

Bitterne Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Love

Trust

Forgiveness

19 September 2025

Issue 2

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Over the summer holidays, we were delighted to create a brand-new school library filled with a wide range of exciting new books for all key stages. This week, the children have been learning how to use the library system to borrow and return books independently, which they have enjoyed exploring. The library has been designed to be an inviting and relaxing space, with areas where children can sit and enjoy reading quietly independently or with a friend. Our shelves are now stocked with something for everyone – from picture books and graphic novels to new non-fiction texts. We were also fortunate to secure funding last half term to purchase a fantastic selection of Barrington Stoke books, specially designed to support children with traits of dyslexia. Looking ahead, we are excited to open the library after school one evening next half term, giving families the chance to see the new space and enjoy choosing books together. We will share the date and further details with you nearer the time so you can join us.



Collective Worship Update

This week in Collective Worship we have continued reflecting on our theme of *Thankfulness* and the importance of remembering to say “thank you” in our daily lives. The children have also received some exciting news: as a school community, we are reviewing our core values and the Bible stories that we link to them. Together we will be choosing three from the following:

Courage, Creativity, Hope, Compassion, Grace, and Peace.

To start this journey, the children have been exploring the Christian value of *Courage* through the story of *David and Goliath* (1 Samuel 17). They have been thinking about how courage can help us face challenges, big or small, with faith and determination.

Year 1 and 2

Year 1 have settled wonderfully after the summer holidays and are ready and eager to work hard. They kick-started their science topic by planting radishes, which have already begun to grow, and they are using their scientific observation skills to document the changes. One of the highlights this week was their archaeological investigation into the Ice Age, which introduced their first history unit. They decided they wouldn't have liked to live in the Ice Age because even a little bit of ice made their fingers cold! Year 2 have shown excellent learning behaviours and have been fantastic role models for the younger students. In English, they have been developing their descriptive skills by learning about expanded noun phrases. Not only have they been practising writing in the English alphabet, but they have also been exploring ancient writing systems in history. They especially enjoyed getting their hands messy with clay this week while creating cuneiform tablets inspired by ancient Mesopotamia, one of the earliest forms of writing.

If KS1 keep working as hard as they have over the past two weeks, we cannot wait to see what they will achieve throughout the rest of the year.

Music Lessons

Mrs Muelhnickel will resume music lessons next week (w/c 22.09.25) as follows:



- **Monday Lunchtime:** Worship Choir with Ruth Palmer
- **Monday afterschool 3.15pm-4.15pm:** Orchestra
- **Wednesday Lunchtime:** Ukulele
- **Wednesday afterschool 3.15pm-4.15pm:** School Chamber Choir
- **Thursday Lunchtime:** Recorder

Please sign up your child via this link: <https://forms.gle/uir8LAzNfTZVdce57>

Stubbington Study Centre Open Day

Stubbington Study Centre have an Open Day on Saturday 11th October from 10am to 4pm for those children visiting on the residential next year. This event offers a valuable opportunity for children who have not yet visited the Centre to explore the site, meet our staff and address any questions or concerns they may have. We hope this will help them feel more confident and excited about their upcoming stay. No need to book but they anticipate it will take approximately one hour to look around.

School Council Elections

At Bitterne Church of England Primary School, we believe it is important for pupils to have a voice and play an active part in school life. One way we do this is through our **School Council**, where children can share their views, put forward ideas, and help shape the way our school is run. Over the next week, we will be holding our annual School Council elections. If your child would like to stand as a **School Councillor**, they will need to prepare a short speech to share with their class. This should be written at home this weekend and be ready for **Monday 22nd September**. Class teachers will organise a time on **Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday** for candidates to read their speeches aloud. Each class will then vote, and the **top two names** will go forward to a final ballot. On **Thursday 25th September**, Miss Grove, our School Resources Assistant, will set up a polling station in school. The children will then have the opportunity to vote for the candidate they would like to represent their class. The child with the most votes will become **Class Councillor**, and the runner-up will take on the role of **Deputy Class Councillor**.

School Councillors will attend regular meetings with Miss Scriven, where they will contribute to decisions and share their classmates' ideas. It is a great opportunity for children to develop their confidence, leadership skills, and sense of responsibility.

We look forward to seeing lots of enthusiastic candidates putting themselves forward!

Year 7 Secondary School Applications

Year 6 parents can now start applications for their child's transfer to Secondary School. The citizen portal is open for application submissions on the Southampton City Council website and the deadline for Secondary School applications is 31 October 2025.

We would recommend you review each school's admission policy:

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/find-apply-school/school-applications/apply-for-a-school-place/school-admissions-policies/>

You may like to review information on how places were offered to oversubscribed schools for the last 3 years: <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/find-apply-school/school-applications/apply-for-a-school-place/year-7/>

If you require any help or assistance with applying for your child's school place, please contact the School Office.

School Uniform and Jewellery Reminder

It has been lovely to see so many of the children looking really smart in their uniforms at the start of this school year – thank you for helping them make such a positive start. For health and safety reasons, on a typical school day, jewellery should be limited to one pair of small stud earrings and a watch (not a smartwatch). However, all jewellery should be removed for PE lessons. If earrings cannot be removed yet due to recent piercings, we allow a six-week grace period (as per piercing guidelines) where children can tape (please provide this for them) their earrings and join in with the PE lesson with adaptations made to keep them safe. After this time, earrings should be removed for PE lessons. Thank you for supporting us in keeping PE safe and ensuring children are ready to take part fully. If you have any questions or difficulties, please speak directly to your child's class teacher, who will be more than happy to problem-solve with you.

Music in the City 2025

Last Saturday 20 children from our school delivered a 30-minute set as part of the Rising Stars of Southampton & the Isle of Wight event at Music in the City! They performed some of our favourite collective worship hymns, along some impressive solo acts, all within the historic walls of King John's Palace.

Well done to Jake S for his piano solo, Lyra B and Frankie R for their musical theatre performance; Phoebe M, Hetty P and King K in year 1; Alice R-W, Florence C and George M in year 2; Rosie P in year 3; Arthur C, Owen S and Nicky M in year 4; Joseph L, Frankie R, Maci-Leigh K and Lyra B in year 5, Ethan C, Isaac B, Jake S and Remi-Amber K in year 6; and our special guests in year 7 Eliza L and Benjamin C! The rain did not stop us!



Bitterne Friends United

We have added the Bitterne Friends United Newsletter to Class Dojo – please do click on it for information on upcoming exciting events.

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

Dates for your Diary

- **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
- **13 October:** Individual School Photos
- **23 October:** Harvest Church Service, Holy Saviour Church, 2pm-3pm
- **23 October:** PTA School Disco, 4-7.30pm
- **11 November:** Parents Evening 3.15pm-6pm– **NEW DATE – cancelled from 14/10/25**
- **13 November:** Parents Evening 3.15pm-6pm– **NEW DATE- cancelled from 16/10/25**

Weekly Celebrations

- This week's House Cup awarded to Brownlow with 1633 points.
- Congratulations to these children who have been awarded Star of the Week:
Carla, Reyansh, Ciara, Emma-Win, Arlia, Aria, Oliver, Sophia, Arshad, Amaya, Boaz, Henry
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year R: Group 1 and Group 2
- This week's best attendance goes to Year R Group 1 Class.

Well done everyone!

