

Bitterne Church of England Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Hope

Courage

Creativity

7 November 2025

Issue 8

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

It has been a great first week back — the children have settled quickly into their routines, and there is a real buzz of excitement around the school as we eagerly await the arrival of our new guinea pigs! Please remember to complete the Google Form giving permission for your child to handle the guinea pigs when it is their turn.

On Thursday evening, our staff took part in their second twilight training session of the year. The focus was on developing a set of characters and progressions that reflect key learning behaviours such as *curiosity*, *teamwork*, and *resilience*. We are revisiting our previous learning behaviours to make them more child-friendly and meaningful for all pupils.

At the end of the school year, as part of your child's report, you will receive an analysis of their achievement against these characters. Once finalised, we will share more details with you and your child so that you can discuss and celebrate their progress together.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,
Mrs Johnson

Years 5 and 6 Phase Leader Update from Mr Thomas

It has been great to see Year 5 so settled and they have come back from the half term very positively and ready to learn.

In English, they have been preparing a persuasive letter linked to the Children's Mayor initiative. The Children's Mayor is an annual initiative where Year 5 children have the opportunity to put together a project that aims to improve the lives of children in the city.

In maths they have been practising using the bar model to understand and solve problems involving fractions and being really resilient with this! Finally they have produced some impressive outcomes for Black History Month, including this fact file on the writer and abolitionist Olaudah Equiano.





Year 6 have also been tackling fractions in maths, they have started their new Victorians topic and working on their balances in gymnastics. They have also been busy conducting parent tours, selling poppies and helping two new pupils, Imran and Ghaniyya, to settle in- welcome both of you!

Collective Worship

This half term we are concentrating on our Christian values of Hope, Courage and Creativity.



This week's bible quote:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9
God asks us to be brave, even when things are difficult. Just like the people we remember today showed courage, we can be brave by helping others and standing up for what is right.

The children discussed the importance of Remembrance Day and why this is important. The children also learnt about the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and had the opportunity to purchase their own poppies throughout the week.



The Great Bitterne Books Challenge

We're excited to introduce *The Great Bitterne Book Challenge*! In your child's new reading record, you'll find a special book challenge designed specifically for their year group. The challenge encourages children to read a selection of 20 wonderful books over the course of the year.



Along the way, they'll earn rewards at different milestones, working towards the ultimate goal — achieving their coloured pin badge for completing the full challenge! Once your child has finished the books on their list, they can share their achievements with their teacher, who will sign off that section of the challenge. We hope our pupils enjoy diving into these stories as much as we enjoyed choosing them!

Flu Vaccinations: Wednesday 12 November

Please remember to sign your child up for their flu vaccination using the QR code and information below. The link can be accessed here:

<https://www.hiowhealthcareimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

Your child's school code is: **CW116339** (Bitterne CE Primary)

<https://www.hiowhealthcareimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

Session Date: **12th November 2025**



Please complete the consent form **at least 2 working days before the session** to ensure your child will be vaccinated at the school session. If you submit the consent form after this time your child may be unable to receive the vaccination in school but will be offered a clinic appointment.

Your child will not receive the flu vaccination unless you consent to it.

KS2 Cross Country Update by Mr Thomas

19 children from across KS2 took part in the annual cross country league at the Southampton Sports Centre throughout October. Mr. Thomas was really impressed with the commitment to run from all the children, particularly as it was wet and windy on most of the weeks! Although we missed out on medal positions this time, the children all showed resilience and a competitive spirit, representing our school really well. Well done to Owen, Jake, Oliver, Jack, Joseph, Alfie, Noah, Evie, Polly, Rosie, Jessica, Pheobe, Megan, Tilly, Amelia, Pippa, Melanie, Kacey and Abi.



School Photographs

Please remember School Photograph Orders must be made by Tuesday 11 November. Please visit www.smileYellow.com using the passwords on your proof to do this. If you do not have the proof please contact the school office as we have this information.

Bitterne Friends United Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

A reminder that the BFU will be selling pre loved school uniform in the school hall at both parents evening next week. Please do come and have a look as they have some lovely uniform which you can buy at a fraction of the cost.

Facebook

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



Dates for your Diary

- **11 November:** Parents Evening 3.40pm-6.30pm
- **11 November:** SEND Coffee Morning: 2-3pm
- **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 – **POSTPONED – A new date will be sent out soon**
- **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 Maytree House with 963 points.
 - Congratulations to these children who have been awarded Star of the Week: Miguel; Samuel; Archie; Tayah; Raphael; Tessa; Kenji; Junior; Jacob: Symon; Emilija; Esme; Freddie
 - Tidy Class Award goes to: Year 5; Harlequin and Olden Class
 - This week's best attendance goes to Talisman Class with 98.2%
- Well done everyone!**



When: Tuesday 11th November 2025

Time: 2-3pm

Where: Meet at Main reception

Topic: Come and join Mrs Gear as we meet Amy from the Local Authorities new Neurodiversity Team and explore the support they can provide.

*Your child does not need to have a diagnosis of Autism or ADHD for you to come along.

CHRISTMAS

JUMPER DONATION

DONATE YOUR JUMPERS FROM

3RD – 21ST NOV

**BY BRINGING THEM TO CLASS
FOR COLLECTION**



**JUMPERS COLLECTED WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE**

CHRISTMAS EVENT ON THE

29TH NOVEMBER

IN KS1 PLAY GROUND



Christmas Event Info

Saturday, 29th November, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Token Pre-Sales

PTA game stalls are cashless.

Purchase your tokens in advance

Note your order number and collect from:

- PTA token stand on arrival on the day of the Fair
- Morning drop off, the week before the fair – look for the stand on KS1 & KS2 (volunteer dependant)



Volunteers needed

If you can spare your time to help with the preparation and/or execution of the event, please join the BFU Xmas Event WhatsApp group by CLICKING or SCANNING the QR code:



Planned Activities



Elfridges

Bring your children to Elfridges gift shop, where they can choose a "secret" gift for their loved ones. Children will leave the store with their chosen gift(s) beautifully wrapped by our hardworking elves. Only children will be able to see the gift selection to keep it a surprise!

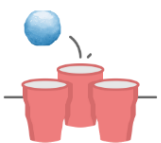
Gifts are £1/2T each.



Santa's Grotto

Father Christmas is coming to town! Visits are by appointment only, but Santa's helpers will try to hurry him along as politely as possible so he can see as many good boys and girls as he can.

£2/4T per child



Christmas Games & Competitions

- Festive themed games such as, **Corn Ho-Ho-Hole**, **Nerf the Elf off the Shelf**, **Snow Pong** and many more. Win sweets for yourself OR House points for your house.
- **"Guess the Gifts"** and **"Name the Elf"** to win some fun prizes
- **Christmas Lottery (to be confirmed)** and **Hamper prizes up for grabs** too.



Christmas Treats

We are looking to provide warm drinks and treats for you to purchase, details to be updated once confirmed.

TRANSLATIONS



LINK

LINK

LINK



BITTERNE FRIENDS UNITED

fieldpalmer
ESTATE AGENTS

DATES

AUTUMN 2

3 - 21 Nov

Xmas Jumper donation weeks

1 - 15 Nov

Xmas cards online shop **open**

11 & 13 Nov

Pre-Loved Uniform sales @
Parents Evening

29 Nov

Christmas Event (Sat 2-4pm)

This November, Easyfundraising are giving **£2 for every new supporter** who signs up via their app to support **BITTERNE FRIENDS UNITED**
It costs nothing but makes a huge difference

Select
"BITTERNE
FRIENDS
UNITED"

LINK



**Apple
App Store**

LINK



**Google
Play Store**

easyfundraising

How you can support us for free

Limited £2s available

- Download the easyfundraising app
- Sign up as our supporter
- Once registered, we'll get a £2 donation!

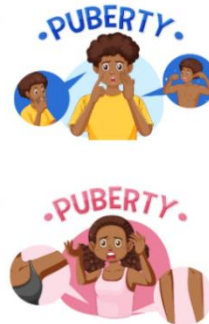
The Free £2 App-eal

Download > Register > Get £2

Bonus tip (for iPhone/Mac users): Go to Settings → Safari → Extensions, then turn on "Easyfundraising" so a reminder pops up whenever you shop on donation sites.

WORKSHOP - Puberty

Workshop on supporting young people through Puberty by Southampton Neurodiversity Multidisciplinary Team. They will give you some practical ideas to help your young people and also have open conversations with them about changes they may be experiencing.



When: Tuesday 25th November
At: 10 to 12
Where: Freemantle and Shirley
Community Centre, Randolph St, SO15
3HE



NHS
Hampshire and Isle of Wight



WORKSHOP - Anxiety

Workshop on supporting young people who struggle with Anxiety by Southampton Neurodiversity Multidisciplinary Team.

They will give you some practical ideas to help your young people and also have open conversations with them about the challenges they are facing which causes them anxiety.

They will give you hints and tips to identify early on possible points they might struggle.

When: Tuesday 16th December
At: 10 to 12
Where: Harbour Lights, Southampton
SO14 3TL



NHS
Hampshire and Isle of Wight



WORKSHOP - Masking

Workshop on supporting young people who mask by Southampton Neurodiversity Multidisciplinary Team.

They will give you some practical ideas to help your young people and also have open conversations with them about the challenges they are facing which causes them to mask at points.

They will give you hints and tips to identify early on possible points they might mask.

When: Tuesday 11th November
At: 10 to 12
Where: Harbour Lights, Southampton
SO14 3TL



NHS
Hampshire and Isle of Wight





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