

Botley School



Newsletter – 6th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a lovely start to the new school year, despite the weather doing its best to put a dampener on things! The children have been happy and calm, getting used to their new routines, teachers and teaching assistants. In our assemblies we have started by thinking out our school values of Respect, Resilience, Kindness, Creativity, Inclusivity and Teamwork and how these link to our school rules:

- We will treat everyone in Botley Community with **respect** and **kindness**
- We will ensure everyone feels **included** and part of the **team**
- We will work **creatively** and with **resilience** in our learning

The classes have all made their own charters for how they are going to support each other to keep to our values and our school rules. We have also discussed who helps us with this, including the staff and parents. As part of this, we have also voted in our pupil leadership teams for this year: Pupil Council; Eco-Warriors; DEI Champions; Sports Leaders; and House Captains. The pupils who have been voted in came to the front in today's assembly, where they each introduced themselves and said why they wanted to be part of the Leadership Teams. I am really looking forward to working with all these groups this year.

As we start this year, there are quite a few events coming up, including the parent meetings in the week starting the 16th September. During these meetings, the teaching staff will introduce themselves and their teams and go through some of the curriculum plans and expectations for each year group.

We also have our first Friends of Botley School (FOBS) PTA meeting taking place on 23rd September. This is a great chance to come and have a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or two, meet the FOBS committee and find out how you can help. Our first big event will be our annual fireworks display on November 8th, so please do come and support our brilliant committee and school.

There are lots of reminders and notices below, so please do take the time to read these, and keep an eye on the dates to the side of this text for the upcoming school events this term.

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Reid

FOBS Meeting
Monday 23rd 7pm
Botley School

Upcoming Events

9th September – Yr 4 start swimming

16th September – 2:30 KS1 parent meeting

17th September – 2:30 Reception, Year 5 and Year 6 parent meetings

18th September – 2:30 Year 3&4 parent meeting

19th September – 'Flu vaccination day

20th September – Yr 5 to Playhouse theatre

27th September – Macmillan Coffee afternoon and Cake sale

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

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

My Child at School – sign up by 13 September

From October we will switch to using MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) as the main way that we send messages to parents. Therefore, **it's vital that all families have at least one parent on MCAS**, so important information isn't missed. If at all possible, we ask you to use the MCAS app (not just the web version) which can be downloaded from your usual app store.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up already. Those who have not signed up yet should have received an email today (6 Sept) with a password link. Please check your spam/clutter/junk folders if necessary and please sign up on receipt of the email as the links expire after 24 hours. It's quick and easy to do. We will resend links each day next week to those who still need them, because **we really need all children to have at least one parent signed up by noon on 13 September**.

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

Start of the School Day

Thank you to everyone for such a strong start to the year in terms of attendance. We are already seeing a huge improvement in that fewer pupils are arriving in school late in the first two days. We now want to keep this momentum going.

As a reminder, the school day starts promptly at **8:45**. The school gates open at 8:30 and the school doors open at 8:40 to give pupils 5 minutes to get to class and learning starts at **8:45**. Please ensure your child is in school ready to learn in their classroom by **8:45** so they do not miss any valuable learning time.

Break Time Snacks

This is a polite reminder that KS2 pupils are only allowed fruit or vegetable snacks at morning break. This is part of our commitment to encouraging healthy lifestyles and to ensure parity across the school. KS1 and Early Years have fruit or vegetable snacks provided at school through specific government funding for children in those years. KS2 do not have this provided but are expected to bring fruit or vegetables for their snack. Pupils bringing other food items onto the playground will be asked to put them in their bag for lunchtime.

Uniform

It is lovely to see so many of our pupils looking smart and ready to learn in their uniform. There are still some pupils who are not in the correct uniform at all times or who are wearing jewelry in school. Pupils will be asked to remove any items of jewelry and may be given spare uniform to wear if they do not have the correct uniform on in school.

Elms Road safety and access

This is our start of the year reminder to our community that driving up Elms Road at arrival or collection times should be avoided as this makes the area much more dangerous for all our pupils and families walking to and from school. Can I also remind everyone that Elms Road is residents only parking, and therefore no parents should be parking on the road. Last year I received complaints from residents and walking parents and requested assistance from both the PCSO team to support the safety of our families and the access for the Elms Road residents. If there is a specific medical or accessibility reason why you need to park closer to the school, please contact the school office, who will forward your request to the appropriate member of staff.

Collection arrangements

Another start of the year reminder that pupils in school can only be collected by siblings who are 14 and over. This is within the policy for collection arrangements agreed by the governing board and is part of our commitment to safeguarding all our pupils here at Botley School.

You can find the policy on the school website:

[2023-collecting-children-from-school-policy.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://s3.amazonaws.com/primarysite-prod-2023-collecting-children-from-school-policy.pdf)

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



In this game there is a POSITION FOR EVERYONE. No matter who you are FLAG FOOTBALL is the game for YOU!

Join the Flag Football Movement!



CONTACT YOUTH@OXFORDSAINTS.COM FOR DETAILS!



OXFORD
SAINTS FOOTBALL
S | #SaintsStrong | #FlagFootball |



Training every SATURDAY 1000-1130, SEPTEMBER to JULY
Located at Oxford Rugby Club

For Boys & Girls aged 8-17
U11's, U14's & U17's Teams

RECRUITING NOW
For the 2025 season



Saturday 28 September 2-4pm

**for families with children
aged 11 and under**

CRAFTS ACTIVITIES FOOD

**Free but please book your place:
01865 861541 office@cumnor.org**

**St Andrew's, Orchard Rd, OX2 9BH
www.standrewsdeancourt.org.uk**



After school Family Forest Adventures

£8.00 per child, payable per term

Every Wednesday during term-time 4.00 - 5.30pm

STEP AWAY FROM SCREEN TIME! Our weekly AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS during term-time have so many benefits for primary-aged children including developing confidence, social skills, creativity, improving fitness and agility, learning about nature and much, much more...

Children must be accompanied by an adult



www.hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510

Weekly Drama Sessions

Make new friends, build confidence and develop your drama skills!
Learn about character, devising, improvising and more.
Work towards performing in a Summer Showcase at The North Wall.

<div style="background-color: #007060; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">NW Inventors</div> <div style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 2px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">Ages 8-11</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Wednesdays 5pm - 6pm Cutteslowe Community Centre</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Wednesdays 5pm - 6pm St John's Church, Kidlington</p>	<div style="background-color: #007060; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">YouthLab</div> <div style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 2px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">Ages 12-17</div> <p style="font-size: small;">Wednesdays 6pm - 7pm Cutteslowe Community Centre</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Wednesdays 6pm - 7pm St John's Church, Kidlington</p>
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£80 per term. Full bursary places available.

Book Online:
thenorthwall.com

Holiday Workshops

Did you know that we run creative workshops for 8 - 17 year olds during the school holidays?

Have a go at everything from songwriting, improv and kathak dance, to directing, devising and photography.

Scan this QR code to see what we've got coming up:



Theatre Club for Young Carers

For anyone aged 13 - 18
who identifies as a young carer

We meet every month to have dinner,
play some games and watch a show.

Free with transport support available.

For more information email Abie:
waltona@thenorthwall.com



Book Online:
thenorthwall.com

West Oxford Young Singers – run by Oxfordshire County Music Service

Does your child enjoy singing and want to do more? Are they in years 3, 4, 5, or 6? If so, West Oxford Young Singers is for them!

We meet at West Oxford Primary School from 4-5pm on Wednesdays in school term times. We sing a wide range of songs in different styles and perform regularly in concerts. Our first session this term will be on Wednesday 18th September. Interested children to come along then to try the choir before committing: to arrange this, please email jo.gill@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

For more information about the choir, including charges, and to register: [West Oxford Young Singers | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Botley Bridges:

Join us for one of our popular First Aid course on Monday 23 September. Either 1-3pm at West Oxford Community Centre or 5-7pm at Botley School.

Great course for peace of mind - suitable for parents/carers/ grandparents/babysitters.

£25 per person or £45 per couple (please email in confidence if you would like to join us but can't afford the charge)

Contact coordinator@botleybridges.org to book your space stating which course you would like to attend and letting me know the names of the people attending as you will receive a certificate upon completion.

OXFORD UNITED IN THE COMMUNITY

SKILLS CENTRES



Book here

BOOK NOW

- Available in Oxford, Witney & Haddenham
- Ages 5-8 & 9-11
- The programme offers a way to improve technical skills for those new to football, as well as to members of competitive grassroots or school teams



OXFORD UNITED
IN THE COMMUNITY

WWW.OUITC.ORG

GIRLS RUGBY TRAINING

WEDNESDAYS
TIMES: 18:00-19:00

SUNDAYS
TIMES: 9:45-11:00

AGES
U12/U14/16 (SCHOOL YEARS 5-11)
U6/U7/U8/U9/U10 (SCHOOL YEARS 1-5)

4 FREE TASTER SESSIONS

- Meet new friends
- Keep active
- Learn new skills
- Play games

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
AOIFE/STACY
GIRLSRUGBY@OXFORDHARLEQUINS.ORG

JOIN US TODAY!

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NEEDED

OXFORDQUINSRFC
Location: Horspath Sports Ground, Oxford Road,
Horspath, Oxford, OX4 2RR

We are excited to announce our [Creature Festival at Cheney School](#) on Friday 11th October, 3.45 - 6pm. It will be a community festival for all ages celebrating and exploring creatures across time and cultures, from ancient Greek monsters to Chinese Dragons, and from Irish creatures to Japanese spirits, and more. There will also be a natural history section exploring dinosaurs and other animals, and how they have inspired creatures in mythology!

There will be a wide range of activity stalls, exhibitions, performances and workshops for all ages. There will also be creature-themed refreshments. All ages are warmly welcomed and the event is free.

Places can be booked for individuals and groups by emailing lro@cheneyschool.org

The festival will open at 3pm for Cheney School students, and from 3.45pm for the wider public and continue until 5.30pm.

At the end of the event, there will be a talk by movie actor and producer [Ben Lloyd-Holmes](#) from 5.30 – 6pm: "Behind the Mask: Movies, Monsters and Magic".

There will be the following scheduled events, alongside all our other stalls and activities:

Minotaur shows: 3.05pm and 4.30pm (identical shows, 15 minutes each)

These exciting shows will be performed by Creature Events, an organisation which brings performances to events across the UK, run by professional actor and producer Ben Loyd-Holmes, known for Skyfall (2012), Black Book (2010) and Extinction (2014).

Ed Boxham, author & illustrator: performance at 4pm (20 minutes).

Join Ed for the story of the creation of Ireland, where you will meet the most ancient and weird of all Celtic monsters: The Formor. You'll also meet the ancient gods who brought their creativity to the chaotic realm of the formor, including the fabulously naughty wild-child-god Aengus. Ed's telling of the story is a fabulous mix of spoken word, poetry, song and a bit of joining in. All ages very welcome.

Medusa Performances: 3.30pm and 5pm (10 minutes each, followed by 30 minute workshops)

The VDK Dance Company has produced a selection of solos and duets with an overarching theme of Greek Mythology. The company brings performance into schools to teach students about Greek mythology. It is run by choreographer/dancer/teacher Jessica Van de Koot, and associates Harriet Ellis and Manon Servage.

We look forward to seeing you there!