

Bitterne Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Hope

Courage

Creativity

24 October 2025

Issue 7

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Yesterday, we were delighted to come together as a whole school to celebrate Harvest at Holy Saviour Church. It is always such a special occasion when our school community gathers to give thanks for all that we have and to reflect on the importance of generosity and gratitude at this time of year. Thank you to Tony and Ruth for making us feel so welcome as always. Today, we have also enjoyed launching our new Christian values of *Hope, Courage, and Creativity*. The children took part in a range of exciting creative arts activities to explore and deepen their understanding of these values, alongside learning about Christian stories that reflect each one. Thank you for all your generous food donations which will be collected by a local food bank.

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising such an enjoyable and lively school disco last night! The children had a fantastic time, and we are very grateful for your support in helping us raise funds for our school.

It has been a busy and exciting half term, and we are so proud of everything the children have achieved so far this year. There is so much to look forward to next half term!

We wish all our families a happy and restful half term break.

Best wishes Mrs Gear (SENDCo)



Update from the Chair of Governors

We have had a brilliant start to the year and it has been fantastic to see all the hard work of the site team and staff in getting the school looking brilliant and ready for the new academic year - THANK YOU! As a Governing Body we have been working really hard to recruit new members and ensure that we are trained, ready and focussed to help support the school to be the best it can be for our pupils, our staff team and the Senior Leadership Team. We are pleased to share that we have been joined by Paul Sellwood as Parent Governor, Viv Hamilton as Foundation Governor (a church appointment to support the vision, values and ethos of the church school) and two new Co-Opted Governors Alex Houghton and Saagar Jagatia. We now only have one vacancy left to fill with the Local Authority, which is a great position to be in. As ever if you have any questions, encouragements, queries or concerns - do get in touch chair@bitterneceprimary.net. We hope you have a fantastic half term and look forward to all that is planned for the next autumn term.

Best wishes
Tony Palmer

Years 3 and 4 Phase Leader Update from Mrs Wood

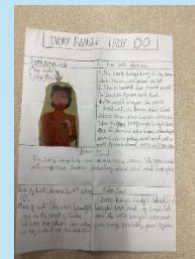
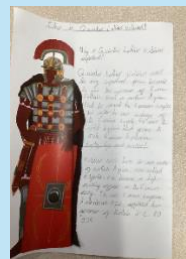
As we reach the end of a busy and creative half term, we are so proud of everything the children in Years 3 and 4 have achieved!

Year 3 have been immersing themselves in the world of *Greek myths*, producing some fantastic pieces of writing inspired by these ancient tales. In *History*, they have been exploring *Ancient Greece* and have created some beautiful *Greek vase designs* that are now proudly on display in the Year 3 shared area — they look absolutely amazing!

Year 4 have been equally creative, designing and making their own *Roman mosaics* and learning about what life was like for *Roman soldiers*. In *English*, they have been writing dramatic diary entries from the perspective of someone who has survived a shipwreck — the descriptions and emotions captured in their work have been truly impressive. In *RE*, they have been exploring the concept of *authority in Judaism*, thinking deeply about laws and traditions from the Torah.

To celebrate *Black History Month*, both year groups have enjoyed learning about influential *Black British figures*, including some remarkable individuals dating back as far as *Ancient Rome*!

The *fact files* the children have produced are both fascinating and inspiring — a wonderful celebration of diversity and achievement through history.



We are so proud of all the hard work, creativity and enthusiasm the children have shown this half term — what a fantastic way to end before a well-earned break!

Our Library is Opening After School

It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying our new school library this half term. The space has quickly become a much-loved part of our school, where children can explore new stories and develop their love of reading.

We are pleased to share that after half term, the library will be open after school on Mondays and Tuesdays commencing 10th November until 4:00pm. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join their child in the library to share a book together and enjoy our

lovely reading environment. The external library door will be open from 3:15pm to welcome you in.

We are also excited to be starting an Adult Book Swap. If you have any books you would be willing to donate to help us get started, we would be very grateful. Donations can be left at the school office.

Update from our SENDCo, Mrs Gear

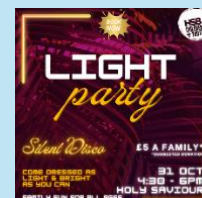
I wanted to let you know about a small change to how we review Learning Plans (IEPs). From now on, we will be reviewing them once each term instead of every half term. This change is based on the latest research and good practice in schools. Reviewing Learning Plans termly gives children more time to work towards their targets and helps us get a clearer picture of their progress before setting new goals. Teachers will be in touch in December to share the progress your child has made and their new targets for the Spring term.

Update from Holy Saviour Church

What a fantastic first half term we have had - collective worship has been focussed around exploring our new Core Christian values, as well as thinking about the theme of thankfulness. We had a wonderful Harvest Service at the church - the children did amazingly with their readings, prayers and hosting of the service. The Worship Choir led by Ruth and Mrs M did brilliantly too with their performance - Monday lunchtime's rehearsals continue to be a great opportunity to gather, have fun and to worship together.

We have a couple of things happening at Holy Saviour over the next few weeks, we wanted to invite any one to join with us:

- Friday 31st October - 4:30 - 6pm FAMILY Light Party - simply sign up for a whole heap of family fun
- Friday 31st October - 7 - 8:30pm 412 Bright Party - a fun social event for those in year 6 and above... sign up online



- Sunday 2nd November - 3pm is our Annual Memorial Service, a chance to reflect and remember loved ones that we see no longer - all welcome, however long ago our loved ones died.
- Saturday 15th November - COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON event with loads of fun, stalls, rides, the Lord Mayor turning on the lights and performances too... get the date in the diary and make sure you don't miss the BIG switch on at 5pm (stalls run from 2pm and performances from 4pm).



New Winter Hot Dinner Menu – Launching Monday 3rd November

We're pleased to announce that our new Winter menu will be available from **Monday 3rd November**.

- **Ordering:** Children can continue to order their meal choices in class during registration.
- **Specialist Diets:** Parents of children with specialist dietary needs will receive their tailored menus via email.
- **Menu Access:** Please check **Class Dojo** or your **email** for a copy of the new menus.
- **Pricing:** For those who pay, school dinners remain excellent value at **£3.20 per meal**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Parking Reminder for Parents

We would like to remind parents to park both respectfully and legally in the roads surrounding the school. Please avoid blocking driveways and be considerate of our local residents.

Unless you have prior permission, we ask that you do not park in the school car park.

Parking permits for Sainsbury's car park are available from the school office. We are just waiting on new supply.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us keep our community safe and considerate for everyone.

Message from the Lunch team

Please remember that we are a nut-free school. For the safety of all our children, please do not include any products containing nuts in your child's lunchbox. This includes items such as Nutella, Kinder products, and satay chicken.

Additionally, to reduce the risk of choking, please ensure that grapes are cut in half lengthwise, especially for children in Year R and KS1.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Facebook

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



Poppy Appeal 2025

Each year we support the Poppy Appeal in School. We encourage the children to talk about the reasons why we support this appeal.



From Tuesday 4 November to Friday 7 November, the box of poppies will be sent round to each year group for them to buy a poppy for a suggested donation of 30p as follows:

Tuesday 4 November: Year R and Year 1

Wednesday 5 November: Year 2

Thursday 6 November: Year 3 and Year 4

Friday 7 November: Year 5 and Year 6

Please make sure your child brings their money into school on the correct day, in an envelope with their name on it if they would like a poppy.

This year, as well as the traditional poppies, we have been sent the items detailed below to help raise money for the poppy appeal.

Zip Pull Reflectors: £1.00

Wrist Bands: £1.00

Snap Bands: £1.50

Thank you for your continued support.



Dates for your Diary

- **11 November:** Parents Evening 3.40pm-6.30pm
- **11 November** SEND Coffee Morning: 9-10.30am
- **12 November:** Flu Vaccinations (please note your child will not receive this unless you sign them up for it)
- **13 November:** Parents Evening 3.40pm-6.30pm
- **20 November:** Year 6 SATS Parents Meeting, 5-6pm
- **21 November:** Year R Parent Afternoon, 2.30pm
- **26 November:** Parent Forum 9-10am
- **11 December:** Christmas Jumper Day
- **11 December:** Years 3-6 Christmas Songs in the Playground 2.30pm
- **12 December:** Year R Parent Afternoon, 2.30pm
- **17 December:** Year R and KS1 Christmas Show 10-11am and 1.30-2.30pm

- **18 December:** Christmas Lunch
- **18 December:** Christmas Church Service at Holy Saviour Church 10-11am

Weekly Celebrations

- This week's House Cup awarded to Brownlow House with 2914 points.
- Congratulations to these children who have been awarded Star of the Week: Sammy; Kelvin; Florence; Isaac; Maxim; Michail; Russell; Filip; Yusuf; Marnie; Yanna; Jake; Darcie-Marie
- Tidy Class Award goes to: Year 2 Ruby and Eden Class
- This week's best attendance goes to Emerald Class with 98.4%

Well done everyone!

PumpkinFest at Monty's Community Hub

A fun, family-friendly celebration of all things autumn. The event will take place on **Wednesday 29th October from 1pm - 4:30pm at Monty's, Montague Avenue, Sholing.**

PumpkinFest is all about creativity, food and seasonal fun. Children can decorate their own pumpkins in a way that keeps them edible, so nothing goes to waste, and older ones might enjoy trying their hand at making fabric pumpkins. There will also be cookie decorating, leaf crafts, and a trail around the estate to discover hidden pumpkin pictures.



Families can stop by our tasting table to sample different pumpkin dishes, pick up a jar of pumpkin spice mix to take home, or visit our photo booth for a perfect autumn snapshot. We'll also have face painting, temporary tattoos, and lots of other little surprises along the way.

Entry to the event is free, with small suggested donations for some activities, such as pumpkin decorating. All proceeds raised will go back into Monty's projects, helping us continue to provide opportunities and support for local families.

We'd love to see as many families as possible at PumpkinFest this year, and we hope it will be a wonderful way to bring the community together.

Darren Paffey, Member of Parliament Christmas Card Competition:

Darren Paffey, MP for Itchen would like to invite the children to take part in his annual MP Christmas Card competition, which is open to all primary school-aged children across the Southampton Itchen constituency.

It's great fun and a real chance for youngsters to showcase their creativity. Here's how it works:

- Children can create their design on A4 paper (no glitter or stuck-on decorations please) on the theme of 'What does Christmas in Southampton mean to you'
- All entries can be submitted by post or email to Darren Paffey MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or darren.paffey.mp@parliament.uk by Friday 28 November. Parents and Carers can either send their children's entries in directly or schools may prefer to send all entries in one go – whatever is easiest for you.

Darren will choose three winning designs to feature on his official Christmas cards that will be sent far and wide to many people across Southampton and beyond, including community leaders, the Prime Minister and even the King and Queen. Last year, there were more than 900 entries to the Christmas Card competition.

The Mayflower Theatre has generously donated tickets to this year's pantomime as prizes in this year's competition. The three winners will each receive four tickets each to this year's panto – the Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan. Darren is also always keen to visit the winners in person to congratulate them on their creativity.

Entries should be submitted by Friday 28 November. For more information, please visit the website: <https://www.darrenpaffey.org.uk/2025/10/17/my-christmas-card-competition-for-school-aged-kids-is-open/>



Funky Play Bricks After School Club

Our **LEGO®** After School Club will continue after **October** half term.

The Funky Play Bricks session will run on **Wednesdays**.

This Club will be open to **all children**.

Our first club back will be on the **5th of November 2025**.

The 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 £35.00 (7 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!!!



Book your child on with the link: <https://www.funkyplaybricks.co.uk/bitt-ce>



AFTER SCHOOL TECH CLUB



NOW ON WEDNESDAY'S!



COME AND JOIN US FOR LOTS OF
ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:

CODING
ROBOTICS
GAME MAKING
APP DESIGN
ANIMATION
LEGO ENGINEERING
WEB DESIGN



£8.50
PER SESSION

WEDNESDAY'S
3.15PM - 4.15PM



COMPUTERXPLOERS.CO.UK/SOUTHAMPTON

**BITTERNE FRIENDS UNITED****fieldpalmer**
FOUNDED 1998

PTA EVENTS CALENDAR

CURRENT TERM - AUTUMN 1

- 17 Oct Xmas card drawing **RETURN date**
School Disco
KS1 4:45-5:45pm
 23 Oct KS2 6:00-7:00pm
<https://forms.gle/XNBTDnifgiRKokNj8>

NEXT TERM - AUTUMN 2

- 3 Nov Xmas Jumper donation weeks
 1-15 Nov Xmas cards online shop **open**
 11/13 Nov Meet the PTA & Pre-Loved Uniform sales @ Parents Evening
Postponed KS2 Movie Night
 29 Nov Xmas Event (Sat 2-4pm)
 11 Dec Christmas Carols & 'Event' (TBD)

COMMUNICATIONS

For the latest PTA event information click the button to join the **PTA Notice Board**.

NOTE: ONE-WAY information - not a chat group. Be sure to enable alert

CLICK HERE

Raise funds for us for FREE

with **easyfundraising**

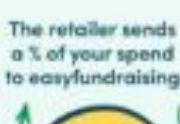
Join as our supporter today at:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause

Just search for:

Bitterne Friends United

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them

Start at the
easyfundraising
website or appClick out
to where you'd
like to shopCheckout:
prices are exactly
the same!The retailer sends
a % of your spend
to easyfundraisingThey pass
it on to us
:)



BITTERNE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL'S

SAVE THE DATE **CHRISTMAS EVENT**

SATURDAY 2-4PM
29TH NOVEMBER

GAMES
WARM DRINKS & TREATS
SANTA'S GROTTO
EXTERNAL STALLS
ELFRIDGE'S GIFT SHOP



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ESTATE AGENTS

October Holiday Camp

ActiveXplorers

**Monday 27th Oct– Thursday
30th Oct 2025**

Location:

Fryern Federation School
Oakmount Road
Chandlers Ford
SO53 2LN

Itchen College
Middle Road
Southampton
SO19 7TB

Session Price

Prices vary form £25–£30

Session Times:

08:30–17:30

9–15.30

BOOK NOW!

THE ACTIVITIES

We cover many
subjects including:

- Minecraft
- Game Design
- Laser Tag
- App Design
- Robotics
- VR head sets
- Football
- Multi Sports

AGES 5–16 YEARS



Computer
Xplorers



Magical Musical Moments

Written by Emma Sharman



Thursday 30th October - 7pm
Friday 31th October - 7pm
Saturday 1st November 2pm & 7pm

Adults £9

Children (under 16) £6

Phone: 07759273667

Email: tickets@nomadsromsey.org



SCAN TO BUY

Performances at Woodley Village Hall, School Lane,
Romsey, SO51 7NX