

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 33

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week we held two of our three annual Sports Day events, which were filled with energy, teamwork and brilliant sportsmanship. The Year R children were amazing in their very first Sports Day at Boorley and it was lovely to see families enjoying the picnic with the children beforehand. Yesterday's KS1 Sports Day was slightly soggy but a wonderful event nonetheless with children showing amazing resilience and determination despite the Great British weather! We would like to say a special thank you to the Year 5 children and student ambassadors from Deer Park as well as the Learning Through Sport leaders who supported and led the events. A separate letter has been sent with details of the rearranged picnic for KS1 and 2 and Sports Day for Key Stage 2.

Aside from Sports Day, we have had a week of brilliant achievements. Our Year 1 children have successfully completed their phonics screening check. They worked incredibly hard to prepare and we're so proud of each and every one of them. A big thank you to all the parents for your support at home, which has made such a difference. Similarly, our Year 4 children have also completed their Multiplication Check. They've put in so much effort to learn their times tables and their hard work both inside and outside of school was evident.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all the staff members for their dedication and support in preparing the children for all these events at this very busy time of year. Have a fantastic weekend.



INSPIRING MINDS

In Year 4 Geography, we have started our unit of learning focusing on our enquiry question 'Where does our food come from?'. In our second lesson, we focused on Côte D'Ivoire and explored what responsible trading is. We used atlases to locate Côte D'Ivoire and the children showed excellent atlas and map skills! Our focus on responsible trading has inspired us to consider our food choices and look for food and ingredients which have been sourced responsibly.



NURTURING FUTURES

World Environment Day, with a theme of Plastic Pollution, took place last Thursday 5th June. Eco-club encouraged all classes to take part. Our children are passionate about the environment and created some incredible responses to their learning on this topic. Here is a selection of work created by children across the school, including posters to inform others to stop plastic pollution, or to show an invention that might help to stop it, sculptures made from plastic waste, and a huge class poster of resolutions. What an incredible day!



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Our community garden is beginning to take shape beautifully, with all beds now filled with soil and some initial plants thriving! We're are looking for volunteers to help nurture this community space. If you're able to offer your time or donate plants, vegetable seeds, tools, or watering cans, please contact the school office. Your contributions, big or small, will help the garden flourish and become a vibrant hub for our community. A special thanks to Mrs Talbot for her dedication to this project!



Friday 20th June is an INSET Day and therefore school will be closed to all pupils on this day.

SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

We wanted to bring your attention a character called 'Jeffy' that some children might encounter online. The Safer Schools website (oursaferschools.co.uk) has issued important guidance regarding this character. They highlight that 'Despite the video's child-friendly animation style, our online safety experts found videos portraying sexual content, nudity, violence, gore, profanity and more inappropriate themes.' This means that what appears harmless can actually be very unsuitable for children. The Safe Schools website even reports of children mimicking dangerous actions seen in these videos. Watching things like this can be confusing, upsetting, and even harmful for children, and it's vital that what they see and hear is suitable for their age. We strongly encourage you to talk to your child about what they are watching online, helping them to understand that some videos and games are not age-appropriate, and make sure they are only accessing content that is safe and suitable for them.

KEY DATES



June 2025

Thursday 19th June - Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 parents are invited to a school picnic starting at 12:30pm to 1:00pm.

Thursday 19th June Reserve Sports Day - KS2 starting at 1:15pm all parents of Key Stage 2 children are warmly invited to join us for this.

Friday 20th June INSET day - School closed to all pupils

Monday 23rd June at 2:30pm Year R Parent Workshop – Planting - Year R Classrooms

Wednesday 25th June - Transition Day

Friday 27th June Year R Mill Farm Visit to Boorley Park School

July 2025

Wednesday 2nd July 2:15-3pm - Rocksteady Concert to parents of Rocksteady children

Tuesday 8th July 2:45-3:15pm Parent Workshop - The Big Fat Quiz of Year 4 - In the Hall

Wednesday 9th July 9.15am Year 2 End of Year Celebration Assembly - In the Hall

Wednesday 9th July 1:30-1:50pm Owl Class Violin Concert in the Hall

Wednesday 9th July 2:45 pm Year 1 Parent Workshop - Fruit Kebabs - classrooms

Friday 11th July 3:30-7pm PTA Summer Fayre

Monday 14th July 3:50pm Choir Performance to parents

Thursday 17th July 2:45-3pm Year 3 Parent Workshop - Summer Picnic– On the field/Hall

Tuesday 22nd July – Last Day of Term

Wednesday 23rd July – Friday 29th August Summer Holidays



Boorley Park Term Dates 2025/26

RAISE
EDUCATION TRUST

September 2025

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October 2025

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November 2025

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December 2025

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January 2026

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February 2026

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March 2026

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April 2026

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June 2026

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July 2026

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August 2026

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School Holiday

INSET Day – school closed to pupils

Bank Holiday



PTA CORNER

🎉 Support Our Summer Festival! 🎉

We're getting ready for our Summer Festival and need your help to spread the word! ☀️ 🏠

As we've done in previous years, our fantastic estate agent partner will be placing advertising boards in front gardens around the community to help promote the event – and we're looking for volunteers willing to host one! 🏠 ✨

You don't need to do anything – the estate agents handle everything from setup to removal. All we need is your permission to place a board in your garden.

If you're happy to help us out, please let us know by: ✉️ Emailing us at boorleyparkpta@gmail.com

📱 Or sending us a message on Facebook

Thanks so much for your support – let's make this summer's festival the best one yet!

Revels on the Rec

This is the last call for any volunteers for the Botley Revels on the Rec event on Saturday 21st June! Please contact us using the information above if you are interested!

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMINDE YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are **not** to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness In Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSHE curriculum.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

