

Bitterne Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Love

Trust

Forgiveness

12 September 2025

Issue 1

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new look newsletter! This will now be published weekly and aims to keep you fully updated with all the latest news and information from school. It replaces both the previous Weekly Update and the Bitterne Bulletin. We hope you find it useful and easy to follow.

It has been a fantastic first week back at school. A very warm welcome to all our new children and families—we are so pleased to have you join our community. It has been lovely to catch up with so many of you at the gates each morning.

The children have settled brilliantly into their classes, and we have seen wonderful behaviour across the school. They are looking very smart in their uniforms, and it has been heart-warming to see our Year 6 children supporting the new Year R pupils on the playground. Our Sports Leaders have also completed their training and are ready to help with the new playground zoning we will be introducing soon.

As always, please do get in touch if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions for items you would like included in the newsletter.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. Best wishes Mrs Johnson.

Christian Value: Thankfulness

This term, our Christian value is Thankfulness, which we are linking to the theme of Harvest. To begin our reflections, the children have been thinking about who they are thankful for in school and how we can praise God for the wonder of creation all around us.



We are delighted to invite you to our Harvest Festival at Holy Saviour Church on the afternoon of Thursday 23rd October. It will be a special time for us to come together as a school community to celebrate and give thanks.

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we will be collecting donations of food for the City Mission food bank. These can be left at the school office and will be gratefully received.

We look forward to welcoming you to this joyful event.

Developments to Our Environment

We have been very busy over the Summer updating our Early Years provision, school library and breakfast and afterschool areas. We think they will be fantastic spaces for our children to learn and play. We hope that you like them.



Year R's first week!

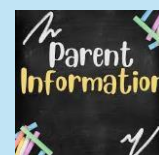
The children have settled in beautifully and are already showing us just how confident and enthusiastic they are. They have done really well at lunchtimes, with our wonderful Year 6 children supporting them on the playground.

This week, the children have been busy exploring the new areas in our provision. They have loved being outside—designing obstacle courses, building a car from our construction resources, and even creating magical potions with plenty of glitter! Water play has also been a big hit, with lots of fun (and quite a bit of splashing!). It has been lovely to see how helpful the children have been to one another, whether working together or sharing ideas. Indoors, the small world areas have proved very popular, sparking lots of imaginative play. We've also enjoyed sharing some wonderful stories together, including *The Gruffalo's Child* and *Super Duper You*. They sat and listened really well.



Parent Information Presentations

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our first Parent Information Sessions on Tuesday 23rd September. These sessions are a great opportunity for teachers to share information with you about what your child will be learning this year and what you can expect from their time in school.



Presentations will take place in classrooms and will be repeated twice. The first session will start at 3:30 and the second at 4pm. You can either enter through the school office or the external classroom doors at 3:30. After this, you are welcome to move through the school to attend other sessions if you have children in different year groups. If you arrive at school after 3:30, please enter through the office. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will be based in the Music Room throughout the evening, and you are welcome to leave your children with us while you attend the presentations. We really hope you can join us for this event and look forward to seeing you there.

Civic Award Presentation

On Wednesday evening, we were delighted to welcome back ten of our former Year 6 pupils for a very special celebration of their achievements. The children returned to school to receive their *Civic Awards*, and we were honoured to be joined by the Lord Mayor of Southampton, who kindly presented the certificates.

To achieve the award, the children committed to an impressive programme: taking part in both a physical and a non-physical activity each week for six months, completing six hours of community service, and a further six hours of service to our school.

It was inspiring to hear about the wide range of activities they undertook—everything from dance and performance to cooking and volunteering at the local 412 club.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication, responsibility, and perseverance these children have shown in working towards and achieving this award. They are wonderful role models for our school community.



PE Days

Please send your child into school in their PE kit. Please ensure that they also have a water bottle in school.

Year R: Please check Class Dojo

Year 1: Monday and Thursday

Year 2: Wednesday and Friday

Year 3: Monday and Wednesday

Year 4: Tuesday and Thursday

Year 5: Monday and Thursday

Year 6: Monday and Friday

Music Lessons

Our music partners Discover the Music have some available in group lessons for any pupils who might be keen to sign up. Discover the Music are able to offer a taster session for these spaces if this would help and spaces will go first come first serve.

If you are interested to sign up **without** a taster session, you simply need to complete this form at <https://discoverthemusichq.com/lessons-d>

To register for a taster session please email debbie@showcasemusicschool.com

Summer Reading Challenge

If your child has completed the Library's Summer Reading Challenge this year, we would love to celebrate their achievement in school. Please could they bring their certificate into school by **Friday 19 September**.

Dates for your Diary

- **15 September:** Year 6 Marchants Hill Parent Meeting, 4.30pm-5.30pm
- **23 September:** Parent presentations, 3.30pm-4.30pm
- **24 September:** SEND Coffee Morning, 9am-10am
- **29 September:** Year 5 Bikeability (more info to follow)
- **6-10 October:** Year 6 Residential Marchants Hill
- **14 October:** Parent Evenings, 3.45pm-6pm (more info to follow)
- **16 October:** Parent Evening, 3.45pm-6pm
- **23 October:** Harvest Church Service, Holy Saviour Church, 2pm-3pm
- **23 October:** PTA School Disco, 4-7.30pm

Weekly Celebrations

- This week's House Cup awarded to Brownlow with 2168 points.
- Congratulations to these children who have been awarded Star of the Week: Hannah; Lucas; Bertie; Mia; William; Hughie; Susan; Freya; James; JJ; Harry and Abigail
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year 6: Orient and Laurel
- This week's best attendance goes to Ruby class!

Well done everyone!



Online Safety

Each week we will send an online safety information page for parents and carers following the newsletter. This week's focus is Group Messages. We hope you find these useful.

The background is a vibrant teal color. It features several dark brown coffee beans scattered across the surface. There are also white, splatter-like patterns and a large, stylized illustration of a coffee cup on the right side, showing a brown latte with white foam and a heart-shaped pattern. In the center-left, the words "Hope CAFE" are written in a dark brown, handwritten-style font. "Hope" is in a cursive script, and "CAFE" is in a bold, sans-serif font. The text is partially enclosed by a white, hand-drawn circular outline.

Hope CAFE

We know those first school drop offs can be emotional. Join us at Hope Café on **Monday 15th September** after school drop off.

Our **Tea and Tissue** morning is a chance to chat with other parents over a drink and pastries.