

The Botwell Bulletin

We place Christ at the heart at the heart of everything we do to inspire excellence

Young Carers

Carers Trust Hillingdon is delighted to be working with Botwell House Catholic Primary School to provide information, advice and support to young carers and their families. Young carers are children and young people aged from 5 – 25 years old who help to look after someone in their household who has a disability, mental or physical ill-health or misuses substances. This could be a child caring for a sibling with autism, a mother with depression, a father with cancer or even a grandparent with dementia.

We are a registered charity and our aim is to reduce the impact that caring can have on a young person by providing free trips and activities, youth clubs, workshops and support for young carers in school through 1:1 or small group work. If you would like further information, please speak to Mrs Howard or Mrs Vass in school or contact Carers Trust Hillingdon on 01895 811206.

Upcoming events

Friday 23rd October

- Reception parent rosary group (school chapel)
- End of half term (usual finish time)

Monday 2nd November

- Children return to school

Tuesday 3rd November

- Year 6 parents evening

Thursday 19th November

- Parents' Evening for Reception-Year 5

Parent Volunteer Wanted – OPAL Play Working Group



We are excited to announce that we will be beginning our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) initiative in January!

OPAL is an award-winning programme that aims to improve children's play experiences by providing more creative, active and imaginative opportunities during playtimes. It encourages children to explore, take appropriate risks, work together and use a wider range of materials and resources to make their play more enjoyable.

To help us get started, we are looking for a parent volunteer to join our OPAL working group, working alongside a senior leader, a member of school staff and a school governor. The group will help us plan and develop the initiative to ensure that our children benefit from exciting and enriching play opportunities. There will be meetings that take place during the school day.

If you are interested in getting involved and helping us make playtimes even better for our children, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the school office to express your interest.

Book bags



We are pleased to let parents know that our school supplier now has all school bookbags back in stock! As bookbags are now available, children no longer need to bring backpacks to school. Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us ensure that children have the correct school bag for the school day.

Water bottles



A quick reminder that we have moved to clear or translucent plastic water bottles, with a maximum capacity of 750ml. Please ensure that your child brings a bottle that meets these requirements each day.

Metal water bottles and bottles larger than 750ml are no longer permitted in school. We appreciate your support in helping us ensure that all children follow our school expectations.

Coats

As the weather is getting colder and we are experiencing more wet and rainy days, please ensure that your child comes to school with a suitable coat each day. The children spend time outdoors during playtimes and lunchtimes and we want to make sure they stay warm and comfortable whatever the weather.

Year 6 Netball



Our Botwell Netball Team played their first netball match against Dr Triplett's and, although we didn't get the win, they should be so proud of themselves!

They showed great teamwork, determination and some fantastic play throughout. A brilliant effort from everyone, and lots of positives to build on for the next match!

Parish Christmas Bazaar



We would be grateful for donations of glass jars filled with fun items such as sweets, chocolates, hairbands or stationery to support our stall at the Church Christmas Bazaar. Please do not include any nut products.

The bazaar will take place on Saturday 14th November, from 12 noon to 4.00pm.

Please send your filled jars into school by the morning of Friday 13th November.

Thank you so much for your support!

Hillingdon Council's free Repair and Reuse Day

Just a reminder that Hillingdon Council will be hosting a free 'Repair and Reuse' day. The event will be taking place on 17th October 2026 between 11.00am and 2.00pm at Botwell Green Leisure Centre.

This is a free community event where you can learn practical skills to repair your clothes, and get your bike or electricals fixed - helping you save money and reduce waste.

You will also have the opportunity to visit stalls from Learn Hillingdon and Austin Sewing Club, discover opportunities to develop new skills, get practical energy-saving tips, and more.

If you want to drop off unwanted textiles for reuse and small electricals that are beyond repair, they will recycle them.

The event will feature clothes repair workshops, electrical repair advice, free bike checks, textile donations, book and teddy reuse stalls, recycling information and practical tips to help residents reduce waste and save money. It is a family-friendly event with activities suitable for parents and children alike.

If you would like more information on this event, please go to the link below.

<https://pre.hillingdon.gov.uk/discover/repair-day>

Attendance



Our attendance figures are very similar to last week, with 14 classes achieving 96% attendance or above. Although no classes managed to reach 100% this week, there is still lots to celebrate.

A big well done to 4B, our winning class, with an impressive 98.9% attendance! Congratulations also to Year 6, who achieved the highest overall attendance across the year groups this week.

Don't forget about our attendance incentives! Children who achieve 98% attendance or above will be entered into our February 2027 prize draw for the chance to win a scooter. Those who maintain 98% attendance or above throughout the academic year will also be entered into our July prize draw for the chance to win a fantastic family day out at Go Ape!

Every day in school counts, so let's keep working together to improve our attendance and give all our children the best possible opportunities to learn, make progress and enjoy time with their friends. Well done to everyone who has worked hard to get to school on time and attend regularly!

Prayer and Reflection

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the importance of persevering in prayer and never losing hope. At Botwell House, we encourage our children to trust in God, even when life presents challenges. Just as the persistent widow continued to seek justice, we are called to stand up for what is right and speak out for those whose voices may not be heard. By placing Christ at the heart of everything we do, we can put our faith into action through courage, compassion and service to others.

Heavenly Father,

Give us the courage to face challenges with faith and determination. Help us to recognise when others need our kindness and support. Guide our words and actions so that we may bring hope to those around us. May we always be instruments of Your love and peace.

Amen

