



# Bitterne CE Primary Newsletter

## October 2023

*Love*

*Trust*

*Forgiveness*

### October News:

The first half term has whizzed by in school and it is hard to believe that we are already at the half term break.

Year 1 enjoyed their trip to Hilliers Garden Centre where they engaged a range of geography and art activities. The staff and adults who went on the trip were very proud of the children and how they conducted themselves. The children arrived back with big smiles, after what was, their first school trip in their time at Bitterne CE Primary.

Year 4 enjoyed a wet and blustery day at Lee-On-The-Solent and Stubbington Study Centre. They conducted traffic surveys in line with their geography project and enjoyed a range of activities at Stubbington Study Centre in the afternoon.

Year 6 have children have been busy writing their applications for the pupil leadership roles for this year. We have introduced some new roles to the school and they have written super letters applying for: head / deputy boy and girl, house captains, prefects, digital leaders and librarians. The staff and Governors are busy reading the letters and voting for the pupils to fulfil the roles. We hope to announce these roles in the first week back after half term.

The School Council has also been formed with members of each class being elected to represent them on the school council. Thanks to Miss Allen for organising this. I am looking forward to hearing about their projects for the year very soon.

Following welcoming pupils who left our school last year back to celebrate their completion of the Civic Award, the year 6 children have been introduced to the award for this year which involves them engaging in new activities and service to the school and community.

It was lovely to welcome parents into school for our first Parents' Evenings of the year. Partnership work with home and school is vital to success for our children – thank you for taking the time to meet with the teachers. A survey has been sent home in a separate email asking for your opinion in relation to different areas of school life following these meetings.

Finally, thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate our Harvest Festivals. It was great to welcome Reverend Tony and Sadoc from the Holy Saviour Church to lead our service. Thank you so much for all your kind donations.

children back to school on Monday 30 November.

### Staff News

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Darren, our fantastic site manager, on 6 November. Darren has only been with the school for a short period of time but has had a great impact.

We wish Darren well in his next role – he will be greatly missed at Bitterne CE Primary.



### Attendance

Overall attendance for this half term was 95.4%. Next half term we would like to see this being over 97%. Please do refer to the NHS guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> for advice on whether your child should attend school. Please do contact the office if you are ever unsure. Often, we find children feel better as the day goes on, but we would, of course, contact you if we felt they were too unwell to continue with the day.

### Uniform and Jewellery

Many thanks to all parents / carers who have been supporting us to ensure the children are wearing correct uniform. The children are looking much smarter. Please do continue this on PE days. The children should still be wearing school colours on these days too. Thank you for your support.

### Improvements to our School

The school community are working hard to ensure our physical environment is a lovely place for the children to learn in. The children have been working hard to produce beautiful work for us to update our displays.

This half term, the KS2 hall is being updated with a new paint colour and new display boards. At the end of last year, the KS1 library was painted and during the summer holidays, the year 5 classrooms and toilets were renovated and updated.

We look forward to continuing to work on improving our environment.

### Behaviour Policy

Next half term, we will be launching a new Behaviour Policy with the children. This will show the children clearly and concisely the expectations of them with regards their behaviour; how their good behaviour will be celebrated and the consequences for poor behaviour. In line with this, new school rules will be launched:

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Work hard



These will be shared in Collective Worship – both whole school and phase grouped – so that they children become familiar with them. We will collectively explore their meaning.

A copy of the new Behaviour Policy will be sent home to parents in the first week of term prior to our launch with the children.

### Staff Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for:

- Teacher
- Site Manager
- Cleaner

Please see the school website for details.

# Diary Dates for November!



Monday 30 October	Autumn 2 begins – children return to school
Monday 31 October	Deadline for Secondary School applications for year 6
Wednesday 1 November	PTA Annual General Meeting @ 6pm – please see email from the PTA
Friday 3 November	Year R Phonics Workshop for parents @ 9am
Thursday 9 November	Year 5 Greek Workshop and Dress Up Day
Friday 17 November	Children in Need – non-uniform day – details to follow
Thursday 30 November	Flu Immunisations

## Christmas Dates!



Friday 8 December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day – details to follow
Monday 11 December	Year 3 Christmas Show @ 2pm
Tuesday 12 December	Year 1 Christmas Show @ 9pm Year 4 Christmas Show @ 2pm
Wednesday 13 December	Year 5 Christmas Show @ 9pm Year 6 Christmas Show @ 2pm
Thursday 14 December	Year R Christmas Show @ 9pm Year 2 Christmas Show @ 2pm
Friday 15 December	Last day of term