

# Botley School



## Newsletter – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a lovely end to the week and the sunny weather has definitely helped. Lilac class certainly enjoyed the sunshine yesterday when they were very privileged to have the opportunity to visit Pembroke College on Thursday. This was part of their Oxford history topic based on the curriculum concepts of Belonging, Community, Transformation and Teamwork. They were given a fantastic tour of the College by History Professor Guido Bonsaver who talked about the 400-year history of Pembroke and how it fitted into over a thousand-year timeline of Oxford University. He also talked about the transformation of the university and its place in Oxford; the community of Pembroke and the sense of belonging felt by alumni new and old, including many famous people such as JR Tolkien, author of Lord of the Rings. However, the special lunch provided by the College in their dining hall was undoubtedly the most memorable part of the trip for the children. The staff at Pembroke, together with the staff at Botley school and all the children worked as a great team to ensure it was a thoroughly enjoyable day out!



On Thursday, the EYFS children welcomed their families into class for our Harvest Stay and Play. The children were very excited to show their families around the classrooms and participate in a variety of Autumn themed activities. There was such a lovely buzz in the classroom, and it was so wonderful to see so many of you. The Reception children had made some apple cakes earlier in the week that they could not wait to share with their families and taste. The cakes were scrumptious!



Today we finished the week with our Harvest Assembly. Each class stood up to present on the theme of Harvest. Ladybird class sang harvest songs. Apple class talked about fruits and vegetables. Poplar class shared their artwork. Chestnut class talked about where our food comes from with the associated countries' flags. Silver Birch class shared their calligram poems. Lilac class put on a play. Sycamore class shared their harvest research with us. We sang our favourite harvest songs and the choir sang an autumn song for their first performance of the year. We also thought about why we give food and other items to the Oxford Food Bank and why working as a team in school by collecting the donations is helping our wider community. It was a lovely way to end the week and wonderful to see such a great number of parents in the audience as well. Thank you so much for coming.



Have a lovely weekend.  
Mrs Reid

## Upcoming Events

- 7<sup>th</sup> October** – 4:00 Phonics parent Meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup> October** – 9:00 Phonics Open Morning
- 18<sup>th</sup> October** – 9:15 Poetry Week assembly
- 18<sup>th</sup> October** – Year 6 Cake Sale
- 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

### Phonics Information meeting and open morning

A reminder to parents who have been invited to the phonics information meeting that this takes place on **Monday 7th October at 4.00pm** on teams. In the meeting, the staff will begin by explaining how they teach phonics from our youngest children in Nursery through to Year 2 as well as share some useful websites. They will talk about the progression in phonics and give suggest some activities to help you support your child at home. This is followed by the phonics open morning on **Tuesday 8th October 9.00-9.30am** where parents will be able to observe their child's phonics teaching. This will provide an opportunity to see the phonics teaching in action and help parents to support their child in school and at home.

### 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.

### 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. Mrs Reid will let the children know on which day of the week Choir club will meet.

### 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



**Great**

  
Assisted Reading for  
Children in Oxfordshire

**Book Giveaway**

**ARCh is giving away books!**

**SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**  
**1.30PM -3.30PM**

**St Mary's Church Hall, Iffley, OX4 4EG**

**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

A range of children's books and games  
for ages 4 to 12 years



**OCTOBER HALF TERM 2024**  
*What's on?*

MINECRAFT ENGINEERING | PROGRAM ROBOTS | SPOOKY FILM MAKING | LEGO ENGINEERING | 3D CREATIONS

Different activity theme each day, please check website for your camp activities.

**28TH OCT - 1ST NOV LIMITED SPACES**

Check out what parents are saying:  
"The kids absolutely loved the camp. They could not stop talking about what they did and how much fun they had and begged to go back. Great tech camp!"  
★★★★★

**SPECIAL OFFER!**  
**BOOK 5 DAYS FOR ONLY £175**

**What to bring to camp**

- Protein Lunch and drinks (we have)
- Water Bottle
- Medicine if needed
- Makeup, Costume (if any optional)

AGES 5-11 | £45 PER DAY  
9AM - 3PM DAILY

**5 DAYS for only £175**

[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)

## EXAMS INVIGILATION AT MATTHEW ARNOLD SCHOOL

Matthew Arnold School, off Cumnor Hill in West Oxford, are looking for Exams Invigilators for their exams to take place in December 2024, January 2025 and then in May to July 2025. We would be happy to hear from anyone who is interested in this role, not necessarily for all of the above periods. No experience is required but the role would suit anyone with an interest in education and exams, or supporting young people. The main duties are assisting experienced invigilators in preparing the rooms for exams, being present during exams and ensuring that these are carried out in accordance with exam regulations, and tidying the room afterwards. Training will be given.

If you are interested, please email [examsoffice@maschool.org.uk](mailto:examsoffice@maschool.org.uk)



Suitable for children aged 5 to 11 years  
£35 per child, per day.  
Sibling discount available  
See back for dates & venues!

## Firework Science



FUN SCIENCE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS  
DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

## October Holiday Camps 2024: Venues and Dates

Monday 28th Oct	West Oxford Primary School, Ferry Hinksey Road, Oxford, OX2 0BY
Tuesday 29th Oct	Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN
Wednesday 30th Oct	Begbroke Village Hall, Begbroke Lane, Begbroke, OX5 1RN
Thursday 31st Oct	Stockham Primary School, Stockham Way, Wantage, OX12 9HL
Friday 1st Nov	Caldecott Primary School, Caldecott Road, Abingdon, OX14 5HB

Daily - 9am to 3.30pm. £35 per child per day. Sibling discount available.

## Firework Science

Investigate the science behind fireworks in this exciting activity day. We'll take a brief look at the periodic table and then get stuck into practical investigations as we examine the elements and compounds used in fireworks and discover what colour flames they make. With safe practical investigations, fun craft activities and some great WOW moments, it'll be unforgettable!

To book, please go to the 'Science Holiday Camps' tab on our website and click the 'Register Now' button. All bookings are processed through Active Network. Spaces are subject to availability. Sibling discount available.



Call: 01865 522 775

[www.brightsparksevents.co.uk](http://www.brightsparksevents.co.uk)