

Bitterne Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Hope

Courage

Creativity

Issue 20

6 March 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

We had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day across the school! The day was filled with a love of reading and lots of exciting opportunities for children to share and enjoy books together.

Throughout the day, classes took part in author studies, exploring the work of different writers and discovering new stories and characters. One of the highlights was our reading buddies session, where children mixed with pupils from different classes across the school to read and share their favourite books together. It was lovely to see older and younger children enjoying stories side by side and talking about the books they love.



To make the day even more special, children were invited to come to school in their comfy pyjamas or dressed as their favourite book character. We were so impressed by the effort and creativity – there were some fantastic costumes and it was wonderful to see so many beloved characters brought to life!

We would also like to say a big thank you to parents and carers for helping your children create the plates for our new reading display. The finished display will soon be going up in the link corridor, so please keep an eye out for it when it is complete!



World Book Day was a great opportunity to celebrate reading together and remind everyone just how magical books can be. Thank you for supporting the day and helping to encourage a love of reading at home.

Best wishes
Mrs Sullivan

Collective Worship

This term we are looking deeper into the school value of Hope. Palm Sunday has been the theme for this week. Palm Sunday is a special day for Christians around the world. It marks the moment Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey while crowds welcomed Him by waving palm branches and shouting with joy. People laid their cloaks and branches on the road as a sign of honour and excitement. We thought about how not everyone welcomed him and what that meant



That same message of hope continues today. Palm Sunday reminds us that even when life feels uncertain, hope can lead us forward. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! John 12:13

The Easter Story has continued this week with The Last Supper. It was the final meal Jesus shared with His disciples before His arrest. As He broke bread and shared the cup, He reminded them that even in

times of uncertainty, God's love remains constant and this gives us Hope. The meal became a symbol of unity, forgiveness, and the promise that light can rise from even the darkest moments.

Year R Phase Leader Update

What a busy start to this half term!

Last Friday, we visited Longdown Dairy Farm for our first school trip. The children had a fantastic time bottle-feeding calves and kids, as well as feeding the goats. They also got to see one-week-old piglets and had the opportunity to hold guinea pigs and tiny chicks (which has been great practice for this week!). The children's behaviour was brilliant and they all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience



When we returned to school on Monday, the excitement continued as our eggs arrived! The children carefully observed them in the incubator over the first few days, and their patience was rewarded when nine beautiful chicks hatched – six boys and three girls. They have now been moved into the brooder. Watching the chicks hatch and grow has been a truly wonderful experience for the children, sparking lots of curiosity and thoughtful discussion.



We finished the week by celebrating World Book Day. The children looked fantastic in their costumes or cosy in their pyjamas. Our focus author for the day was Julia Donaldson, and we began the morning by drawing our favourite book characters. Some Year 5 children then came down to join us for paired reading, which was a lovely opportunity for the Reception children to share stories – and even show the Year 5s how we do Drawing Club!

Throughout the day we enjoyed a range of activities inspired by Julia Donaldson's stories. We read *The Gruffalo* and made our own "Gruffalo Crumble", explored *The Scarecrows' Wedding* by creating paper plate scarecrows and playing musical statues to the Wedding March, and flew around the playground on our "broomsticks" after reading *Room on the Broom*. We also travelled to *The Isle of Blowynose* from *Jack and the Flum Flum Tree*, tea-staining card to create our own maps.



It has been a joyful, hands-on start to the half term full of new experiences, stories and learning. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to another exciting few weeks ahead in Reception!

Best Wishes
Miss Scriven

Easter Service at Holy Saviour on Thursday 26 March at 2pm

We will be holding this year's Easter Church service at Holy Saviour Church on Thursday 26 March, 2pm-3pm. The children will walk in their year groups to and from the church and will be back in time for 3.15pm pick up as usual from school. Please note you will not be able to collect your child from the Church they will need to return to school for usual pick up. Please ensure that the children are wearing school uniform, along with suitable school shoes and that they have a warm, waterproof coat with them.



Parents are more than welcome to attend the service if they wish, please arrive approximately 10 minutes before the service begins. We would be grateful for any help with walking the children to the Church and back to school. If you are able to help, please complete the attached google form:

<https://forms.gle/ekbp6AtYIJ2ziuFy7>

Seats will be reserved for parents who walk with us.

Thanking you in anticipation of your continued support and we look forward to seeing you there.

Year 6 Leavers Party

We're raising money to give our wonderful Year 6 children a leavers' party to remember as they finish their time at primary school and prepare for their next big adventure. If you're able to donate, no matter how small, it would be hugely appreciated and will go directly towards making the celebration special for every child.

<https://gofund.me/45ecc0e0c>

Please also share this link with your family and friends to help us reach as many people as possible. The more we share, the closer we get to our goal!

There will also be a Mother's Day Flower Balloon Sale on Friday 13th March in the school playground from 3.15pm. Please do come and support this great cause.

Thank you so much in anticipation of your support.

Year 6 Parents



Sibling Photo Proofs

You should have received your children's photo proof by now. Please note the deadline for orders is Tuesday 17 March. Orders should be made online using the information on your proof card, we are regret we can not accept money or orders in school. Thank you.



Reminder: Parents Evening 17 and 18 March 2026

Please don't forget to book your child's appointment using the online scopay system. Please note online bookings will close on 13 March at 8am. If you can not find a suitable time please contact us in the office at office@bitterneceprimary.net and we will arrange an alternative time or assist you in booking your appointment.

A reminder that the PTA will be selling pre loved uniform and refreshments on both evenings, please do drop by and see them. Many thanks

Message from the PTA

We also have a few dates for your diary:

- The School Disco date has changed and will now take place on Thursday 7 May. Further information will follow soon.
- Beyond the Rules Non-Uniform Day will be held on Friday 27 March. All money collected on this day will be returned directly to the school.

Thank you for your continued support.



Facebook

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



Dates for your Diary

- **SENDCO Drop in:** Wednesday 11th March from 3.15pm-4pm (change from Monday 9th March)
- **17 March:** Parents Evening 3.45pm-6pm
- **18 March:** Parents Evening 3.45pm-6pm
- **26 March:** Easter Church Service 2pm-3pm
- **27 March:** Beyond the Rules Non-Uniform Day
- **30 March – 12 April:** Easter Holidays
- **15 April:** Year 2 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm
- **21 April:** Year 3 History of the Page Workshop: Tudor England
- **22 April:** Year 4 History of the Page Workshop: Great Fire of London
- **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 Pound with 2425 points, Brownlow with 2225 points, Maytree with 2221 and Brook 2219 points
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year 6 Orient and Laurel Class
- Star of the Week certificates w/e 27.02.26 awarded to: Phoebe M, Keegan M; George M; William P; Gracie P; Cassidy S; Frank W; Joseph L; Mya M; Ronnie Y and Ethan C
- Star of the Week certificates w/e 06.03.26: Arjun J; Lukas L; Ellie; Nazar S; Izzy B; Tessa P; Alfie O; Benjamin G; Elias S; Eliana P Ryan G and Noraya K
- This week's most improved attendance goes to Indigo Class with 96%

Well done everyone!



NON CONTACT KARATE TAUGHT BY FULLY QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS



**EVERYONE WELCOME
FROM 4 YEARS OLD**



**WE TEACH TRADITIONAL KARATE
ENCOURAGING CONFIDENCE, RESPECT,
DISCIPLINE, SELF AWARENESS AND AGILITY IN
A FUN & CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. ALL
CLASSES ARE FRIENDLY, INFORMATIVE &
CATER TO THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF THE
STUDENT.**



**BITTERNE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
TUESDAYS 3.15PM – 4.15PM
£6.00 PER CLASS – PAY AS YOU GO
MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED AFTER FIRST CLASS £27 PER YEAR**

MANY MORE CLASSES TO CHOOSE FROM, FIND THEM ALL AT: WWW.SOUTHERNKARATE.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

EMAIL: info@southernkarate.org

Tel: 07764 478507



Continued...

SEND Fun Day Information

**Tuesday 31st March
10am to 2pm
Oasis Mayfield school, Ashley
Crescent, SO19 9NA**

Accessibility

Quieter time is 12.30-2

Over a number of rooms to give everyone space

Extra face painters to keep queues to a minimum

Chill out/ quiet room available

Several disabled toilets

Wheelchairs can access all areas

Changing rooms with bench seating available for those who need a space for changing a young person/adult.



Grown ups

Wide range of local services will be there to chat to including:

Southampton Council teams - SEND team, social care teams, ND team, school travel, HAF, portage and early years.

Health - Range of teams and commissioners coming
Citizens Advice - Outreach service offering 1:1 advice on a range of topics

Range of other services, teams and voluntary groups who can support your family.

Other info

Free tea, coffee, squash, fruit, biscuits and an ice cream. Food van also on site to purchase food.

Young people

Range of activities for young people to enjoy:

Unicorn/horse rides
Animal handling
Several bouncy castles
Musical activities
Bubble workshop
Face painting
Sports activities including cricket
Montys bike hub with bikes including Trishaw



Southampton Parent Carer Forum invites you to...

SEND Family Fun Day 2026

Tuesday 31st March - 10am to 2pm

For Children and Young People:
Bouncy Castles, face painters
Unicorn, bubbles and lots more ...

For Parent Carers:
Range of Local offer Service providers for advice, ideas and support

Refreshments for all (drinks, fruit, biscuits and ice cream are all free, there will be a food van with food for sale)
Oasis Academy Mayfield, Ashley Crescent, SO19 9NA - Free Parking



For more information follow us on Facebook



**Wednesdays After School
3.15pm - 4.15pm
After-school building clubs**



**Book Now:
www.funkyplaybricks.co.uk**



Next Week at Re:Minds 9-13th of March

**Please email info@reminds.org.uk to book a space at one of our advice clinics.
Bookings close the day before the clinic**

With thanks to:



ADHD Advice Clinic

10am Monday 9th March

About the Clinic:
Book a private, 10 minute virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about any questions or concerns related to ADHD, pre or post diagnosis.
Appointments will be with Louise Wilder, Lead ADHD Nurse from CAMHS.
To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk

SEND Legal Advice Clinic

From 12.30pm Tuesday 10th March

About the Clinic:
We are offering our Shenions Solicitors to offer free SEND legal advice to all children and young people. Our legal experts provide clear guidance and support on a range of legal issues.
• All SEND advice is provided free of charge.
• We will discuss all legal issues related to SEND, such as school exclusion, special educational needs, and SEND tribunals.
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To book your 30 minute advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk

Autism Advice Clinic

10.30am, Tuesday 10th March

About the Clinic:
Book a private, 10 minute virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about any questions or concerns related to autism, pre or post diagnosis.
The clinic is led by clinicians from the Southampton Autism Assessment Service.
To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk

Emotionally-Based School Avoidance Virtual Workshop

6.30pm Monday 16th March

About the Workshop

We will cover:

- What's really going on beneath school anxiety and avoidance
- How school anxiety presents across different ages and needs
- Small, practical steps that can make everyday school life easier
- Support, shared understanding, and where to go next
- Your legal rights and what schools can do to help

Share understanding, learn practical strategies, and take away helpful resources in a supportive space. There will be time to talk with other parents and carers who are going through the same thing and receive support from our team.

To book onto the workshop, please email:
info@reminds.org.uk

ABP SOUTHAMPTON MARATHON FESTIVAL

MILE FUN RUN - SUNDAY 3rd MAY 2026

A FUN, FRIENDLY MILE RUN AS PART OF THE ABP SOUTHAMPTON MARATHON FESTIVAL

EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL OFFER
GET 10% OFF FUN RUN ENTRIES Use code: SCHOOL10

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