

Bitterne Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Hope

Courage

Creativity

Issue 21

13 March 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team - The Importance of Attendance



At our school, we are very proud that our current attendance stands at 95.8%. Thank you for supporting your children to attend school regularly – it really does make a difference.

Every day in school matters. When a child misses a day of school, they miss important learning that cannot always be easily replaced. In Year R and Key Stage 1, for example, missing just one day will mean missing a new phonics sound, which is an important building block for reading and writing.

You will see from the table below how attendance percentages translate into the number of days missed across a school year. Even a small drop in attendance can quickly add up to a significant amount of lost learning.

Attendance percentage	Number of days missed	Number of lessons missed (average 5 lessons per day)
100%	0	0
95%	9 days	45
90%	19 days	95
85%	29 days	145
80%	38 days	190
75%	48 days	240

Parents will receive an updated attendance report for their child at Parents' Evening next week, and we encourage everyone to continue supporting their child to attend school every day wherever possible.

We understand that children will sometimes feel unwell. However, colds and coughs are usually not a reason to stay at home, and we are able to support children in school if they have mild symptoms.

If you are finding attendance difficult at the moment, please remember that we are here to help. You can arrange an appointment with Mrs Davies, our Family Support Officer and Attendance Lead, who will be very happy to work with you and support your family.

Attendance at this stage of children's schooling really does matter. Government data shows that absence has increased nationally in recent years, and currently around 1 in 5 pupils are classed as persistently absent, meaning they miss 10% or more of school sessions.

Research also shows that once attendance drops, it can become harder for children to catch up and patterns of absence can continue as they move through school. For this reason, building strong attendance habits early in primary school is extremely important.

By working together – families and school – we can ensure that every child has the best opportunity to succeed.

Collective Worship

This week we have continued exploring the Easter story and thinking about hope in sad times. Our focus has been on the moment when Jesus Christ is betrayed by one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot. We talked about how Jesus already knew what was going to happen. Even though he understood that Judas would betray him, he did not stop it. This helped us think about the bigger and how, even in a very sad and difficult moment, something hopeful was going to come.



Together we discussed how sometimes in life difficult or upsetting things can happen, but hope can still be found. The Easter story reminds Christians that sadness does not have the final word.

We also spent time thinking about Judas and what he might have been thinking at the time. The Bible does not tell us exactly why he made this choice, did he realise the impact of his actions? Did he believe he was doing something that might bring change or hope in some way?

“Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money.”

— Mark 14:10–11

Year 1&2 Phase Leader Update

KS1 Update

KS1 have had a very busy start to the term and it has been wonderful to see the children so engaged in their learning.



In English, both Year 1 and Year 2 have been working hard to bring their writing to life. Year 2 have created their own *Secret Garden* walk-through, complete with flowers, vines and butterflies, to help inspire their descriptive writing. The immersive display has really sparked their imaginations and we are already seeing some fantastic ideas beginning to develop in their work. Year 1 also had a very unusual surprise to inspire their writing. A mysterious parcel arrived in the post... and it



turned out that the King's pants had been completely muddled up in the mail and accidentally delivered to our school! This exciting delivery links to our class story *The King's Pants* by **Nicholas Allan**. We cannot wait to see the wonderful writing that grows from this creative start.

Earlier this term, Year 1 also welcomed a visit from our friends at City Mission as part of their RE learning. The children explored the idea of welcoming and what it means to welcome others. They thought about how it feels to be welcomed and how we can show kindness and hospitality to others. The session also introduced the first part of the Easter story, when Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem. The children explored these ideas through drama, dance and art, making it a memorable and meaningful experience.



Meanwhile, Year 2 have been getting creative in Design and Technology. This term they are designing, making and testing their own cars. They began by thinking carefully about the best design and even created 3-D prototypes to test their ideas. Next, they will be learning all about axles and wheels as they develop their final models. It will be exciting to see whether any budding mechanics emerge from Year 2 this year!

Best wishes Miss Barry

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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 cannot accept money or orders in school. Thank you.

**Reminder: Parents Evening 17 and 18 March 2026**

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

Streetbeatz Sign up for after Easter

Streetbeatz will continue after the Easter holidays, please sign your child up via this link <https://www.streetbeatzdanceacademy.co.uk/> Session dates are as follows: Thursday's: 16th, 23rd, 30th April, 7th, 14th May (NO CLASS 21ST MAY) 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th June, 2nd, 9th, 16th July.

street BEATZ

Bitterne CE School Food Bank

Thank you so much for all your kind donations, these are so gratefully received. We still need more items so please do continue bringing in your donated food (tins packets, dried foods) and household items (toothpaste, soap, shower gel etc.) Anything you can spare is fantastic!

**Facebook**

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

**Dates for your Diary**

- **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 Brook with 2226 points. Maytree have 2205 points, Brownlow have 2175 points and Pound have 2152 points.
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year 2 Ruby and Eden Class
- Star of the Week certificates awarded to: Hudson B, Cody-Desmond H, Eddie P, Hetty P, Raul R, Emilee C, Heitor S, Lewis P, Zac W, Ellie W, Ava-Rose M and Charlie C
- This week's most improved attendance goes to: Ruby Class with 96.3%

Well done everyone!





SPORT IN THE COMMUNITY PRESENTS EASTER FOOTBALL & MULTI-GAMES CAMP

We invite Bitterne CofE Primary School Pupils
RECEPTION - YEAR 6

CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE DAY



Join us for our fun-filled sports sessions this Easter!

- Football matches
- No boring drills
- Dogeball
- Tag Rugby
- Kwik Cricket
- Battleships
- Team Games & Challenges
- And much more!

£20 per day

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

9AM-3PM

Just £3.33 per hour

BOOK NOW



Monday 30th March
Tuesday 31st March
Wednesday 1st April

ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL
MDO GREEN ROAD,
WEST END,
SO30 3EG

✓ Fully insured | DBS checked | Safeguarding trained



Next Week at Re:Minds

16th-20th of March

No need to book for a support group, just check the events section of our Facebook group or email us to receive the link to join

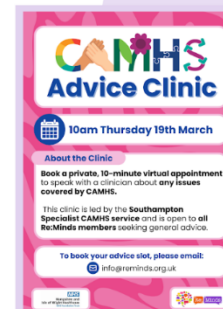


With thanks to:

NHS
Hampshire and Isle of Wight

CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Shenton's
Solicitors



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

ComputerXplorers

OUR SESSIONS GIVE CHILDREN A FUN, HANDS-ON WAY TO EXPLORE TECHNOLOGY, DISCOVER NEW INTERESTS, BUILD CONFIDENCE, AND MAKE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS - ALL IN A SUPPORTIVE, INSPIRING ENVIRONMENT.

BOOK HERE!

WEDNESDAY
3:15 - 4:15
BITTERNE C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

Beyond the Rules

27TH MARCH

MINIMUM DONATION £1 ON THE DAY
CASH OR CARD, LOOK FOR THE PTA TEAM ON THE GATE

Rules to break

- NON HEALTHY SNACK
- NON-UNIFORM
- WEAR A HAT IN CLASS
- TEMPORARY TATTOO
- WEAR A HOODIE
- WEAR FOOTBALL KIT
- PAINTED NAILS
- CRAZY HAIR
- WEAR FACE PAINT