junior chess tournament on the weekend of 4th / 5th Jan 2025 at Cumnor Primary School. As in previous years, there will be U9, U11, U13, U15/18 sections. The online entry form link is <https://forms.gle/PpAYv8Rq1xvKPG8C9> from which full tournament information and rules can be accessed. The tournament caters for first time tournament entrants all the way through to experienced junior players. Queries are welcomed by email to Anna Bishop at oxfordshirejuniorchess@gmail.com.





Year 5 Experience Day
8 March 2025
Open Morning
12 March 2025



Year 5 Experience Day
Saturday 8 March 2025

Inviting Year 5 children to spend a day at OLA to enjoy and experience our warm and vibrant community.

Register at www.ola.org.uk/experience



Catholic independent day school for age 7-18s

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



Technical Theatre Programme

14 - 18 years



Technical Theatre Programme
at The North Wall Arts Centre
Supported by National Theatre Connections

CONNECTIONS
2025

We are delighted to be running a free open access technical theatre programme for 14-18 year olds, with the aim to offer an insight into backstage roles and careers. The young technicians will gain skills in technical theatre, attend workshop, complete a portfolio of work, and work on shows over the NT Connections Festival weekend.

Spaces are free (but limited)

For more info email Abie on waltona@thenorthwall.com

Apply by 8th January | thenorthwall.com

Holiday Workshops



NW Inventors

Lantern Making Workshop

23 Dec

10am - 4pm

Join us to make beautiful willow lanterns. All materials (including lights) will be provided.

For ages 8 - 11
Tickets: £40

Full busary places available: email Abie on waltona@thenorthwall.com for more information



YouthLab

Intro to Directing Workshop

23 Dec

10am - 4pm

Join us as we delve into the role of the director and explore how you can move work from page to stage.

For ages 12 - 17
Tickets: £40 for 3 half days

Full busary places available: email Abie on waltona@thenorthwall.com for more information



December

Book Now
www.thenorthwall.com



PROJECT
MINI
BALLERS



OXFORD
ATHLETIC FC

FOOTBALL FUN AT OAFc! SESSIONS FOR 5-6 YEAR OLDS

EVERY THURSDAY

5PM-6PM

OXFORD HARLEQUINS OX4 2RR

3G PITCH

ATTEND A TASTER SESSION:

WWW.ATHLETICFOOTBALL.CO.UK

EMAIL: CLUB@ATHLETICFOOTBALL.CO.UK

TEL: 07423711776



OXFORD
ATHLETIC FC

JOIN OUR U8 TEAM!

FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 2/3

TRAIN EVERY MON & THURS
MATCHES ON SATURDAY
MORNINGS
FA QUALIFIED COACH
FUN SESSIONS
SAFE ENVIRONMENT

*LEARN NEW SKILLS
BUILD CONFIDENCE
MAKE NEW FRIENDS*

JOIN NOW

EMAIL TO FIND OUT MORE:
CLUB@ATHLETICFOOTBALL.CO.UK

PHONE: 07423711776

VISIT:
WWW.ATHLETICFOOTBALL.CO.UK

CAPTAIN CHRISTMAS THE FANTASTIC FESTIVE SHOW

JOIN CAPTAIN CHRISTMAS FOR A MAGICAL, LAUGH-OUT-LOUD HOLIDAY SHOW BURSTING WITH FESTIVE SURPRISES!



DECEMBER 23RD

3:15pm - West Oxford Community Centre, OX2 0BT

**BOOK
NOW**



WOCA Member: Child: £3 | Adults: Free
Non-Member: Child: £7 | Adult: £1

Begin an exciting quest to track down Santa with the help of a magical map, watch in awe as a drawing of Santa himself springs to life, and enjoy the wonder of flying-reindeer-inspired magic. What's more, if we complete all the magical challenges, Santa has promised to send us a sprinkle of North Pole snow to make the day truly unforgettable!

This one-hour, family-friendly show is designed for children aged 3-8, but younger and older kids are warmly invited to join the festive fun and holiday cheer!

WWW.WOCA.ORG.UK/EVENTS/CAPTAIN-FANTASTIC-CHRISTMAS-SHOW