

# Botley School



## Newsletter – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been a very purposeful week at Botley with the students and staff hard at work and developing their learning. We have been having a real push on presentation and handwriting and I can already see the impact this is having. While teaching in Ladybirds this morning it was amazing to see how far their letter formation has come since I last worked with them on writing 2 weeks ago. I also popped into year 3 before lunch and was absolutely blown away with the wonderful handwriting and the fact that some of the children are already looking ready to get their pen licence!

On Monday, Miss Fiaz and Mrs Jones held our annual phonics parent meeting on Zoom, followed by a phonics open morning on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see some many parents joining us for these sessions and being able to watch how we teach phonics at Botley. I think the children loved having their parents watching their class as well. Thank you to all the parents who attended and to all the teachers and teaching assistants who provided great lessons for everyone to enjoy.

A few reminders for upcoming events. Next week is our poetry week, which will finish with an assembly on Friday morning at 9:15. We warmly welcome parents to attend the assembly to celebrate our pupils' poetic performances with us.

The following week, on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October, Year 6 parents are invited to a meeting about our upcoming PGL residential week in November.

Finally, good luck to our KS2 running club who are taking part in the Oxford Half School Challenge this Sunday, and to members of our parent community who I understand are taking on the half marathon! I am very inspired by the resilience and hard work that goes into preparing for these challenges. The weather forecast looks great for running conditions, so hopefully you will have a wonderful morning to enjoy the event.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Reid

### **Important information for year 6 parents**

Just to let you know that applications can now be submitted for children to transfer from Year 6 to Year 7 at Secondary School for 2025/26.

Please visit the secondary school webpages for all relevant information and to apply online at: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions)

Alternatively, please collect a paper copy from the Botley school office if you are unable to access the internet.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is **31 October** and National Offer day (this is when parents will be notified) is **3 March 2025**. Applications received after the deadline will be processed later in the year and are far less likely to secure a place at a preferred school.

## Upcoming Events

**18<sup>th</sup> October** – 9:15 Poetry Week assembly

**18<sup>th</sup> October** – Year 6 Cake Sale

**23<sup>rd</sup> October** – 3:30 Year 6 PGL parent meeting

**5<sup>th</sup> November** – Individual photo day

**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> November** – parent consultation Meetings

**8<sup>th</sup> November** – Bear trail and Fireworks Evening

**15<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 5 Cake Sale

**18<sup>th</sup> November** – Yr 6 Residential week

**29<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 4 Cake Sale

**2<sup>nd</sup> December** – Yr 5 Bikeability week

**10<sup>th</sup> December** – 1:30 KS1 nativity performance

**11<sup>th</sup> December** – 4:00 KS1 Nativity performance

**12<sup>th</sup> December** – 8:45 – 9:30 EYFS Christmas stay and Play

**13<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Jumper Day

**13<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 3 Cake Sale

**17<sup>th</sup> December** – Panto in a Day performance for children

**18<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Lunch

**20<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Assembly

## Notices and Reminders

### KS2 Choir Club

Choir club will now be moving to a lunchtime club rather than an after school club. If you have any keen singers at home, please encourage them to come and join the fun. Choir club will meet on Wednesday lunchtimes at 12:45, starting from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. I will organise a sign-up sheet in school next week. After half term we will be preparing to take part in a Christmas event in Central Oxford as well as preparing for our own Christmas assembly at the end of term.

### Cars on Elms Road

I have noticed that the number of parent cars driving up Elms road in the morning has started to increase with the wetter weather. I have also seen parents reversing around the corner into Nursery Close and doing three point turns in the road. This is clearly not safe to do while the road is busy with pupils and families arriving in school. Please remember that if you need to drive to school, you should park at the shops or further away from Elms Road and walk the rest of the way to school. That way everyone can get to school safely. Thank you.

### MCAS update

We are now using MyChildAtSchool as our main way to message parents. Thank you to the vast majority of parents who have now activated their account and can access the website. If you have not yet downloaded the MCAS app please do so, and enable notifications on your phone. If you do not do this, you will miss important messages unless you log on to the website to check for them. Thank you.

### Can you help us find a volunteer gardener?

As you may have seen in the latest Sprout, we are looking for a volunteer gardener to come in regularly and help make parts of our school site look better. It is a very flexible role and will be hugely appreciated. If you know anyone who might be interested, please get them to email Jenny on [operations@botley.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:operations@botley.oxon.sch.uk) or drop into school.

### Roller Skating Lessons for Botley School Community

Looking for a fun and active way to spend your Wednesday evenings? Isle of Skating is offering an exclusive discount to parents and staff of Botley School! Participate in their roller skating sessions and join in:

- Ultimate Beginners: Perfect for those who have never skated before.
- Level 1: Ideal for skaters with some experience.

Both 6-week courses start on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Botley School. Use the code "Botley10" to receive a 10% discount on your registration. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to learn a new skill and have a blast! Sessions are for 18+ only. Participants will need their own skates. For more information or to register, visit [www.isleofskating.com](http://www.isleofskating.com)

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### Term 1

Thursday 5th Sept 2024 –  
Fri 20th December 2024

Half term holiday  
28th Oct-1st Nov 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  
26th May - 30th May 2025

### INSET DAYS

Monday 2nd September 2024  
Tuesday 3rd September 2024  
Wednesday 4th September 2024  
Monday 6th January 2025  
Friday 4th April 2025  
Friday 23rd May 2025

### Bank Holidays

Monday 21st April 2025  
Monday 5th May 2025





### Want to work part-time for a local charity, term-time only?

ARCh is an award winning charity which recruits, trains and supports volunteer reading helpers to work with primary school children throughout Oxfordshire to encourage a love of books and reading.



We have the following position available for someone living in Oxford.

#### Field Worker (Oxford City) home based

A confident 'people person', with a passion for books and education, you will provide support to ARCh Reading Helpers. The role involves visiting primary schools in Oxford and surrounding areas, liaising with school staff and ensuring everything runs smoothly.

Enthusiasm and good communication skills both written and verbal are vital - along with a commitment to our mission

15 hours per week (to be worked across the week) term-time only.  
Use of computer and own car essential (travel expenses paid).

Contact [info@archoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@archoxfordshire.org.uk) for an application form.  
Applications will remain open until suitable candidate secured.

ARCh, Suite E, Gobles Court, 7, Market Square, Bicester, Oxon OX26 6AA

ARCh is committed to Safeguarding ; please see our policy on our website. This post is exempt from the ROA 1974 and eligible for enhanced DBS disclosure/barred lists

[www.archoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.archoxfordshire.org.uk)



Charity number 1146276

## Family Theatre and Dance



M6 Theatre Present  
**A Tigers Tale**  
Saturday 26 October  
11am & 2pm

From a circus train in South Africa, to a steamboat on the Atlantic Ocean and onward to West Yorkshire, a ramshackle travelling troupe tell us the unbelievable true story of a family of acrobats and their adopted tiger cub.

For ages 4 -11  
Tickets: £10 / £8



Body Politic and Dancin' Oxford Present  
**Family Dance Party**  
Saturday 26 October  
St John's Church, Kidlington  
10.30am & 1pm

Join us for a 'hip-hopping, toe-tapping' daytime disco for all of the family. Featuring a live DJ, party games, bubbles and disco lights and more!

Perfect for families with children under 7  
Tickets: Pay what you can

October

Book Now  
01865 319 450

## WRITERS AGES 8-18:

Join Oxford Writers' House for a  
FREE WRITING WORKSHOP!



**Peregrine's Curious  
Collection Mini Book  
Launch and Young Writers'  
Workshop:  
6 November, 2024:  
Curio Bookshop, Jericho  
5-7pm  
Tickets are FREE, but spaces  
are limited.**

**Young authors and  
guardians are welcome!  
Register by visiting  
[oxfordwritershouse.com/  
events](https://oxfordwritershouse.com/events)**

- Master fun techniques!
- Learn about the Peregrine Prize for Young Writers!
- Learn what editors and illustrators look for in a great story!



# ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

## October half term activities

### 27 October – 1 November

Xplorer

Yoga

Born to Move

For more information and to book, visit  
[southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities](http://southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities) or scan the QR code

 /SouthandValeActiveCommunities

