

Botley School



Newsletter – 27th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week saw the publication of the Ofsted report following our inspection at the end of the summer term. I sent a communication to parents with a link to the [school website](#) where the PDF of the full report is available. I won't repeat all of my communication as it can also be found through the web link, however, I am really proud of the 'Outstanding' judgement for the Personal Development provision at Botley and that the staff were recognised for going 'the extra mile' when supporting our pupils and our families. Some stand out quotes from the report include:

"Pupils are happy at this welcoming school, where differences between people are valued and nurtured"

"This is a rapidly improving school."

"The school's values of inclusivity, teamwork, kindness, respect, resilience, and creativity run through everything it does."

"Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported."

"A well-thought-out curriculum is in place. This is ambitious and sets out the essential knowledge pupils should learn from early years to the end of key stage 2."

"This school is well led"

Whilst we are disappointed that some areas, including aspects of our phonics and maths provision still 'Require Improvement', we had already identified these areas in school and are working hard to continue the rapid improvement seen by the inspectors. The Phonics results for 2024 already show a large improvement on the 2023 results which the inspectors had to base their judgements on and we have already completed whole school retraining on phonics and are working collaboratively to share best practice, which is having an immediate positive impact on the provision. We are also holding a phonics parent meeting for parents whose children are still receiving phonics lessons (mainly Reception, year 1 and year 2) in just over a week on **Monday 7th October at 4pm** to explain the phonics approach at Botley. This will be followed by a phonics open morning on **Tuesday 8th October at 9:00** where parents can come and take part in a phonics lesson alongside their child. Please look out for communications through BromCom with invitations to these events.

Today, our Governing Board have been using their regular visit day to participate in maths teaching and learning and to find out more about the changes we are implementing this year to further develop maths understanding and improve outcomes for pupils. We are focussing applying mathematical fluency to solving puzzles and problems. The positive impact of parents completing daily maths knowledge work with children at home is fundamental to the outcomes we aspire to for our Botley pupils, so please do continue to complete times tables and other mathematical homework on a daily basis with your child at home. This is just as important as hearing your child read every day.

Finally, I would like to thank the pupils, staff, governors, Nathan Thomas (CEO) and the wider Acer Trust again for all their hard work and dedication both during the inspection itself and in the work that they do for the Botley School community every day. It truly is a wonderful learning community that I am privileged to be part of and to lead.

Have a lovely weekend
Mrs Reid

****Census Day lunch this Thursday ****

This Thursday is School Census Day and some of our funding depends on how many pupils have a school lunch that day. Chicken nuggets (including halal ones) and iced chocolate biscuit – what's not to like?! Jacket potatoes also available. Please help us boost our numbers.

Upcoming Events

W.B 30th September – SEN Profile review meetings

3rd October – 8:45 – 9:30 EYFS Harvest Stay and Play

3rd October – 1:30 – 2:30 EYFS Harvest Come and Play for prospective families

4th October – Harvest Assembly 9:15

7th October – Phonics Parent Meeting

8th October – Phonics open morning

18th October – 9:15 Poetry Week assembly

5th November – Individual photo day

6th & 7th November – parent consultation Meetings

8th November – Bear trail and Fireworks Evening

18th November – Yr 6 Residential week

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

17th December – Panto in a Day performance for children

18th December – Christmas Lunch

20th December – Christmas Assembly

Notices and Reminders

Harvest Assembly

We will be holding our annual Harvest Assembly on Friday 4th October at 9:15. Each class will be given time for a short presentation on the theme of harvest and parents are warmly invited to attend the assembly. We also ask pupils to bring in a donation on the Harvest Assembly day. This year, we will once again be collecting for the Oxford Food Bank (see more information further down the newsletter). They particularly welcome donations from the following list:

- Tinned fruit, baked beans, pulses etc
- Cooking oil
- Rice, pasta
- Tea, instant coffee, sugar
- Peanut butter, jam, Marmite
- Toiletries, nappies and sanitary products
- Breakfast cereals
- Rice pudding, tinned custard
- Sweet treats of any kind
- Surplus fruit and vegetables from allotments/gardens

Please make sure all donations are within the use by date before donating.

Choir Club

Choir Club with Mrs Reid will be on Monday afternoons from 3:20 to 4:00pm starting on Monday 23rd September. If your child is in years 3, 4, 5 or 6 and would like to join the choir, please do use the link to sign up for the club.

[Choir Club Permission form](#)

My Child at School (MCAS) – sign up now!

We are moving to MCAS for school communications from 1 October – that's next week! Staff will no longer be sending messages via Classlist, though parents and FOBS can still do so. If you have signed up but not yet downloaded the MCAS app, please do so (search MCAS in your usual app store) if at all possible. This will make our communications much more efficient.

If you have any questions, please email operations@botley.oxon.sch.uk. Thank you!

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 23rd 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

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

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.

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





GUITAR LESSONS



- Spaces available for beginner to advanced players. No need to own a guitar
- All styles covered - rock, pop, blues, classical, metal. Grades, performance, composition and theory all covered
- Lessons take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the school, with each 25 minute session taught on a 1-1 basis at £15 per lesson
- Fun, informative lessons tutored to inspire those interested in music!



For more information and to book a lesson please contact:

Lee Luland (School Guitar Teacher)

Email: LeeLuland@live.co.uk

Tel: 07872478886



**Fitzharrys
School**



Open Evening

Thursday 10th October 2024 | 5.30pm – 8pm
No booking necessary
Headteacher Mr Speke will give a presentation at 6pm and 7pm

Open Mornings

Monday 14th – Friday 18th October 2024 | Tours 9am & 10am
Booking essential; contact us to book your tour
Mr Speke will meet visitors after tours

Fitzharrys School, Northcourt Road, Abingdon, OX14 1NP
t: 01235 520698 e: office.4127@fitzharrys.school w: www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk



Senior School Open Day

12 October 2024

[Register here](#)

oxfordhigh.gdst.net/visit



Great



Book Giveaway

**SATURDAY 19th 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**



Yamaha Music School open day
2 - 7 year olds

Sunday 13 October

Music - Art - Dance - Wellbeing - 01235 847264 - office@matrixartscentre.org.uk
Matrix Arts Centre is a registered charity



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What's On

THE SCIENCE OF SUPER HEROES

As part of the IF Oxford Science and Ideas Festival

Sat 12 Oct

BOOK NOW

Tickets £9 / £7



AGE 7-12

DURATION 80 minutes

There are 100 free tickets to give away (a max of 4 per request) – simply email how many tickets you would like together with any access requirements to admin@srp-uk.org to apply.

AUTUMN FAIR

19 OCTOBER

10:00 TILL 17:00 | LAST ENTRY 16:00

HARCOURT ARBORETUM
TALKS & TRAILS, LOCAL MARKET
FOOD & DRINK, HAWK DISPLAYS
ARBORIST DEMOS, FAMILY CRAFTS



SCAN FOR
TICKETS

