

Bitterne Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Hope

Courage

Creativity

30 January 2026

Issue 17

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Our guinea pigs, Roy and Bruce, are now being looked after by the children. This week they spent time with Year 3, who did a wonderful job feeding them and enjoying lots of gentle interactions. It has been lovely to see the children taking such care and showing so much responsibility. Our teachers' skills were certainly put to the test too, with the guinea pigs joining Mrs Bennett and Mr Hunter during lessons this week! Roy and Bruce were very well behaved (most of the time) and definitely brought lots of smiles into the classroom. Next week, the guinea pigs will be moving on to Year 2, and we know they are very much looking forward to their turn. A quick reminder to parents and carers to please complete the online consent form if you haven't already, so that your child can handle the guinea pigs safely and be fully involved in this experience: <https://forms.gle/M9afmxGyEEm6DF369>

This week, the school has also continued to develop its adaptive teaching techniques with the support of Southampton's SEND Audit Manager. Working alongside Mrs Gear and Mrs Bailey, he supported our teachers in a planning session focused on unpicking adaptive teaching strategies that would support our children within the classroom. Teachers really enjoyed the session and are excited to use some of the new technology and techniques they have learnt about.

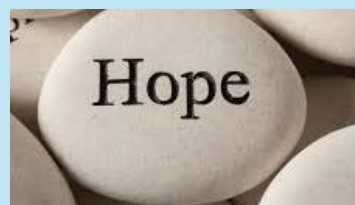
Finally, please remember that the Neurodiversity Team will be in school next week for a parent workshop. Details of this event can be found later in the newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.
Mrs Gear

Collective Worship

This week in Collective Worship, we have been exploring the theme of Hope. We talked about how hope can make a real difference in our lives and in the lives of others, especially during challenging times. We thought about how we can show hope to others and how we can give hope to others.

In the Bible, Jeremiah 19:11, he says "I know the plans I have for you.....plans to give you hope and a future" This powerful image helps us understand how important our actions are, but it also reminds us why hope matters so much. Even when situations feel broken, we can choose to bring hope through compassion, forgiveness, and care for one another.



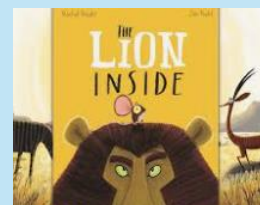
Year 1&2 Phase Leader Update

This term has been full of hands-on learning for both Year 1 and Year 2, especially in science! In Year 1, the children have been exploring their senses. Using their 'working scientifically' skills, they have been observing, asking questions, and investigating sight, hearing, and touch. Activities have included using magnifying glasses to look closely at objects, going on a listening walk around the school grounds, and making predictions about what they could feel in mystery bags.



Meanwhile, Year 2 have been investigating materials and their properties. They have tested which materials are best for mopping up water, explored which materials float or sink, and carried out other hands-on experiments. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity in action!

In English, both year groups have been enjoying new texts. Year 1 have loved exploring stories by Rachel Bright and Jim Field, including *The Lion Inside* and *The Gecko and the Echo*. They have also shared favourites like *The Pandas Who Promised* and *The Squirrels Who Squabbled*, discovering the important messages



hidden within these entertaining tales. Year 2 have been inspired by *Meerkat Mail* by Emily Gravett, reading all the postcards Sunny sends to his family and using them as a springboard for their own letter writing. In PSHE, both year groups have been engaging with The Story Project. Year 1 have been learning about the importance of sleep through *Peace at Last* by Jill Murphy, while Year 2 have been exploring how to learn from mistakes and show perseverance with *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes* by Mark Pett and Gary Rubinstein.

It's been a fantastic term so far of curiosity, creativity and learning for our young scientists and writers! Miss Barry

Reminder: SENDCO Drop-In Sessions

A friendly reminder that our SENDCO drop-in sessions are running on alternate Mondays from 3:15–4:00pm, in a small room just off the library. The next one is February 9th. 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



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

Facebook

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



Dates for your Diary

- **3 February:** Neurodiversity Team Workshop, 10am
- **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
- **24 February:** Sibling photos – please sign up for these
- **26 February:** SEND Coffee Meeting 9am-10am
- **27 February:** Year R Trip to Longdown Dairy Farm
- **5 March:** World Book Day
- **10 March:** Parent Forum Meeting 2pm-3pm
- **17 March:** Parents Evening 3.45pm-6pm
- **18 March:** Parents Evening 3.45pm-6pm
- **26 March:** Easter Church Service 2pm-3pm
- **27 March:** PTA Non uniform day
- **30 March – 12 April:** Easter Holidays
- **15 April:** Year 2 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm – more information to follow
- **4 May:** Early May Bank Holiday
- **7 May:** PTA School Disco KS1 4.45pm-5.45pm and KS2 6pm-7pm – more information to follow
- **20 May:** SEND Coffee Meeting 2pm-3pm

Weekly Celebrations

- This week House Cup winner is Maytree with 2501 points. Brownlow came second with 2275 points; Pound are third with 2220 points and Brook fourth with 2108 points
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year 2 Ruby and Eden Class
- Star of the Week certificates awarded to: Lily; Stefan; Alanis; Mason; Eli; Darcie; Josh, Ernest; Kairon; Weronika and Jubilee
- This week's most improved attendance goes to Ruby with 96.2%

Well done everyone!





Neurodiversity Team
presents
FORMING AND
MAINTAINING FRIENDSHIPS

Tuesday
3rd February
At 10am



**AMY AND THERESA FROM THE NDT WILL
BE AVAILABLE TO SPEAK TO AFTER THE
PRESENTAATION.**

**MRS GEAR AND MRS DAVIES WILL ALSO
BE ATTENDING**

**YOUR CHILD DOES NOT NEED TO HAVE AN SEND NEED FOR YOU TO
ATTEND.**



NOW SHOWING

KSI - Secret life of pets									
KS2 - Home									

This helps us plan numbers in advance and makes sure every child has a seat and popcorn. 🍿

Tickets: £3 per child (includes popcorn) Please also send your child with a water bottle and a snack of their choice which **must not contain nuts, sesame, and eggs.**

Pick-up at 5:15 pm per the below (same route as disco)

1. Arrive at school on Brownlow Avenue, walk around the left side gate to the KS1 playground.
2. You will enter school through the Year 3 door, off the KS1 playground.
3. Walk through the KS2 hall - collect your KS2 child as needed - and continue through the link corridor
4. Walk through the KS1 hall - collect your KS1 child as needed - and exit

Please ensure if your child is returning to After School Club that you tick the box on the form ☒

CLICK LINK TO FORM: <https://forms.gle/VCgutBegY4UFaMCN9>



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



Welcoming New NHS Patients AT DAMIRA SHIRLEY



Damira Shirley is now accepting new NHS patients

To register, please email the practice with the name,
date of birth, address, and contact information of the
person you would like to register

✉ shirley.reception@damiradental.co.uk

Please avoid ringing the practice due to a high volume of calls