

Bitterne Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Hope

Courage

Creativity

24 April 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Years 3, 4 and 5 have been a buzz of historical exploration this week.

Year 3 stepped back in time to explore the lives of the Tudors. During their workshop, the children took part in a range of immersive activities, including dressing in Tudor clothing, handling replica artefacts, and learning about daily life during the period. It was fantastic to see them so engaged and enthusiastic as they deepened their understanding of this fascinating era.

Year 4 had an equally exciting day learning about the Great Fire of London. Through a series of interactive activities, the children learned about how the fire started, how it spread so quickly through the city, and the impact it had on London and its people. They took on roles such as bakers, firefighters and citizens, helping them to understand the challenges faced during the event. The costumes were absolutely fantastic; thank you so much for your support in helping the children fully immerse themselves in the experience.

Year 5 had the privilege of hosting visitors who spoke about life in Southampton during World War II. The children showed great curiosity and maturity, asking thoughtful questions and engaging deeply in the stories and experiences shared.

A big thank you goes to Mrs. Healey for organising these enriching and memorable experiences for our children.

With the sun this week, has come the opportunity for year R to get fully back out to using their outdoor area. It was lovely to see them exploring the areas, making bird feeders and developing their mathematical knowledge in the outdoors.

Year 6 continue to work incredibly hard as they prepare for their SATs. We are extremely proud of their dedication, resilience and the effort they are putting into their learning each day.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend! Enjoy the sunshine!

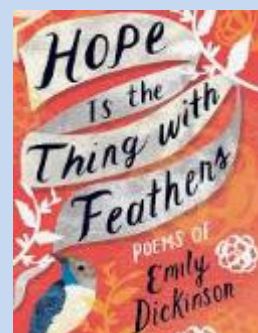
Best wishes, Mrs. Johnson and the Senior Leadership Team.



Collective Worship

This week in Collective Worship we have continued to look at refugees and hope. Emily Dickinson famously described hope as a "thing with feathers" that perches in the soul. She wrote:

"And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard – And sore must be the storm – That could abash the little Bird..." For many migrants, the "storm" is war, poverty, or fear. The journey is often "chilly" and "strange," but hope is the internal song that keeps them moving when the road is difficult.



In the Bible (**Matthew 2:13–23**), we are reminded that **Jesus was a refugee**. His family fled to Egypt to escape violence, proving that even the most significant figures in history have sought safety in foreign lands. This reminds us that:

- **Migration is about survival:** Most people leave home out of necessity.
- **Compassion is key:** Understanding their struggle is the first step toward a welcoming community.

Newcomers to our school carry Dickinson's "little bird" of hope. They face the challenges of new languages and cultures while missing home. As a school, we can be the support system that helps them settle. By showing empathy, we ensure that their song of hope never has to stop.

Update Year 1 and 2 Phase Leader

Our KS1 students have made a fantastic start to the Summer term, showing great enthusiasm as they dive into their new topics. It has been a busy few weeks, and we are incredibly proud of how hard the children are working.

In Year 1, the children have been studying the lives of **Florence Nightingale** and **Mary Seacole**. We have learned that Florence, the "Lady with the Lamp," saved lives by making hospitals cleaner, while Mary Seacole travelled from Jamaica to the Crimean War to provide essential medicine and comfort to soldiers.

This history work links perfectly to our PSHE unit on **Germes and Hygiene**. To help us understand how bacteria spreads, we met **Morris**, the mankiest monster ever! To show the children how easily germs travel, we used glitter to represent bacteria; the pupils were shocked to see how quickly it covered the classroom. This experiment was a great way to reinforce the importance of using soap and water to stay healthy.



Year 2 kicked off the term with an educational visit to **Butser Ancient Farm**. The children represented our school beautifully, showing great curiosity as they explored life in the past. During the day, they took part in an archaeological excavation, built traditional "clunch" walls, and toured an impressive Roman Villa.



The knowledge gained from the trip has sparked some wonderful work back in the classroom. The children have been busy writing detailed recounts of their day, taking great pride in their handwriting and spelling as they published their final pieces. It is clear that the trip has truly inspired their love for history and writing.

Spring weather

With the recent improvement in the weather, it's great to see the children enjoying time outdoors during break, lunch, and PE. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on their designated PE days. As the weather can still be unpredictable, they should also bring a warm hoodie or jumper. On sunny days, please provide your child with a sun hat. You may also wish to apply sun cream before school (please ensure it is not nut-based). Additionally, children should bring a light jacket or coat in case of rain.



Bitterne Friends United Important Dates for your Diary



🎉 School Disco is Back – Are You Ready to Dance? 🕺💃

Calling all disco stars! Bring your best moves and light up the dance floor for an evening of fun, music, and dancing.

🎫 Tickets:

Available from Monday – £3.50 per child - Information on booking to follow shortly, please check Class Dojo next week. Don't miss out!

📅 **Date:** Thursday, 7th May 2026

🕒 Times:

- KS1: 4:45 – 5:45 PM
- KS2: 6:00 – 7:00 PM

📍 **Location:** KS2 School Hall

🚶 **Drop-off:** Back door of the KS2 playground (Year 4 door)

🚶 **Pick-up:** From the hall via KS1 playground (Year 3 door)

😊 Summer Fair Returns!

By popular demand, our Summer Fair is back!

📅 **Save the Date:** Saturday 13th June

🕒 **Time:** 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

We look forward to seeing you there!

Dates for your Diary

- **4 May:** Early May Bank Holiday
- **7 May:** PTA School Disco KS1 4.45pm-5.45pm and KS2 6pm-7pm – more information to follow
- **19 May:** Year 3 City Mission
- **20 May:** SEND Coffee Meeting 2pm-3pm
- **13 June:** PTA Summer Fayre 12-3pm

Weekly Celebrations

- This week House Cup winner is Pound House with 2453 points, Brook House with 2236 Points, Maytree House with 2203 Points and Brownlow House with 2199 points.
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year 2 Ruby and Eden Class
- Star of the Week certificates awarded to: River; Sam; Ronnie; Jude; Florence; Bella-Rose; Kai; Penny; Agatha; Chloe and Aaliyah-Mai
- This week's most improved attendance goes to: Indigo Class with 96.2%

Well done everyone!



FREE MONEY

Cole Palmer
Taylor Smith

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Funky Play Bricks After School Club

Our LEGO® After School Club will continue after Easter Holidays.

The Funky Play Bricks session will run on Wednesdays.

This Club will be open to all children.

Our clubs will be run from 15th of April until 15th of July 2026.

This club will be providing funky interactive structured play sessions with an educational twist. Each week will see a new challenge created for the children to solve by building objects, buildings, and vehicles.

It will run from 3:15pm until 4:15pm and will cost £5.00 per week and will be in place for

Half Term fee is £30.00 (6 weeks)

Full term fee is £65.00 (13 weeks)

SPACES will be offered on a first come first serve basis. To apply for one of these spaces you will need to complete an online booking form via the Funky Play Bricks website.

Booking details can be found below.

How to book a place for your child

Visit the following website <https://www.funkyplaybricks.co.uk/bitt-ce>

this will bring up the Funky Play Bricks booking form. Please fill in all the details required, add your payment details and then Funky Play bricks will be in touch to confirm the details.

Yours sincerely
Funky Play Bricks

We can't wait to
continue building at
the After School Club
with you!!!



Streetbeatz – Sign-Up for the Summer Term!

Streetbeatz classes will resume this week! Please sign your child up using the link below:

<https://www.streetbeatzdanceacademy.co.uk/>

Session Dates (Thursdays):

- 16th, 23rd, 30th April
- 7th, 14th May (No class on 21st May)
- 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th June
- 2nd, 9th, 16th July

streetBEATZ

We look forward to welcoming everyone back!