

Weekly Newsletter

*At Bitterne Church of England Primary School, we are a welcoming and inclusive community where every child is valued as a unique individual, created and loved by God. Guided by our Christian values of **Hope**, **Courage** and **Creativity**, we work together so that all our pupils flourish - confident in who they are, ambitious in what they can become, and fully prepared for the next stage of their learning.*

We are proud to be a place where everyone is welcome, regardless of faith, background or belief. We passionately strive for every child to succeed - to learn with curiosity, act with kindness, and live with hope - becoming the very best version of themselves."

Together we soar...

Week Number: 3

Date: 18th September 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team - Celebrating all things musical!

It has been wonderful to see so many musical opportunities happening across our school already this term!

This week, Year 4 have been working with Mrs. M in our music room, learning to play the violin. It was fantastic to see every child so focused and engaged – and successfully playing a note! There was a real buzz in the room, and the children were clearly having a great time while learning a completely new skill. Mrs. M also sent out information earlier this week about the different music clubs and opportunities available in school, so please do have a look and encourage your child to get involved.

Following the fantastic success of *Joseph* last year, we are also very excited to be putting on another KS2 musical production this year. We're keeping the title under wraps for just a little longer, but we know it will provide another brilliant opportunity for children to sing, perform and showcase their talents in the arts. Watch this space for the big reveal!

Our musical talents have also been out and about in the community. Last weekend, a small group of children took part in Music in the City – another wonderful opportunity to perform and enjoy making music together.

There are already so many opportunities for our children to discover new talents, build confidence and experience the joy of music.

What a fantastic start to the year!



Collective Worship Reflection

As we begin a new school year, we may have hopes, ambitions and goals for the year ahead. Sometimes things go exactly as we hoped – but sometimes they don't! This is where our school value of Courage comes in. Courage doesn't mean that we never feel worried, nervous or afraid. It means that, with God's help, we can keep going, try again and face challenges even when things are difficult.



"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

This week we revised our school Old Testament courage bible story - David and Goliath and our New Testament Bible story Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man



A message from the Chair of Governors, Rev. Tony Palmer

We just wanted to say a big welcome to everyone, whether those who have returned to school following the summer break or those new families joining us with children in year R. The school term has started so well and as Governors we are really excited for all that is going to happen in the school.

At the start of the year, we thought it might be good to give an update and explain a little bit about what the Governing Body is all about. So here goes... the Governing Body is made up of members of staff, parents, foundation (church representatives) and other suitably skilled people from the local community. We meet to support the school in offering oversight and strategic governance to the Headteacher and work collaboratively to monitor progress, evaluate policies and procedures and undertake statutory responsibilities such as health & safety, safeguarding, and well-being. All governors are volunteers and give of their time to serve the school - regularly meeting with leaders, being involved in the Ofsted and performance monitoring of the school, supporting school staff and undertaking monitoring visits to see how changes are implemented and to observe the practice of our wonderfully skilled staff.

This new academic year, also sadly sees us saying a huge thank you and goodbye to two of our parent governors - Kelly Giles & Matt Proctor. Both Kelly & Matt have done an exceptional amount in the school and played a pivotal role over the last few years. We so appreciate all the time and effort that has been put in by them both and the way they have gone above and beyond - THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Excitingly, this provides us with an opportunity to recruit two new parent governors - could it be you? If you might be interested in supporting the school, have any particular expertise with finance, marketing, education or safeguarding from a professional perspective... we would love to hear from you. But if you simply have a desire to support the school's development and future - this could be the role for you! It is worth mentioning that the day to day running of the school and operational decision making is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team - our role is to hold a strategic oversight of the school and work with the school leaders to see the school grow and develop.

If you would like an informal conversation about being a governor or to find out more information - please email chair@bitterneceprimary.net

Thanks so much for your support

Tony (on behalf of the Governing Body)

Parent Question of the Week – We'd Love to Hear From You!

Thank you to everyone who responded to last week's parent question. Your feedback is valued and enables us to act on any concerns raised immediately or in the future. This week's question is: How positive is your child feeling about their learning at school?

Please use the Google Form link below to give us your feedback:

<https://forms.gle/Ygo5cu8mswhTZgE4A>



Reminder: Music Clubs with Miss M: Please sign your child up here

We are delighted to continue our extra-curricular music clubs this year, beginning on 7 September.



These clubs are a wonderful opportunity for children to develop their musical skills, build confidence, make friends and, most importantly, enjoy making music together.

Chamber Choir – Wednesdays Year 2-6

After school until 4:15pm

Chamber Choir is open to children who enjoy singing and would like to develop their vocal skills.

Important: The school production music will be rehearsed as part of Chamber Choir. Therefore, **any children who would like to take part in school production will need to join Chamber Choir.**

Year R & 1 will be able to join the production as chorus. We will rehearse with them at a lunchtime in the spring term.

Orchestra – Thursdays Years 1-6

After school until 4:15pm

Orchestra is open to children who play an orchestral instrument and would like to develop their ensemble skills. We therefore encourage all children taking orchestral instrument lessons to join- brass, woodwind, and string instruments.

Worship Choir – Mondays all years

Lunchtime

Ruth from Holy Saviour is returning to lead our hugely popular worship choir!

Recorder & Ukulele Club – Tuesdays all years

Lunchtime

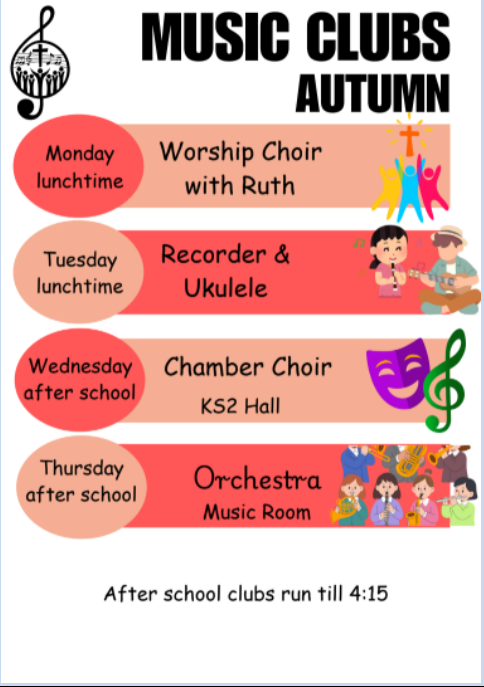
This club is a great introduction to playing an instrument as part of a group.

Sign-up

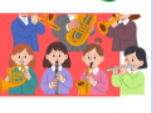
If your child would like to take part in any of these clubs, please complete the **Google Form** using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/C2icibVrmfKGZtQD8>

We are very excited to get our music clubs underway and look forward to seeing lots of children enjoying the opportunities on offer.



**MUSIC CLUBS
AUTUMN**

Monday lunchtime	Worship Choir with Ruth	
Tuesday lunchtime	Recorder & Ukulele	
Wednesday after school	Chamber Choir KS2 Hall	
Thursday after school	Orchestra Music Room	

After school clubs run till 4:15



MUSIC CLUBS
Worship Choir with Ruth!



Come worship with us on Monday at lunchtime in the music room

KS1 eat lunch first
KS2 bring your lunch with you

Update from Bitterne Friends United

  **CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER IS BACK!**  



On Monday every child will be coming home with their very own Christmas card design template!





They can draw, colour and create their own festive masterpiece, then return it to school by:



17 Friday 2nd October. We'll send their artwork to our printers, who will turn it into a personalised proof for you to see before ordering.

You'll then have the option to order their design on:



Christmas cards



Mugs



Christmas decorations



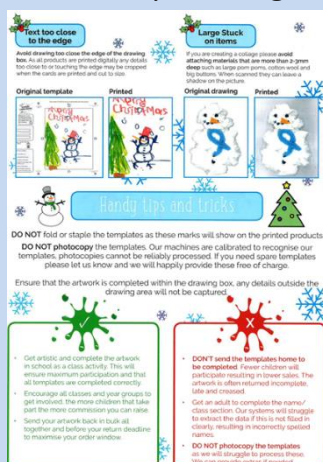
Coasters and keyrings



Stickers...and more!

There's absolutely no pressure to buy anything, but if you'd like the option, we **MUST** have your child's artwork returned to the school office by end of day Friday 2nd October so we can meet the printing deadline.

Please see guidelines for making the most of your design:



We can't wait to see their festive creations!

Bitterne Friends United

Castaway in Bitterne

From beneath a mountain of waste, the Keeper of the Waterways awakens. Change is coming.

CastAway by Highly Sprung is a breath-taking outdoor performance that confronts our throwaway culture and its impact on waterways. Featuring an all-female cast and a unique gyroscopic flying machine, this aerial theatre experience will immerse you in an underwater world where performers soar 26 feet above ground.

Inspired by the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, CastAway offers a powerful, compassionate vision for change—challenging us all to reflect on sustainability, climate change, and the choices we make. Performances will take place in Bitterne Village (outside Sainsbury's) on Friday 18th September at 15:30 and 18:00. will last around 30 minutes.

Additional performances will also take place in Guildhall Square on Saturday 19th September at 12:30 and 15:00. [CastAway in Guildhall Square](#)



18 September 2024 - 15:30
Bitterne Village

Booking not required

For access information and directions to this venue, and all British Science Festival venues, please click this link: <https://britishsciencefestival.org/accessibility-venues/>

Weekly Celebrations

- This week's House Cup awarded to Brook House
- Congratulations to these children who have been awarded Star of the Week: Elijah; Isabella; Noah; Mollie; Nazar; Rio; Henry; Emma-Win; Jimi; Mehran; Sebastian, Antoni and Ryan.
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year 2 Eden and Ruby Class
- This week's best attendance goes to Navy Class with 100%



Well done everyone!

Dates for your Diary: Please see attached full list of dates for your diary for 2026-2027

- **Monday 21 September:** SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library 3.15pm-4pm
- **Tuesday 22 September:** Secondary School Admissions Team Information Session for Year 6 Parents 9am-10am
- **Thursday 24 September:** Parent Meeting: PGL Marchants Hill Residential, 4.30pm
- **Monday 28 September to Friday 2 October:** Year 5 Bikeability
- **Thursday 1 October:** Year R 2027 Entry Parent Tours 9.30am-11am
- **Monday 5 October:** SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library 3.15pm-4pm
- **Monday 5 October to Friday 9 October:** Year 6 Marchants Hill Residential
- **Wednesday 7 October:** Year 2 Southampton City Mission – Question of Faith Day
- **Wednesday 7 October:** MHST Coffee Afternoon – 2pm-3pm
- **Monday 12 October:** Individual School Photos
- **Thursday 15 October:** Harvest Church Service 2pm- 3pm
- **Monday 19 October:** SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library 3.15pm-4pm

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

Whats On ...

FREE ENTRY



Date	Event Info	Time	Location
Tuesday 8 th September	SEND get together with a range of professionals (1:1 slots available too)	10-12	High Point, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, SO19 8BR
Thursday 17 th September	Hearing your voice - Short breaks allocation tool	10-12	Freemantle and Shirley Community Centre, Randolph Street, SO15 3HE
Friday 18 th September	Workshop - Understanding behaviour delivered by ND team	10-12	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL
Monday 21 st September	Workshop - Communication with Danielle (SALT with ND team)	10-12	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL
Tuesday 22 nd September	SEND get together - Sharing experiences and Wellbeing focus	10-12	Blackberry Family Hub, Byron Road, Thornhill, Southampton, SO19 6FH
Thursday 1 st October	Consultation event - Transport and Social Care staff will be attending to share the new transport policies, direct payment policy and short break statement	10-12	Freemantle and Shirley Community Centre, Randolph Street, SO15 3HE
Wednesday 7 th October	SEND get together with a range of professionals (1:1 slots available too)	10-12	Lordshill Community Centre, Cromarty Rd, Lordshill, Southampton SO16 8LX
Tuesday 13 th October	Workshop - EBSA delivered by ND team	10-12	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL
Wednesday 14 th October	Consultation event - Transport and Social Care staff will be attending to share the new transport policies, direct payment policy and short break statement	10-12	High Point, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, SO19 8BR
Tuesday 20 th October	SEND get together - Sharing experiences and Wellbeing focus	10-12	Honeysuckle Family Hub, Honeysuckle Rd, Southampton SO16 3BZ

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- £6.20 PER SESSION

STARTS 7TH SEPTEMBER

BOOK HERE!

learningthroughsport.co.uk/bitterne/

MONDAY & FRIDAY

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

All bookings must be made in
advance



NON CONTACT KARATE TAUGHT BY fully QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS

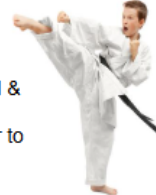


EVERYONE
WELCOME



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

OR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

EMAIL: info@southernkarate.org

Tel: 07764 478507



Building Relationships

FREE 6 week online course for couples

On Wednesdays, 7.30 - 9.00 pm
14th, 21st, 28th Oct; 18th, 25th Nov and 2nd Dec 2026

**Covering topics such as Improving Communication,
Managing Conflict and Feeling Closer to Each Other**

The sessions:

- are on Zoom - attend in your own home
- are friendly and relaxed - no need to speak in the group
- need to be attended by both of you together



PRIVACY: each online session uses Zoom "focus" mode - which means you can't see the other couples and they can't see you. Any discussions between you and your partner will take place in private breakout rooms. Couples are not required to talk in the group.

**Email us at info@sftrust.org.uk
to book a place**



Southampton
Family Trust
building relationships

Bitterne Church of England Primary School: Dates for the Diary 2026-2027



Trips and visitors to be confirmed. Dates will be updated or added as soon as possible. This table contains the main dates for the academic year.

DATE	YEAR GROUP	EVENT	Time
Monday 21 September 2026	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Tuesday 22 September 2026	Year 6	Secondary School Admissions Team Information Session for Parents	9am-10am
Thursday 24 September 2026	Year 6	Parent Meeting: PGL Marchants Hill Residential	4.30pm
Monday 28 September to Friday 1 October 2026	Year 5	Bikeability	Daily
Thursday 1 October 2026		Year R 2027 Entry Parent Tours	1.30pm-3pm
Monday 5 October 2026	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Monday 5 to Friday 9 October 2026	Year 6	Marchants Hill Residential	
Wednesday 7 October 2026	Year 2	Southampton City Mission - Question of Faith Day	All day
	All years	MHST Coffee Afternoon	2pm-3pm
Monday 12 October 2026	All years	Individual School Photos	AM
Thursday 15 October 2026	All years	Harvest Church Service	2pm-3pm
Monday 19 October 2026	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
26.10.26-30.10.26 Half Term			
Monday 2 November 2026	All years	Back to School	8.30am-3.15pm
	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Tuesday 3 November 2026		Year R 2027 Entry Parent Tours	9.30am- 11am
Wednesday 4 November 2026	Year 6	Southampton City Mission - Question of Faith Day	All day
Thursday 5 November 2026	All years	Flu vaccinations	More information to follow
Tuesday 10 November 2026	Year 3	Southampton City Mission - Question of Faith Day	All day
	All years	Parents Evening	3.45pm-6pm (more information to follow)
Thursday 12 November 2026	All years	Parents Evening	3.45pm-6pm (more information to follow)

Monday 16 November 2025	All years	INSET DAY	Children are not required in school
Thursday 26 November 2026		Year R 2027 Entry Parent Tours	5pm-6pm
Monday 30 November 2026	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Thursday 10 December 2026	KS2	Carols in the Playground	2.30pm
Monday 14 December 2026	Year R & KS1	Christmas Show Rehearsal at the Church	10am-11am
	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Tuesday 15 December 2026	Year R and KS1	Christmas Show	10-11am
	Year R and KS1	Christmas Show	1.30pm-2.30pm
Thursday 17 December 2026	All years	Christmas Lunch	12pm-1pm
	All years	Christmas Church Service	10am-11am
Friday 18 December 2026	All years	The Great Exhibition- more information to follow shortly	1.30pm-2.30pm
21.12.26-01.01.27 Christmas Break			
Monday 4 January 2027	All years	Back to School	8.30am-3.15pm
Monday 11 January 2027	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Monday 25 January 2027	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Monday 8 February 2027	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
15.02.27-19.02.27 Half term			
Monday 22 February 2027	All years	INSET DAY	8.30am-3.15pm
Tuesday 23 February 2027	All years	Back to School	8.30am-3.15pm
Wednesday 3 March 2027	All years	Sibling Photos	AM
Thursday 4 March 2027	All years	World Book Day	Information to follow
Monday 8 March 2027	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Tuesday 9 March 2027	Year 4	Southampton City Mission - Question of Faith Day	All day
Tuesday 16 March 2027	Year 5	Southampton City Mission - Question of Faith Day	All day
	All years	Parents Evening	3.45pm-6pm
Wednesday 17 March 2027	Year R	Southampton City Mission - Question of Faith Day	All day
Thursday 18 March 2027	All years	Parents Evening	3.45pm-6pm
Monday 22 March 2027	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Tuesday 23 March 2027	KS2	Show at the Church	Information to follow

Thursday 25 March 2027	All years	Easter Service	9.30am-10.30am
Friday 26 March 2027	All years	GOOD FRIDAY	Children not required in School
29.03.27-09.04.27 Easter Break			
Monday 19 April 2027	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Monday 3 May 2027	All years	BANK HOLIDAY	Children not required in school
Monday 10 May 2027- Thursday 13 May 2027	Year 6	SATS Week	Information to follow
Monday 17 May 2027	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Tuesday 18 May 2027	KS1	Sports Day	tbc
Thursday 20 May 2027	KS2	Sports Day	tbc
Monday 24 May – Wednesday 26 May 2027	Year 4	Stubbington Study Centre Residential	
31.05.27-04.06.27 Half Term			
Monday 7 June 2026	All years	Back to School	8.30am-3.15pm
Monday 14 June 2027	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Monday 7 June 2027 Friday 18 June 2027	Year 1 + 2 Resit	Phonics Screening	
	Year 4	MTC Check	
Friday 25 June 2027	All years	INSET DAY	8.30am-3.15pm
Monday 28 June 2027	All years	SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library	3.15pm-4pm
Tuesday 29 June 2027	All years	Transition morning	AM
Wednesday 30 June 2027	All years	Transition Day	All day
Friday 2 July 2027	Year 1	Southampton City Mission – Question of Faith Day	All day
Friday 9 July 2027	All years	School reports	
Monday 12 July 2027	Year 6	Paultons Park Trip	All day
Tuesday 13 July 2027	All years	Parents Open Evening	3.30pm-5.30pm
Thursday 15 July 2027	Year 6	Awards Evening	6pm-7pm
Monday 19 July 2027	Year 6	Leavers Service at Holy Saviour	1.30pm-3pm
Tuesday 20 July 2027	Year 6	Leavers Party	6pm-8pm
Wednesday 21 July 2027	All years	End of School Picnic	12-1pm
	All years	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM	