

Botley School



Dear Parents/Carers,

On Monday, children from Reception to Year 3 enjoyed an exciting Drama4All workshop. As they entered the hall, they were welcomed by Merlin the Wizard, who shared the story of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

The children took part in a range of imaginative activities, including moving around the hall as though travelling through a magical forest, inventing their own potions to help find Excalibur and creating fantastic freeze-frames of Morgan le Fay's pet dragon, Pen Dragon. Merlin also had a cat, but he got lost so the children had to go on an adventure in search for him. On the way they met a dragon who they needed to be careful of so when they saw him, they turned into a statue! Luckily, the cat was found in the end! Everyone had a wonderful morning and remained fully engaged throughout the session.



This week we have been practicing singing one of our Christmas songs and today we turned the school hall into a recording studio so that we could record our school performance of 'Have a Holly Jolly Christmas' for Radio Oxford. I have now sent the recording in, so listen out for us on the morning show between now and Christmas. If I get advanced warning of the date, I'll let parents know, but in the meantime if you would like an early release of the track, please use the link.

[Holly Jolly Christmas.m4a](#)

The Christmas spirit has certainly hit Botley this week with trees appearing around the school. If your child would like to send Christmas cards, we have a Christmas post box outside my office. Please make sure that the envelope is marked with the name and class of the recipient so our year 6 Christmas Elves know where to take the cards.

Thank you to FOBS and Mr Christou for another brilliant School Disco on Wednesday evening. The pupils had an amazing time and left tired out from all their dancing – there may have been a few teachers also tired out from dancing! As always thank you to all the parent and staff volunteers who enable these events to take place.



There are lots more events next week, including the KS1 Nativity on Thursday evening and the workshare event on Friday at the end of the day. Please see information below.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.
Mrs Reid

Upcoming Events

11 Dec – EYFS Christmas stay and play 9:15

11 Dec – KS1 performance 4:00

12 Dec – prospective Parent tour

12 Dec – Workshare

17 Dec – Xmas lunch/party day

19 Dec – Christmas Assembly 9:15

19 Dec – End of Term early finish 1:30

Workshare and food to sample

Next Friday (12 December) is our Workshare event. All parents are invited into school at the end of the school day to visit their child's classroom and look through their school books. Our new caterers Aspens will also be in the school hall with samples of their food, both savoury and sweet – do head along there too to taste it for yourselves. It's all free! It's also a great opportunity to ask Aspens any questions you may have about school lunches

**Fundraising alert!**

This year we are raising money for a new climbing structure near the main playground. It should be exciting for the children and give lots of opportunities for fun, learning and adventure. We will be applying for grants, launching a Crowdfunder, and hopefully Kier will contribute but we will also need lots of help from FOBS (Friends of Botley School). The proceeds of the Fireworks event will go towards this, and it's great that we are bringing back the Christmas Disco (3 December) to raise more money. FOBS would welcome other fundraising ideas and offers of help to make them happen! Please email fobs1930@gmail.com or share on the FOBS WhatsApp group. The Pupil Council will be involved in choosing the exact structure but it's likely to be something like the one shown below. Please help us to raise enough for an exciting large structure! Watch this space...

**Pallet truck**

If anyone is interested in buying a nearly-new pallet truck (pump truck) or knows anyone who might be interested, please email Jenny on operations@botley.oxon.sch.uk. We bought it about a year ago for £189, have used it about 5 times, and would like to sell it for £100 or nearest offer. It's from The Workplace Depot [Pump Truck | Free Delivery](#). It carries 2500kg, has nylon wheels and is in excellent condition.

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

To apply for 'Free School Meals' and pupil premium, please download the application form using the link below. If your child is in KS1, they will get a free meal anyway, but please still complete the form if you are eligible, as this also then provides additional funding for the school to use in other ways. If you are not sure if your family is eligible, please do speak to the wonderful office staff or Mrs Yasin, who will be able to help you.

[Free School Meals application form](#)

Term Dates 2025-2026**Term 1**

Thursday 4th Sept 2025 –
Fri 19th December 2025
Half term Holiday:
27th – 31st October 2025

Term 2

Tuesday 6th Jan 2026 –
Friday 27th March 2026
Half term holiday:
16th Feb – 20th Feb 2026

Term 3

Monday 13th April 2026 –
Friday 17th July 2026
Half term holiday:
25th May-29th May 2026

INSET DAYS

Monday 1st September
2025
Tuesday 2nd September
2025
Wed 3rd September 2025
Monday 3rd November
2025
Monday 5th January 2026
Monday 1st June 2026
Monday 20th July 2026

**Contact details**

Office.2569@Botley.oxon.sch.uk
01865 248573



E-mail: office@acertrust.org.uk
Tel: 01865 519215

Nursery parents: Apply now for their Reception class place:

We are letting you know that applications for Reception places for children starting school in **September 2026** is now open. The deadline for applications is **15 January 2026**.

We strongly encourage families to apply online via the following link: [Reception applications | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

If online applications are not possible, I've attached forms that can be printed or completed digitally.

We would be grateful if you could share this information with parents of children born between **1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022**, who are eligible to start school in September 2026.

Key reminders for parents:

- Read the Starting School Guide on the website
- Apply on time – late applications won't receive an offer on National Offer Day (16 April 2026)
- Update addresses – upload proof of address and inform current nursery/school (if there has been a change)
- Include sibling details where relevant
- List multiple preferences – up to four schools can be selected

Late applications are far less likely to secure a place at a preferred school, so it is important that parents apply on time.

Are you looking for a Nursery or Reception place for your child?

Find out what exciting learning opportunities Botley School has to offer!



Open Events!

We have several events for you to be able to come visit our Early Years and the school.



Parent tours:

Tuesday 21st October
1.30pm

Wednesday 19th
November 3.30pm

Friday 12th December
9.30am

Come and play sessions:

(including Botley Bridges)

Monday 13th October

Monday 8th December

10.00-11.00am

Tuesday 13th January 3.30pm

Come along to have a cuppa and we will help you apply for the school place.

To sign up for an invitation to the events please email your details to

Office.2569@botley.oxon.sch.uk

Was your child born between

1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022?

Find out more about Brilliant Botley on our school website

<https://www.botleyschool.org.uk>



Don't forget to apply for your Reception school place between **1st November 2025 and 15th January 2026**



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 £16 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

Please note Lee has spaces for new students on Thursdays if any prospective parents would like to get in contact, Thank you

Piano lessons

Every week on
Mondays and Tuesdays
during school hours



For more information contact Diyana
Mob: 07707216175
Email: divchevcurr@yahoo.co.uk

Please note Diyana has spaces for new students if any prospective parents would like to get in contact and reserve their place. Thank you



Girls aged 7-10 Years old

Do you want to have Fun,
Make New Friends
& Learn New Things?

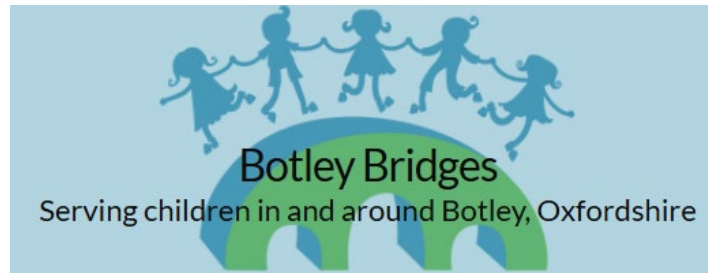
Then join 2nd Botley Brownies

Tuesdays 6:15pm to 7:45pm

Contact:

secondbotleybrownies@outlook.com





What a busy month we have in December. We look forward to seeing you at one of our sessions for some Christmas cheer.

Please note that the Health Visiting Team will be joining us at Baby Group on Friday 12 December

We are now running two Stay and Play sessions every week at Botley School - have you been to see us yet?

These sessions are great opportunities for you and your child/children to meet and make friends with other local families whilst playing in a purpose built space with a great garden.

Everybody welcome to attend. Unfortunately there is no car parking in the school car park during term time but you can park at Elms Parade for up to 2 hours free of charge.

Please could you take a minute to complete our very quick survey about stay and play using the link below (this link should work - please let me know if there is a problem)

<https://forms.gle/S8ngVqDfjHA87n8F8>

Botley Bridges Hampers are back for Christmas 2025!

You can help in numerous different ways, by donating good quality goods, making a financial contribution or offering to pack up the hampers.

If you would like to request a hamper, please follow the instructions on the poster.

For further information, please contact sue@botleybridges.org

Thank you for helping to spread Christmas Cheer

This is the last week that you can sign up for the Christmas Forest School session on Saturday 13 December as **bookings will close on Friday 5th December.**

Book now to avoid missing out

Join us on Monday 15 December for our annual Botley Bridges Christmas Party between 9-11am at Botley School. No car parking is available at the school but there is free 2 hour parking at Elms Parade Shops.

The cost is £3 per family and we are respectfully asking for an additional £1 per child to go towards the cost of a gift that they will receive from a very special visitor.

Please bring a very small plate of food to share (ie fruit/crisps/cake/biscuits/savouries etc)

Although booking is not required, an idea of numbers would be helpful.

There will be Christmas crafts available and Christmas singing too.

Stay and Play on Wednesday 17 December will also include Christmas crafts/activities and singing.

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 / 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:
Thursday 18th Dec 5-8pm or Friday 19th Dec 8-11am
- Cumnor School, Botley School, West Oxford School or any Botley Bridges session: 15-18th December

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 via QR code ->
- OR ask for a paper form from your local school or preschool and hand it in
- AND send via email to sue@botleybridges.org



For more information, visit botleybridges.org Registered charity number 1172139



Fully Funded School Support Course

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SMART**

Free Online Courses

**Fully
Funded
Course**



www.studysmartuk.online

We are looking to fill 150+ School Support vacancies in local schools (e.g. SEN Support, Behaviour Mentors, 1-1 Classroom Support, Cover Supervisors etc). These roles are available in both full time and part time positions.

Please go to our website address given above, or scan the QR code for more information.

This is a 6 week course, full time, intensive course, with online guided learning sessions within school hours.

If you are earning less than £23,500 per annum or are in receipt of any benefits, you will be eligible for a fully funded place with us.





CHRISTMAS EVE CHRISTINGLE

Join us for a family friendly Christingle service with a re-telling of the Christmas story

Thursday 24th December
4.30pm

St Peter & St Paul Church
West Way, Botley
OX2 9JY



Free Holiday Activities and Food

for eligible 4-16 yr olds
who get benefits-related free school meals.

- Climbing
- Dance
- Crafts
- Dodgeball
- Sports
- and more
- Cookery

Find a club for you
eequ.org/hafoxfordshire

fun, friendship and adventure






Every Wednesday during term-time 4.00 - 5.30pm



Outdoor Explorers




£8.00 per child p/w

Experience the magic of nature & the joy of outdoor adventure, together with your children, after school each Wednesday:

- Fun outdoor self-led activities
- Hands-on nature exploration
- Unwind, connect with the environment & make friends

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

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510



Previous attachment



Forest Tots

2 - 6 years
10.00am - 11.30am
Mondays (term time)



Let your little explorers experience the magic of the outdoors! Packed with adventure, creativity, and discovery Forest Tots will help your child grown in confidence & independence and encourage a life long love for nature.

And for the grown ups... you can build friendships, explore nature with your little one(s) and enjoy some woodland well-being for yourselves.

Please visit our website for full details:
<https://hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events>

£8.00 per child

@Hill_end_centre @HillEndOEC @Hill_End
Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510



www.osacademy.co.uk

XMAS FOOTBALL CAMP

Our December Football Camp is open to all players aged 4-13 Years & will be Christmas Party themed with lots of festive fun, challenges and prizes throughout the day.





MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER
10am - 2.30pm





£25 (siblings discount available)
info@osaacademy.co.uk

Eynsham Sports Pavillion
Oxford Road
OX29 4HG



UNLIMITED FREE TRIAL!

Botley Primary School BEGINNER KARATE LESSONS



3yrs +
Tuesdays
Thursdays

BOOK NOW | TOMWD@OSTMA.CO.UK | 07464 631446



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2025 Hybrid (Online_Offline)

Designed to help you to improve English Language with everyday digital skills

Practical classes with interactive instruction to help you feel comfortable, communicating in English and integrating into your local community.

To reserve a place, please text or email us your contact details

We operate under GDPR rules and regulations, your information will be stored securely and in confidence.

admin@icn-uk.org or Text 07951 035096

WWW.ICN-UK.ORG
CHARITY REGISTRATION NO: 1188607

TRY A CLASS FOR FREE



Now showing, CONFIDENCE!

Drama, dance & singing classes designed to help 4-12 year olds shine

**** My son has adored his first term at Perform. He has blossomed and I've seen his confidence grow every week. ****

Pippa Wotton



Play is a POWERFUL THING

Perform classes help boost children's **confidence, concentration, coordination** and **communication** skills, as well as being lots of fun.

Our expertly designed drama, dance and singing sessions for 4-7s and 7-12s are run by experienced teachers, hand-picked for their warmth and approachability. They'll be with your child every step of the way - inspiring and encouraging them to develop vital life skills as they discover the joy of performing.

What does Perform offer?

- Performing arts-based games and exercises
- Focus on a different social skill each week
- Small classes and feedback on your child's progress
- Specially created scripts, videos and apps
- End of term presentation for family and friends

Ready to try for free?
Your child's first class is free, so why not give it a go? Classes take place all over, have a look online or call us:



perform.org.uk/try 020 7255 9120

** Perform helps develop all key areas of a child in a fun, supportive and engaging way. It gives my daughter a brilliant sense of fun, community, purpose and pride in her achievements. **
Begum Bari

DIDCOT
RAILWAY CENTRE

Steam Into Christmas

Enjoy unlimited train rides and help Santa find his missing reindeer!
Find each of Santa's lost reindeer, culminating in a visit to Santa's workshop to meet Santa.

◆◆ **BOOK NOW - 01235 817200** ◆◆
www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk

TARGET NETBALL ACADEMY
EST. 2024

CHRISTMAS DATES

OXFORD & CHELTENHAM

2nd January - 1:1s available
9-10am
10-11am
12-1pm
1-2pm
2-3pm

3rd January - CHRISTMAS CAMP
09:00-15:00pm
10-14yrs
£50pp

SIGN UP LINK IN BIO OR EMAIL US!!

targetnetballacademy@gmail.com
07469196478

First come first serve basis...

Oxford Swim School

Swim School

Weekly Lessons (30 minutes)

**Thursdays 4.30pm-6.30pm &
Saturdays 9am-1.30pm**

Private Pool at Oxford High School
(Summertown)

Age 4 years upwards
Small tuition groups

Happy, caring atmosphere

Contact Caroline 01865 864537
caroline@oxfordswimschool.co.uk
www.oxfordswimschool.co.uk



Slade Wonderland

Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th December 2025
6:00 - 8:30pm
&
Saturday 13th December
1:00 - 5:00pm

Slade Park Fire Station
Horspath Driftway
Headington
OXFORD
OX3 7JG

In aid of
The Fire Fighters Charity

and lots more...

Drago and his Sleigh

Fire Safety Grotto

Send a letter to Santa

Christmas Displays & Raffle

Carol Singers & BBQ

Oxford Children's Hospital Charity

Helen & Douglas Hoce

The Fire Fighters Charity

BOOK NOW - LIMITED SPACES!
WWW.WRSPORTSLTD.COM 01865 587876

WR SPORTS CHRISTMAS CAMPS

EARLY BIRD CODE: EB10 ENDS 05/12

4-12 yrs

DEC-JAN
22ND, 23RD, 2ND

LOCATIONS:
BRACKLEY LEISURE CENTRE
TOWCESTER CENTRE FOR LEISURE
WHEATLEY PARK SCHOOL
WATLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
THE SWAN SCHOOL, OXFORD

WHY JOIN US?

- Perfect way to keep your kids active this holiday.
- Wide range of activities.
- Build confidence and skills.

Special Events

MAGDALEN ROAD FROST FEST

Sat 6 Dec | 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Come along to Pegasus on Saturday 6 December and join in the festive fun of the Magdalen Road Frost Fest! All events at Pegasus are free and drop in between 2 and 4pm. There will be a Christmas Jumper Parade, Carol Singing and a visit at all the traders stores and businesses from Santa!

- Decorate a Bauble and add it to our Tree in the Foyer!
- Drop in and decorate a lantern in our Theatre.
- Meet some of the Cast of our Amazing Christmas show Supemarket Scrooge and Caper and get a discount on tickets!

There will be a street Christmas light switch on at 3pm!