

Bitterne Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Hope

Courage

Creativity

16 January and 23 January 2026

Issue 16

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

We now have the report from the Local Authority evaluative visit in December, which reviewed the progress made since the February 2025 inspection. We are pleased to share the key findings from this visit to Bitterne Church of England Primary.

The visit confirmed that the school has made clear and positive progress, particularly during the current academic year. Leaders and staff were recognised for responding swiftly and effectively to areas for improvement, while continuing to prioritise children's wellbeing, safety and inclusion.

Early reading and phonics were highlighted as strengths. A consistent phonics programme is now firmly in place, supported by staff training and regular monitoring. Lessons observed showed good alignment to the programme and appropriate support for all pupils.

Early Years provision has improved significantly. Enhancements to indoor and outdoor learning environments, alongside stronger adult interaction, are having a positive impact on children's learning and preparation for Key Stage 1.

Across the school, teaching and learning continue to strengthen through improved curriculum planning in maths and writing, daily times tables practice, refreshed reading resources, and classroom approaches that encourage participation and independence.

The visit also praised the school's work on inclusion and SEND, noting a strong inclusive culture and positive pupil feedback about feeling safe and supported.

A particular strength identified was the development of the school's renewed Christian vision and values, created through consultation with children, parents, staff and governors and now embedded in worship and daily school life.

Next steps focus on embedding consistent high expectations, strengthening assessment, and increasing independence and challenge for all pupils. The next evaluation visit will take place in March 2026.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school and we look forward to sharing our report after the next visit with you celebrating the improvements we continue to make.

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes Mrs Johnson

Collective Worship

Last week, Collective Worship continued to focus on our school value of Courage. Courage is not always about loud bravery or heroic acts; sometimes it is found in faith, compassion, and helping others. This is shown clearly in the Gospel of Luke 5:17–26, where Jesus heals a paralysed man.

In the story, a group of friends show great courage and determination. When they cannot reach Jesus because of the crowd, they do not give up. Instead, they climb onto the roof and lower their friend down to Jesus. Jesus recognises their faith and courage and heals the man. This moment reminds us that courage often involves trusting God, even when obstacles seem impossible.



This story encourages us to think about how we show courage each day. Courage can mean standing up for what is right, helping a classmate, trying something new, or showing kindness when it is difficult. As a school community, we are called to support one another and bring hope where it is most needed.



This week in Collective worship we have been looking at Hope, our Old Testament story was Daniel and the lions den. So we have been focusing on our New Testament hope story, which is the very familiar Easter story. After the sorrow of the cross, the disciples believed all was lost. Jesus had been crucified, buried, and sealed in a tomb. Fear and grief filled their days. Yet, on the third day, everything changed.

The Easter story reminds us that God brings life out of death, light out of darkness, and hope out of despair. Because Jesus rose, suffering is not final, and brokenness is not the last word. His resurrection assures believers that God's promises are true and that new life is always possible, even when circumstances feel sealed shut.

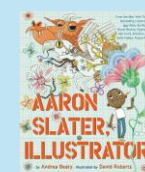
As Scripture proclaims:

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said." (Matthew 28:6, NIV)

Year 5&6 Phase Leader Update

Year 5 and 6 have had a busy start of term! We've hit the ground running in Maths, with Year 6 tackling multiplication and division with decimals and Year 5 looking at fraction. Decimal and percentage equivalents. PSHE is going to be a really exciting subject going forward this term.

Year 5 are using the book 'The Colour Thief' and Year 6 are reading 'Aaron Slater Illustrator'. Through these books the children will be learning how better to manage their wellbeing, as well as identify and communicate different emotions.



The children have been enjoying using the equipment outside at lunchtime (when it's not raining/icy) and have been setting a good example in the way they have been walking back into the building afterwards. Keep it up everyone!

Finally, 15 girls and boys from Years 5/6 will be representing the school on Friday 16th January at Wide Lane, Eastleigh in a wide-wide football tournament. Hopefully we can get some good results, as well as showing the school values of courage, hope and creativity- maybe to do some new skills!

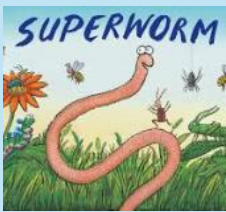
With Best Wishes,
Mr Thomas

Year R Phase Leader Update

The children have settled back into school routines well after the Christmas break, and it has been wonderful to see how confident and happy they are. During the first week, City Mission came in to work with us. As part of this, we focused on storytelling linked to our RE topic for this half term. The children learned about the parables *The Good Samaritan* and *The Lost Sheep*, acting them out using props, playing lots of games, and creating some lovely drawings of their own heroes.

The children have also responded really well to our new phonics groups, showing great enthusiasm and focus. We are incredibly proud of the progress they are making in Drawing Club, where their drawing and early writing skills are developing so well.

This half term, the children have been enjoying exploring the theme of superheroes. They have loved learning about fictional heroes such



as *Supertato*, *Superworm* and *Bananaman*, using these stories to inspire their play, discussions and creativity. Next week, we will move on to learning about real-life heroes, including emergency service workers. We are very lucky to be welcoming a firefighter into school on Monday, who will talk to the children about his job and how he helps people.

It has been a fantastic start to the term, and we are so proud of the children's enthusiasm, kindness and growing independence.

Best Wishes,

Miss Scriven

Changes to Bumped Head First Aid Procedures

We have made a small update to our first aid procedures for children who experience a bumped head while at school.

At present, if your child has a bumped head at school, we provide them with a sticker to alert staff in school and parents at home that an incident has occurred. We also send a text message to parents to inform you.

Going forward, we will now use a yellow wristband instead of a sticker to indicate that your child has had a bumped head during the school day. This wristband is intended to be a clear and visible reminder for both staff and parents.

We will continue to send a text message to parents to notify you of the incident. In addition, we have now included a link within the text message that provides further guidance and information about concussion and what to look out for at home.

These changes are designed to ensure that you are aware that your child has had a bumped head in school so that you can monitor for any signs of concussion. Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Morning Drop Off Class door and Gate closures

A reminder that the classroom doors will open at 8.30am and close promptly at 8:40am. Children should be in their classrooms and settled, ready for registration by 8.40am.

On arrival, the school gates may still be open but if the classroom door is closed, you will be asked to bring your child to the school office, where they will be signed in and their lunch order taken. Registration is taken in class promptly as doors close and therefore children coming through the gates late will miss the register. It is school policy that parents accompany their child to the office and provide a reason for lateness. The main gates will close once the site has been completely cleared.



Thank you for your continued support in ensuring prompt attendance and helping us maintain the safety of all the children.

Reminder: SENDCO Drop-In Sessions

A friendly reminder that our SENDCO drop-in sessions are running on alternate from 3:15–4:00pm, in a small room just off the library. The next one is Monday 26 January. These sessions offer a relaxed, informal opportunity to chat, share any concerns, or seek guidance about your child — no appointment needed. You're very welcome to come in via the library, and we look forward to seeing you.

Best Wishes
Mrs Gear



Appointments with the School Nurse: Thursday February 12 2026

The School Nurse will next be visiting our school on the morning of Thursday 12 February. The Nurse is able to offer support and advice on a range of issues, including eating, sleeping and toileting, among other areas. If you would like to book an appointment, please contact Amy Davies via email at

fso@bitterneceprimary.net



Year 5/6 Football Tournament Friday 16 January

Pupils from across year's 5 and 6 took part in a football tournament at Wide Line, Eastleigh last week. The weather was rainy, it was cold, and the traffic was bad getting there but we enjoyed it!

The children did so well. The boy's team, captained by Zion, competed well in all games and we unlucky not to receive more points from the group stage. The girls team also fought hard and a change in tactics from Mr. Hearn and Miss. Healey in the last game brought a well-deserved victory with goals from Jubilee and Anabel!



The children showed huge courage in difficult matches against some strong opposition.

Well done everyone!

With best wishes
Mr Thomas

School Food Bank



We are always extremely grateful for the generous food bank donations from our school community. If you have any spare non-perishable items you would like to donate, such as tinned food, pet food, long-life packets, or long-life milk, please bring them to the school office. In addition, we also welcome donations of essential household and personal care items, including soap, shower gel, deodorant, toothpaste, and sanitary products. Thank you for your continued kindness, generosity, and support.

Sibling Photographs: Monday 24 February 2026

The school photographer is visiting the school on 24/02/26 to take sibling photos of children within our school. If you would like a sibling photo taken, please visit Yellow's web site below and complete the online Sibling Request Form.

Visit website www.smileYellow.com/sibling or type in browser www.smileYellow.com/sibling

- School password is bitt240226

Closing date for requests is midnight 13/02/26

News from Southampton City Council: Keeping well and warm initiative

Southampton City Council are promoting their Warm Welcome Initiative - a programme dedicated to ensuring that every resident in our city has access to safe, warm spaces this winter and beyond.

Local libraries have long stood as pillars of learning, connection, and support across Southampton. Each of our libraries, along with designated warm safe spaces throughout the city, is part of the [Warm Welcome network](#) (click the link for further information). Here, you'll find much more than just books and information - you'll discover a vibrant community hub where everyone is invited to come in, warm up, and enjoy a host of free offerings such as activities and warm drinks.



The Warm Welcome spaces are bustling with hundreds of [free activities](#) for residents of all ages and interests. Whether you're looking for creative workshops, children's storytime sessions, games clubs, digital skills classes, or simply a quiet corner to read and relax, there is something for everyone. These activities are designed to spark joy, foster learning, and strengthen the bonds that make Southampton a thriving and inclusive city. I know that these winter months can be quite lonely for some, so please do take advantage of this wonderful initiative.

As we continue through the colder, winter months, it's also important to make sure we all play our part to stay well and help protect our NHS services for those in urgent need. There are simple steps you can take to make sure you and your loved ones stay well; be sure to take care in icy conditions to avoid slips and falls; wear several thin layers to stay warm; get your flu and Covid-19 vaccinations if eligible; visit your local pharmacy for expert advice on managing common health conditions; and if you are feeling unwell, stay at home to help prevent the spread of infection.

Please spread the word to friends, neighbours, and loved ones - let's work together to ensure no one feels alone or left out this winter.

News from Southampton City Council: Love your Journey to School Competition 2026

The School Travel Planning Team at Southampton City Council is excited to announce that the Love Your Journey to School competition is back for 2026!

This year we've put together another fun and engaging competition with some great prizes for the best entries.

We would love to hear what your children LOVE  about their active journey to school.



New for 2026 – Active Travel Bingo Card!

To help inspire pupils and parents and encourage even more active travel, we've created a brand-new Active Travel Bingo Card. This activity invites pupils to spot different things on their journey to school and to experience other forms of active travel. It's a fun way to get your child thinking about their surroundings, noticing new things, and celebrating the joy of travelling actively.

Children are asked to complete the Bingo Card and submit along with some information about their favourite part of their journey to school. Full details can be found online at: [Love your Journey to School Competition](#) | [My Journey Southampton](#).

Facebook

A reminder to follow our new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BitterneCEPrimary>



Dates for your Diary

- **30 January:** Year 4 Winchester Science Centre School Trip
- **4 February:** Stubbington Study Residential Parents Meeting, 4.30pm-5.30pm
- **9 February:** SENDCo Drop-in Session, 3.45pm-4pm
- **11 February:** PTA Movie Night, 3.15pm-5pm
- **12 February:** Parent Forum Meeting, 9am-10am – more information to follow
- **16 February-20 February:** Half term
- **27 February:** Year R Trip to Longdown Dairy Farm

Weekly Celebrations

- This week Maytree House in Year 1 have been awarded the most house points for their year group.
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year 3 Navy and Emerald Class
- Star of the Week certificates awarded to: Ralph, Mikey, Tom, Pip, Rosie, Eli, Charlie, Poppy, Blue, Imogen, Freddy and Zohan.
- This week's most improved attendance goes to Orient with 96.5%

Well done everyone!





Does your child have ADHD or ADHD traits?

FREE ONLINE SEMINAR "An Introduction to Parenting Children with ADHD"

Insights and strategies for families

Monday 9th February 2026, 12.00-13.30

No booking required!

Simply join the seminar by scanning the QR code or use the Zoom details below:

Meeting ID: 894 3056 0080
Passcode: 387069

If you prefer, feel free to email us at info@sfrust.org.uk for the Zoom link.

www.sfrust.org.uk



Scan the QR code for the Zoom link



Does your child have or might have autism?

FREE ONLINE SEMINAR "An Introduction to Parenting Children with Autism"

Insights and strategies for families

Wednesday 4th February 2026, 12.00-13.30

No booking required!

Simply join the seminar by scanning the QR code or use the Zoom details below:

Meeting ID: 822 9557 8417
Passcode: 651476

If you prefer, feel free to email us at info@sfrust.org.uk for the Zoom link.

www.sfrust.org.uk



Scan the QR code for the Zoom link



Do you want to accelerate your career in Playwork?

From holiday, breakfast and after school clubs to HAF provision- if the answer is yes- come and join our Skills Bootcamps

Starting: Monday 9th February 2026- 6th March 2026.

This course runs for 3 weeks Monday- Friday.

(There will be no sessions 16th February- 20th February due to Half Term)

Venue: Leonardo Hotel, Charlotte Place, Southampton, SO14 0TB

For more information or to book onto the Skills Bootcamps please contact Itchen College on 02380 435636 or email courses@itchen.ac.uk

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PRODUCTIONS
YOUTH THEATRE GROUP
01767 681 049

Annie

Book by **THOMAS MEEHAN** Music by **CHARLES STROUSE** Lyrics by **MARTIN CHARNIN**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.co.uk

26TH - 28TH FEBRUARY 2026
THE POINT
023 8065 2333 - THEPOINTEASTLEIGH.CO.UK