

Bitterne Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Hope

Courage

Creativity

17 July 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

As we reach the end of another school year, I find myself reflecting on just how much we have achieved together. It has been a truly fantastic year at Bitterne CE Primary School, full of learning, laughter, challenge and success. Every day our children have embraced new opportunities with enthusiasm, curiosity and determination, and I could not be prouder of all they have accomplished.

This year has been packed with exciting learning experiences that have brought our curriculum to life. From farm visits, Butser Ancient Farm, Winchester Cathedral, the Science Centre and City Mission days, to swimming, Bikeability, sports days, residential visits to Stubbington and Marchants Hill, experience days in school, Christmas and summer fairs, pantomimes and nativities, there has been something for every child to enjoy. One of the highlights of the year was undoubtedly our first ever whole-school production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. It was a wonderful celebration of talent, teamwork and confidence, and one that will live long in the memories of everyone involved.



At the beginning of the year, we introduced our new Christian values of Hope, Courage and Creativity. It has been wonderful to see these values become firmly embedded in the life of our school. They are now evident in our classrooms, our collective worship, our curriculum and, most importantly, in the way our children treat one another. They have become a genuine part of who we are as a school community.



It has also been a year of significant school improvement. Throughout the year, our School Improvement Officer has recognised the progress being made across the school through regular visits, acknowledging the continued improvements in the quality of education and the experiences our children receive.



Our children's achievements this year reflect the hard work and dedication of both pupils and staff. I am delighted to share that:

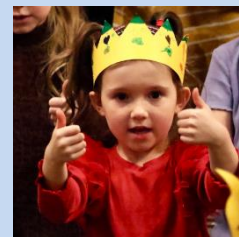
- Our Reception Good Level of Development (GLD) has increased by 10% compared to last year and now sits just above the national average at 73%.
- Year 1 Phonics outcomes have improved by 4%, with 80% of pupils meeting the expected standard. Even more pleasing is that our average point score is above both the national and local authority averages, meaning more children achieved higher scores. By the end of Year 2, 97% of our children have successfully passed the Phonics Screening Check.
- Our Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check results have been exceptional, with a 36% increase in the number of children achieving full marks. An impressive 59% of pupils scored 25 out of 25, placing us 15% above the national average.

We continue to await the detailed analysis of this year's Key Stage 2 outcomes, but I have every confidence that our Year 6 children have done themselves proud.

None of these achievements happen by chance. They are a testament to the commitment, passion and professionalism of every member of staff at Bitterne CE Primary School. Every day they work tirelessly to provide the very best education and care for our children, continually striving to improve outcomes and create memorable learning experiences. I feel incredibly fortunate to lead such a talented, dedicated

and caring team who share my vision and aspirations for every child. Thank you to each and every one of them.

As always at this time of year, we also say some goodbyes. We would like to thank Mrs Sharman, Mr Thomas and Miss Healey as they leave Bitterne CE Primary School. Mrs Sharman has served the school for many years and has touched the lives of countless children and families. She will be greatly missed for her warmth, kindness, infectious enthusiasm and genuine care for everyone around her. Mr Thomas, whilst only having been with us a short time, had a positive impact in year 6 and with supporting our children at PE events. Miss Healey, who has played a significant role in our setting up of Horizon (our wraparound care) will be greatly missed by the children. Miss Healey has also worked across the school as a cover teaching assistant over the year. We wish Mrs Sharman, Mr Thomas and Miss Healey every happiness and success for the future.



Next academic year, Mrs Wicheard will begin her maternity leave. We are delighted for her and her family as they prepare to welcome their new arrival. Mrs Wicheard will return to school for a short period at the beginning of September before starting her maternity leave, and we look forward to welcoming her back again following her leave.

We are also excited to welcome three new teachers to our school community: Mr Przewloka (Year 2), Miss Jenagathan (Year 3) and Mrs Morris (Year 4). I know they will each bring enthusiasm, expertise and fresh ideas to our team, and I am confident they will make a very positive contribution to the school.



I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our wonderful parents and carers. Your support, encouragement and partnership make an enormous difference to the life of our school. Whether supporting learning at home, attending events, volunteering your time or simply working alongside us each day, we are incredibly grateful. We simply could not do what we do without you.

A very special thank you must also go to our fantastic PTA. Their tireless fundraising has made a real difference to the experiences we can offer our children. Thanks to their incredible efforts, we now have our beautiful new library, every child enjoyed a Christmas pantomime, and this summer our Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms will receive new furniture while our Reception and Key Stage 1 classrooms will benefit from new placement rugs. Looking ahead, the PTA will be focusing their fundraising on helping us better manage the increasingly frequent summer heatwaves by improving classroom conditions and creating additional shaded outdoor spaces. We are incredibly grateful for everything they do.

Thank you also to our Governors, whose support, encouragement and constructive challenge continue to help us move the school forward. Their commitment to our children and community is greatly appreciated.



Finally, to our wonderful children—thank you. You are what makes Bitterne CE Primary School such a special place. Every day you amaze us with your kindness, resilience, determination and compassion. You encourage one another, celebrate each other's successes and face challenges with courage. It is an absolute privilege to be your Headteacher, and I am incredibly proud of every single one of you.

And to our fantastic Year 6 children, we wish you every success and happiness as you begin the next chapter of your journey at secondary school. You leave us with wonderful memories, and we know you will continue to demonstrate the hope, courage and creativity that you have shown throughout your time at Bitterne. Remember that you will always be part of our school family, and we cannot wait to hear about all that you achieve in the years ahead.

As we look ahead to another exciting year, we will continue to live out our vision of Together We Soar - working together with hope, courage and creativity so that every child flourishes, grows in confidence and achieves their very best.

I wish all of our families a happy, safe and restful summer holiday. Thank you once again for your continued support throughout the year.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Thursday 3rd September, ready for another exciting year of learning together.

Have a wonderful summer.

Mrs Jen Johnson
Headteacher

Collective Worship Reflection: Finding Rest and Joy This Summer

Summer is a gift of time. It is an invitation to step away from the daily routines, the early morning rushes, and the homework planners. Whether you are traveling somewhere new, spending time with family and friends, or simply enjoying the quiet of home, this break is a precious opportunity to recharge. In the busy pace of life, finding time to pause is essential for our minds, bodies, and spirits. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus reminds his disciples of the vital need for quiet and renewal:



"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." — *Mark 6:31*

This summer, we encourage everyone in our school community to find their own "quiet place." Let's take time to appreciate the beauty of creation around us, to laugh, to play, and to simply *be*.

Reminder: Change for Inset Day 2026-27

The Governor have agreed a change to the final inset day of academic year 2026-27. The date was originally set as Friday 2nd July. It will now be a week earlier – **Friday 25th June 2027**. Apologies for the change.

Help us win books for our library!



Please help us by nominating the school to win £1000 for books for our school library. It is a super quick form – the more entries we have, the more chance we have to win!

Please visit the website below:

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize>

Thank you!!!



Stikins labels

As we all know, lost property is a problem in all schools and I am sure we are all familiar with our child, at some point, coming home from school with a missing item. As parents, we are aware that time is precious, which is why we think these labels are such a great idea; they simply stick onto the wash-care label of clothing. They can even be used in shoes! Naming of clothing is a school requirement, and we are hoping that with this opportunity we can start to eliminate the amount of lost property in our school.

How it works: Each order placed quoting the school reference number (2092) will provide the school with 30% commission. Order using this link <https://www.stikins.co.uk/> or QR code



STIKINS® Name Labels
SIMPLY STICK IN & STAY IN

**Save Time & Money
Reduce Lost Property**

Quote Our Fundraising Number
To Raise Funds For School

[WWW.STIKINS.CO.UK](https://www.stikins.co.uk)

Kids Go Free by Bus!

As part of a government initiative, children aged 5 to 15 will travel for free on any participating local bus in August. This offer runs in addition to the £3 single fare cap and the £1 after 6pm single fare.



Now there's even more reasons to get out by bus to local attractions this August. For example, a family of 2 adults and 2 children, can travel from Southampton to Paulton's Park on the X7/X7R for only £6 each way!

Southampton also has wealth of great things to see and do this August. Whether it's a spot of retail therapy at West Quay, a bite to eat at the many restaurants, to catch the latest films at Showcase Cinema or walk the historic city walls, in addition to kids go free, adults can travel by bus for only £2.60 single within the Southampton zone or £1 after 6pm.

Leave the car at home this August and catch the bus instead, it's much less fuss by bus!

For further information, see bluestarbus.co.uk, firstsolent.co.uk or southampton.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

- **1 September:** INSET DAY
- **2 September:** INSET DAYS
- **3 September:** First Day back in School
- **7 September:** SENDCO Drop in 3.15pm-4pm
- **21 September:** SENDCO Drop in 3.15pm-4pm
- **22 September:** Year 6 Parent Meeting: School Admissions Year 7 Info session 9-10am
- **28 September – 2 October:** Year 5 Bikeability
- **5-9 October:** Year 6 Marchants Hill Residential
- **12 October:** Individual Class Photos
- **15 October:** Harvest Church Service





Free Summer Transition Sessions 2026

Mental Health in Schools Team

Join our fun and supportive summer sessions to help you feel confident and ready for Secondary School

Sessions will be held at **GOALS**, Third Avenue, Southampton, SO15 0JW
3:30pm-4:30pm



Communication & Friendships Monday 24th August



Managing our worries Wednesday 26th August



Self-Care Thursday 27th August

You will:

- Build confidence
- Meet new people
- Learn how to manage worries
- Feel ready for your new school

Book your place now!
Just scan the QR code



Your Parent/Carer must attend with you





FREE WATER SAFETY SESSIONS

STAY SAFE. HAVE FUN. SAVE LIVES.

Join us for **FREE**, fun and practical water safety sessions designed to teach children what to do if they get into a difficult situation in water.

 It's really important that every child knows how to remain safe in water.

SESSION TIMES

SESSION DATES

- Tuesday 28th July
- Friday 31st July
- Monday 10th August
- Thursday 13th August

SESSION TIMES

- 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Primary school-aged children
- 2:30pm – 3:30pm
Secondary school-aged children

WHAT TO BRING:
Swimwear, a towel and some old clothing or pyjamas to wear over your swimwear that you don't mind getting wet.

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!
Places are limited – to book, please call us on
023 8078 1901

 **HELPING CHILDREN STAY SAFE IN AND AROUND WATER**

FREE 1 HOUR SESSIONS

Shirley Swimming Pool, Kershif Road, Southampton SO15 3GB | 023 8078 1901 | info@shirleyswimmingpool.co.uk | www.shirleyswimmingpool.co.uk




EXCLUSIVE VIVID HOMES SUBSIDISED PLACE OFFER!

SUMMER HOLIDAY SPORTS COACHING COURSES

JUST £4.50 PER CHILD, PER DAY!

EXCLUSIVELY FOR VIVID HOMES CUSTOMERS

✓ PROOF OF VIVID HOMES TENANCY WILL BE REQUIRED



THANK YOU TO VIVID HOMES FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL FAMILIES!
YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE.

 FOOTBALL

 MULTI-GAMES

 PICK & MIX ACTIVITIES

 BOYS & GIRLS (YEAR R – YEAR 6)

 EARLY DROP OFF & LATE PICK UP AVAILABLE (SUBJECT TO DEMAND)

Klarna.
KLARNA PAYMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE

THURSDAY 23RD JULY – FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST 2026

9:00AM – 3:00PM

WYNTER ROAD PLAYING FIELD, BITTERNE

PLACES ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED AND WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

SUBSIDISED PLACES AVAILABLE TO VIVID HOMES CUSTOMERS ONLY. PROOF WILL NEED TO BE PROVIDED.

BOOK NOW!

SECURE YOUR PLACE TODAY!
<https://pbbl.uk/4w0skFR>
 THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR JOURNEY OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS!

USE CODE: VIVID1




CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF LEARNING THROUGH SPORT!

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SUMMER HOLIDAY OFFER!

To say thank you for 20 amazing years of support and to help families with the cost of the summer holidays...

SAVE £8 PER DAY!

JUST £6.50 PER CHILD, PER DAY
(plus booking fee)

PER CHILD, PER DAY

WHILST PLACES REMAIN thanks to VIVID HOMES

 FOOTBALL

 MULTI-GAMES

 PICK & MIX ACTIVITIES

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THURSDAY 23RD JULY – FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST 2026

9:00AM – 3:00PM

WYNTER ROAD PLAYING FIELD, BITTERNE

PLACES ARE STRICTLY LIMITED TO MAINTAIN QUALITY AND ENSURE EVERY CHILD HAS THE BEST EXPERIENCE.

PLACES ARE STRICTLY FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE. DON'T MISS OUT!

BOOK NOW!

SECURE YOUR PLACE TODAY!
<https://pbbl.uk/4w0skFR>
 THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR JOURNEY OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS!

USE CODE: VIVID26

20 YEARS OF INSPIRING CHILDREN — BUILDING CONFIDENCE — CREATING MEMORIES

SHOWSTOPPERS PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

@ Bitterne CE Primary School!

We're excited to confirm that our popular Showstoppers Drama Club is running at your school!

What the class offers: At Showstoppers, we love to bring out the performer in every child, building confidence and celebrating individuality. Students will explore acting techniques, including improvisation, vocal skills, script work, and perform in showcases, all while having the chance to build new friendships each week.

Club Details:

When: Tuesdays, 3:15pm – 4:45pm - starting from Tuesday 8th September

Where: Bitterne CE Primary School

Monthly Cost: £30.00 per month (inclusive of platform fees), prorated and spread evenly across the year to cover all 36 sessions, £8.50 per session. Alternatively, you may choose to pay for the full term in advance. Payments are taken automatically on the 1st of each month (excluding August).

What to Bring: Please send your child with a drink and snack (nothing containing nuts).

How to register:

Sign up online at: <https://showstoppers-performing-arts.classforkids.in>

Select "Bitterne CE Primary School"

Create an account and set up your payment details for your subscription (if you wish to pay for the full term, please email us).

Once registered, your child's place will be secured for the new term.

If your child is already part of the club, their place will automatically be secured for September.

Please note: While class cancellations are very rare, in the unlikely event that a session is cancelled, a credit will be applied to your account, same applies for inset days.

Join us today and let the magic of drama inspire your child!



info@showstoppersacademy.co.uk 07584281994

www.showstoppersacademy.co.uk showstoppers.uk

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

£6.50 PER CLASS – PAY AS YOU GO

MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED AFTER FIRST CLASS £27.50 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



Summer Holiday FAMILY DAYS OUT

TUDOR HOUSE & GARDEN

**SUMMER
FETE**

SATURDAY 25 JULY 2026 | FREE ENTRY 10am – 5pm
Join us for a day of family fun celebrating 114 years since Tudor House opened as a museum. Crafts, games and activities throughout the day*

*small charges will apply



LOOKING FOR ALL DAY DROP-OFF ACTIVITIES?

Create cool things,
learn new stuff and make
friends at our regular clubs
From £28 a day

CULTURE CLUB

6½ - 12 years old
Monday to
Wednesdays
3 – 26 Aug

JUNIOR ART SCHOOL

7 - 13 years old
Fridays
31 Jul – 28 Aug

ART SCHOOL PLUS

11 - 16 years old
Thursdays
30 Jul – 27 Aug



SOUTHAMPTON
CITY ART GALLERY



Summer Holiday ACTIVITIES

AT SOUTHAMPTON
MUSEUMS AND GALLERY

From £6 per activity

ART FOR ALL

Fri 24 Jul | Print a Pangolin and More (5+)
Tue 28 Jul | Paint with Palette Knives (7+)
Mon 27 Jul | Fossil Plaster Casting (5+)
Tue 28 Jul | Shrinkable Tudor Portraits (all ages)
Wed 29 Jul | Gruffalo Clay (4+)
Thu 30 Jul | Summer Sun Prints (all ages)
Fri 31 Jul | Fossil Plaster Casting (5+)
Tue 4, Wed 5 Aug | Brilliant Beach Bags
Mon 10 Aug | Clay Capybaras (5+)
Tue 11 Aug | Surrealism Starts Here (5+)
Wed 12 Aug | Animal Magic Monoprinting (5+)
Mon 17 Aug | Bugs in Boxes (4+)
Tue 18 Aug | Impressionism Starts Here (5+)
Wed 19 Aug | Greek Pottery Pots (5+)
Mon 24 Aug | Summer Sun Prints (all ages)
Tue 25 Aug | Highland Cows in Clay (5+)
Wed 26 Aug | Pencil Case Printing (5+)
Thu 27 Aug | Pet Portrait Printing (5+)
Fri 28 Aug | Dino Drawing and Printing (5+)

HANDS ON HISTORY

Thu 23 Jul | Potty Prehistory (7+)
Mon 27 Jul | Knight School (5+)
Mon 3 Aug | Shiver Me Timbers (5+)
Tue 4 Aug | The Hidden History of Harry Potter (5+)
Fri 7 Aug | Discover Titanic (5+)
Fri 14 Aug | Soaring Spitfires (7+)
Thu 20 Aug | Great Fire of London (5+)
Fri 21 Aug | Awesome Egyptians (7+)

TOURS FOR ALL

Thu 8 Aug | Secrets of Southampton Castle (5+)
Thu 13 Aug | Titanic Walking Tour (5+)
Tue 18 Aug | Roman Southampton Walking Tour (5+)

TODDLER TIME

Thu 30 Jul | Delightful Dinosaurs (under 4s & friends)
Thu 20 Aug | Gorgeous Birds (under 4s & friends)

BOOK YOUR SUMMER ADVENTURE TODAY

For times, prices and locations visit our venue websites

seacitymuseum.co.uk | southamptoncityartgallery.com | tudorhouseandgarden.com

