



Saturday 5th September 2026

The Botwell Bulletin

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

Welcome

We warmly welcome back all our families to a new academic year, and extend a special greeting to those joining us for the first time – whether in Nursery, Reception, further up the school or a new member of staff.

We hope that all of our families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break and had the opportunity to spend some quality time together.

It's been wonderful to see the children returning this week, full of smiles reconnecting with their friends and ready to learn. We're especially excited to welcome all of our new Reception children next week for their very first day at 'big school'!

On behalf of all our staff, teaching and non-teaching, thank you for the thoughtful gifts and cards at the end of last term. They were truly appreciated.

The teachers have been busy preparing classrooms and lessons for the children, and it's been lovely to see the children already settling in so well. Staff have commented on the fantastic start they've made – working hard, being kind, and showing a real enthusiasm for the year ahead.

We appreciate that there have been a number of changes over the summer. We understand that change is sometimes difficult and can be disconcerting. However, please be aware that any changes are always made with the children's best interests at heart.

Our New Mission Statement

Last year, we reviewed our school mission statement as a community. After working with pupils, yourselves as parents, staff and governors, we are delighted to share our new mission statement.

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

Our CHRIST values have now changed too to reflect the key Gospel values- **Compassion, Hope, Respect, Inclusion, Service, Trust.**

This will now replace 'Love one another as I have loved you. Through care, courtesy and concern.' Please ask your child about what they have learnt about this new mission statement and how they can live it out daily. You should soon see the signage and images around school changing to reflect this exciting time in our school's Catholic story.

Upcoming events

Friday 11th September

- Start of year Mass @ 9.15am

Friday 18th September

- Film crew /photographers in

Monday 28th September

- Yr6 Meet the Teachers @8:45am
- Yr5 Meet the Teachers @2pm

Tuesday 29th September

- Yr4 Meet the Teachers @8:45am

Wednesday 30th September

- Yr3 Meet the Teachers @8:45am

Thursday 1st October

- Yr1 Meet the Teachers @8:45am

Friday 2nd October

- Yr2 Meet the Teachers @2pm



Botwell App and Botwell Bulletin

A reminder to all parents and carers to check the Botwell app regularly, ideally on a daily basis and to have your notifications set to 'on'. The app is our main method of sharing important information, including newsletters, event details, trip information, reminders and urgent updates, including welfare such as a child's injury. Regularly checking the app will help ensure that you do not miss any important notices or upcoming events and thus your child will not miss out on anything. If you have not yet signed up to the school app, we implore you to do so as soon as possible so that you can stay informed and up to date with everything happening at school. If you are experiencing any difficulties with the app or are unsure of how to sign up please contact the school office.

We would also encourage all families to read this Botwell Bulletin every week, as this contains key information about forthcoming events and important school updates. The bulletin is also a wonderful way to celebrate the many achievements of our children and to see photographs and reports from the exciting trips, activities and learning experiences taking place across the school.

Hot School meals

There have been a number of challenges implementing the new hot school meals, however this is very much expected. By Friday (day 2) things were already looking vastly improved in the hall. The Orchard team have been in the school giving lots of support to parents, staff and indeed the children.

One big challenge that you can help us out with is ordering **with** your child please. It avoids a child coming up for their meal being upset as they prefer another meal than what you may have ordered without their involvement.

We have already seen many children who are historical reluctant eaters getting stuck into their hot meals which is extraordinary to see at this point. Please remain positive about this and keep promoting how good this is for them growing up.

Do please note that there are a few children that do have packed lunches. These children have restrictive diets as a result of either a medical or complex developmental need. As an inclusive school, both staff and pupils understand that for these children, an adapted diet (such as a specific lunch made at home) is a requirement of their condition.

Citrus

We would like to make parents aware that we have a member of our school community with a severe citrus allergy. In order to help keep this individual safe, we kindly ask that parents do not send citrus fruits, such as oranges, satsumas, clementines, lemons or limes, in their child's snack box on Thursdays and Fridays. We appreciate that this may require a small adjustment to snack

Uniform

We have tried to keep our uniform as cheap and simple as possible. All children should now be in winter uniform, with translucent/transparent water bottles (under 750ml) and book bags (no back packs). Earrings can be worn – but we would advise not – however these must be small plain gold/silver spherical studs with no jewels/patterns please.

We will share the link to the policy on the app shortly. You can find the supplier's details there, if you wish to order more uniform onsite.

If you have old uniform that is still in a good condition, please hold onto it as we are hoping to get a second-hand sale up and running in the near future.

Friends of Botwell

Our Friends of Botwell (basically our PTA,) is a group of parents that support the school raising money for projects that enhance the children's opportunities. But it's not just that, they also help drive social events! Both of these two key aspects are central to ensuring that we are a 'community' helping children and parents make memories and life-long friends.

Our FOB team did an amazing job last year and I know they are keen to get a meeting in soon to hopefully get more families involved. Next week, we'll have details of when the meeting is and how you can get involved. Whether you have an hour to help on a stand or the time to do a bit more... we need your help!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those that helped out last year. All of the staff are very grateful for all your endeavours.

Film crew and photographer

On Friday 18th September we will have a videographer and photographer visiting the school for the day, developing a promotional video and taking action shots of learning etc. We have all your photography consent information already so nothing for you to do at all but if you feel strongly that you don't want your child involved do let the office know.

I should imagine that generally everyone would be excited for their children to be involved and represent the school on the website for instance.

Meet the teacher sessions

You will note the dates listed at the top of this bulletin for each year group's 'Meet the teachers' session. As with all events this year, if you are not on time, you will not be admitted. Come early and enjoy a tea/coffee and some food tasting courtesy of our new caterers. The hall will be open for parents from 8:35am for the morning sessions and 1:45pm for the afternoon ones. Ideally, don't bring little ones if you can avoid it so that you can concentrate on the important info the teachers will be sharing, but if you do, please bring toys/snack etc to keep them content and happy to facilitate this for you and everyone else round you.

Attendance



As we begin a new school year, we would like to remind all families of the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Every day in school matters, and children make the best progress when they are in school, on time, and ready to learn.

We ask parents to avoid taking holidays during term time, as even a few days of missed learning can have a significant impact on children's progress and confidence. We would also like to remind parents that children can usually attend school if they have a minor illness such as a cold, sore throat or cough, provided they are well enough to take part in their learning. By working

together and establishing good attendance habits from the start of the year, we can ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed and make the most of all that school has

to offer.

To encourage excellent attendance throughout the year, we are delighted to be introducing an attendance prize draw for families. Any child who achieves 98% attendance or above by the end of the academic year will be entered into the draw. The prize for one lucky KS1 winner will be a brand new scooter, while one KS2 winner will receive a family day out at Go Ape.

We hope this exciting incentive will help reinforce the importance of attending school every day and making the most of every learning opportunity.

We would like to congratulate 4 Brennan class, who were the only class to achieve 100% attendance this week. They will receive extra play time next week.

New year Mass children and parents

Please do join us for Mass on Friday morning in Church, starting at 9:15am. The children sit in the middle two pews and families are down the sides. Do celebrate Mass with us singing along to the hymns and modelling the responses loudly to support/encourage the children.

Prayer and Reflection

As we begin a new school year, we look ahead with hope
and excitement for all that is to come.

Together, we place Christ at the heart of everything we do,
inspiring us to be the very best we can be. Pupils will learn,
grow and support one another. Staff will guide, encourage
and inspire every child to flourish. Parents and families,
will work together in partnership and strengthen our
school community. Together, we look forward to a year of
faith, learning, friendship and excellence.

Loving God, as we begin this new school year, guide us in
all that we do.

Help us to place Christ at the heart of our learning,
friendships and community.

May pupils, staff and families work together with kindness,
hope and love.

Inspire us all to grow, flourish and strive for excellence.
Amen.

