

Bitterne Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Hope

Courage

Creativity

8 May 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

It has been another busy and fun-filled week in school, ending with our fantastic school disco! It was lovely to see so many children enjoying themselves, dancing with friends and having such a wonderful time.

Over the last two years, our school has been part of the Southampton Local Authorities SEND Cluster Model. This is a group of local schools working together to improve support and opportunities for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). By being part of the cluster, schools can share ideas, learn from each other and access extra funding to help children thrive.

Thanks to this funding, we have been able to develop our Forest and Lunar Lounge spaces, creating calm and supportive environments where children can feel safe, regulated and ready to learn. We have also purchased standing desks, wobble stools and dyslexia-friendly dictionaries and reading books to support a range of learning needs in the classroom.

The funding has also allowed us to provide access to valuable learning programmes such as Nessy and Reading Plus, which help children develop their reading and literacy skills. As part of our continued commitment to supporting every child, all of our Teaching Assistants have also received training in Lego Therapy. Looking ahead, we are also excited to further strengthen our support for children with English as an Additional Language (EAL) through the introduction of a new online screening tool, helping us to identify needs more quickly and provide the right support for pupils and families.

We are already seeing the positive impact these resources, interventions and staff training opportunities are having on our children — not only in their learning, but also in their confidence, wellbeing and enjoyment of school.

We are excited to continue being part of the Southampton SEND Cluster Model over the next financial year and look forward to building on the many successes we have already seen.

Have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Gear

Collective Worship

In collective worship this week we have been thinking about how true relationships thrive on a healthy balance of **both giving and receiving**. When we open our hearts to accept help, kindness, or wisdom from someone else, we actually give *them* the gift of being needed.

A beautiful example of this is found in **1 Kings 17:7–16**. During a terrible drought, the prophet Elijah was hungry and tired. He met a poor widow who had only a tiny bit of flour and oil left to feed herself and her son. Even though she had almost nothing, she chose to *give* what she had, baking a small loaf of



bread for Elijah first. In return, she *received* an amazing, miraculous reward: God ensured her jars of flour and oil never ran out until the rains returned. Because she was willing to give, she received a lifetime of hope.

Whether it is sharing a meal, listening to a friend, or allowing someone to help us when we are down, giving and receiving bonds us together. This week, let's look for ways to keep the circle of friendship moving. Let us give generously, receive gratefully, and find hope in each other.

Update Year 5 and 6 Phase Leader

As we enter the final term of the school year, it has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, curiosity and hard work across Years 5 and 6.



Year 5 have had a fantastic few weeks of learning. They greatly enjoyed meeting our visitor, Andy, who spoke to the children about Southampton's role in World War II and the impact the war had on the city. The children were fascinated to explore and handle a range of artefacts and asked some incredibly thoughtful and impressive questions throughout the session.



In Science, the children have been producing some super work as part of their learning on Animals Including Humans. They have explored the similarities and differences between animal gestation periods, presenting their findings in graphs and drawing conclusions from the data collected. The children have also thoroughly enjoyed having the guinea pigs in the year group and have loved the opportunity to care for and observe them.

Year 6 have been working exceptionally hard as they prepare for their SATs tests next week. The Year 6 team have been so impressed by the children's positive attitudes towards their learning - they have remained extremely focused, determined and mature throughout. Alongside this, the children have enjoyed developing their cricket skills in PE and have been fascinated by extending their knowledge of World War II in History lessons.

We would like to wish all of our Year 6 children the very best of luck for their SATs next week. We are incredibly proud of the effort and resilience they have shown already.

Wishing Year 6 Good Luck!

We would like to wish all of our Year 6 children the very best of luck as they begin their SATs tests next week. They have worked exceptionally hard in preparation and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for their dedication, resilience and positive attitudes towards learning.



To help the children feel calm and settled before the start of each day, the Oakley John gate will be opened at 8:20am next week for **Year 6 children only**. This will allow them time to come onto site early, settle in and enjoy a breakfast snack together before the tests begin.

Please note that **no other children should enter the school site before 8:30am**, as there are no members of staff on duty at the gates until this time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Thank you to our wonderful PTA!

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising and running the school disco last night. It was a fantastic event and the children had a brilliant time dancing, singing and spending time with their friends. We are so grateful for the commitment this group of parents show to the school, voluntarily giving up their time to organize and run these events to fundraise for the school.

Thank you also to all parents and carers for signing your children up in advance. This really helps us to ensure that appropriate adult-to-child ratios and safeguarding arrangements (particularly in light of the security level being raised in the UK) are in place so that events can run safely and smoothly.

We would also like to thank the staff who generously gave up their time to support the event - your help was greatly appreciated.

We are already looking forward to the next PTA event... the Summer Fair on Friday 13th June!

Parents Forum – Tuesday 2nd June

We would like to invite parents and carers to attend our next Parents' Forum on Monday 2nd June at 9:30am.

The focus of this session will be evaluating and updating our Home School Agreement. We value the views and feedback of our families and would greatly welcome parent input as we review and develop this important document together.

If you would like to attend, please sign up using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/w9M4bTcsy34qcAF39>

Respectful Communication

I would like to remind all members of our school community about the importance of communicating with staff in a polite and respectful manner.

We appreciate that there may be occasions where parents and carers have concerns or frustrations and, as a school, we are always happy to listen and work together to resolve any issues. However, recently there have been a few occasions where conversations with staff have become inappropriate, including raised voices and the use of unacceptable language.

Our staff are committed to supporting all children and families and we ask that all communication, whether in person, over the phone or via email, remains calm and respectful so that concerns can be addressed positively and effectively.

Thank you for your understanding, support and continued cooperation.

Mrs. Johnson

BFU ClassDojo Page Launch

You will shortly be able to access a new page on ClassDojo called 'BFU Information Page'. The purpose of this page is hold all the information and events from the PTA. We hope this will help parents to easily locate information in the future. Please not, the comments and chat will be turned off. If you need to contact the PTA, there will be contact details at the top of the page.



Dates for your Diary

- **19 May:** Year 3 City Mission
- **20 May:** SEND Coffee Meeting 2pm-3pm
- **2 June:** Parents Forum 9am
- **4 June:** Class Photos
- **11 June:** 9.30am-11am: Year 3 and 4 Sports Day
- **11 June:** 1.30pm-3pm: Year 5 and 6 Sports Day
- **13 June:** PTA Summer Fayre 12-3pm
- **18 June:** 9.30am-11am: EYS and Year 1 and 2 Sports Day
- **22 June- 10 July:** Year 5 Swimming – more information to follow
- **25 June:** Year 6 Leaver's Event Winchester Cathedral – more information to follow
- **30 June:** Year R-5 Transition morning
- **1 July:** Year R- 5 Transition Day
- **9 July:** 1.30pm-2.30pm and 6pm-7pm: Year 6 End of Year Show – more information to follow
- **10 July:** End of year reports
- **13 July:** Year 6 Paultons Park Trip – more information to follow
- **14 July:** All years Parents Open Evening – more information to follow
- **16 July:** 1.30pm-3pm: Year 6 Leavers Service and Picnic at Holy Saviour - more information to follow
- **16 July:** 6pm-8pm: Year 6 Leavers Party - more information to follow

- **17 July:** PTA Non School Uniform Day
- **17 July:** Last day of Summer term

Weekly Celebrations

- This week House Cup winner is Brook House with 2501 points, Brownlow House with 2430 Points, Pound House with 2325 Points and Maytree House with 2225 points.
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year 1 Tahiti and Talisman Class
- Star of the Week certificates awarded to: Rio; Samar; Bakitha; Theia; Beau; Henry; Vanessa; Amelia; Nevaeh; Lucas; Ophelia and Jack
- This week's most improved attendance goes to: Olden with 96.5%

Well done everyone!



FREE MONEY

Cole Palmer
Taylor Smith

Order your **Stikins** labels for next term

Use code **2092** at checkout

STIKINS® Name Labels

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Reduce Lost Property

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DONUT SALE!

FRIDAY 22ND MAY

£1 A DONUT

FREE FROM DONUTS AVAILABLE!

RAISING MONEY FOR OUR YEAR 6 LEAVERS PARTY!

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Next Week at Re:Minds 11th - 15th May

Please email info@reminds.org.uk to book in for advice clinics. No need to book for a support group, just check the events section of our Facebook group

With thanks to:

Sholing Support Group

For parents and carers of children who are neurodivergent and/or have mental health needs

10-12 Friday 15th May

A safe, welcoming space to connect with other parents and carers who share similar experiences. Meet others who understand and get advice and support from our trained staff with lived experience. You can also find out more about the sector support and projects we run across the city.

Re:Minds

CAMHS Advice Clinic

10am Thursday 14th May

About the Clinic:
Book a private, 10-minute virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about any issues covered by CAMHS.
This clinic is led by the Southampton Specialist CAMHS service and is open to all Re:Minds members seeking general advice.
To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk

CAMHS Advice Clinic

10am Monday 11th May

About the Clinic:
Book a private, 10-minute virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about support for your child's mental health, behaviour, attention, and day-to-day challenges. The parents and carers who are concerned about their child's mental health, including where ADHD may be contributing to their needs.
Appointments will be with Laura Milet, Lead ADHD Nurse from CAMHS.
To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk

SEND Legal Advice Clinic

From 12.30pm Tuesday 12th May

About the Clinic:
We are linking with Shonors Solicitors to offer free SEND legal advice checks for school holidays. These sessions provide clear guidance and support on issues such as:
• SEND needs assessments and how to request one
• Problems at school related to SEN with or without an EHCP
• Agreements, including letters to schools, and how to use them
• Accessing free educational and psychological support
• Issues with provision as an EHCP, including non-delivery or placement changes
• Annual reviews, including progress, and LA compliance
• Health and social care needs (not in EHCP)
• Quality of education to be taught
• Rights of young people aged 16+ (with capacity) regarding their school
To book your 10-minute advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk

CAMHS Advice Clinic

10.30am Tuesday 12th May

About the Clinic:
Book a private 10-minute, virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about support for your child's mental health, behaviour, attention, and day-to-day challenges. For parents and carers who are concerned about their child's mental health, including where autism may be contributing to their needs.
The clinic is led by clinicians from the Southampton Autism Assessment Service.
To book your advice slot, please email: info@reminds.org.uk

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

We look forward to welcoming everyone back!



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!!!



BITTERNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEARNING THROUGH SPORT

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

CLUB TIMETABLE

MONDAY- FOOTBALL YRS 3-6

FRIDAY- FOOTBALL YRS R-2

CLUBS INCLUDE:

FOOTBALL

PRICE- £5.50 PER SESSION

STARTS 1ST JUNE

BOOK HERE!

learningthroughsport.co.uk/bitterne/

MONDAY & FRIDAY

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

All bookings must be made in advance

SCAN ME