



Bitterne CE Primary Newsletter

September 2023

Love

Trust

Forgiveness

September News:

We are really pleased with how the children have settled back into school after the summer break. They are embracing the routines of school life and are working hard in their lessons. It is wonderful to walk around the school throughout the day and see the children so focused on their learning.

It has been a busy start to the year for year 6 children who have already enjoyed their week away at Marchants Hill. The children showed great bravery as they challenged themselves to take part in a range of outdoor, adventurous activities. A big thank you to Miss Strange, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Burton, Mrs Bowers, Mrs Stephenson and Mr Farminer who voluntarily accompanied the children on the trip. Back at school, the children who remained with us enjoyed a week of design challenges, putting their creative skills to good use to design new products.

Year R children have settled well into the school. They are becoming more familiar with routines of the school and it is wonderful to see lots of smiling faces when I visit the classrooms.

Year 3 have enjoyed their first trip of the year to Butser Ancient Farm to support their learning of the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. The staff at the site praised the children for their respectful behaviour throughout the day.

Year 1 had a visit from City Mission last week exploring the concept of 'thankfulness'. They ended their sessions by designing lanterns with things they are thankful for on.

Our Collective Worship throughout September have focused on our Christian values of Love, Trust and Forgiveness. We have explored what these values mean to us as individuals and as a school.

Safeguarding our Children

Safeguarding our children is paramount. If you have any concerns about a child, please do contact:

Mrs Johnson (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Miss Allen (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Mr May, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Horan (Assistant Designated Safeguarding Leads)



Baby News!



We have some exciting baby news to share this term.

Congratulations to Mrs Bennett (Sapphire Class) and her husband who are expecting a baby girl in January.

Congratulations also to Mrs Sullivan (Eden Class) and her husband who are expecting a baby boy in January also.

Wonderful news for both families and we wish them much love and happiness as their families grow.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mr May who has been appointed as Deputy Headteacher at a school in Fareham. Mr May has worked at Bitterne CE Primary for 12 years and will be greatly missed. He will be starting his new role in January 2024.

At the end of this week, we say goodbye to Mrs Mew. Mrs Mew has been working as a teaching assistant in year 1 this year. We wish her every success on her next venture.

Harvest

We hope to welcome you to share our harvest celebrations with your children on Friday 20 October. Reverend Tony will lead us in two services on this day: 9am for KS1 children and 2:15pm for KS2 children. Further details will be shared soon.



Attendance

Children must be attending school every day and it is important that we work together to ensure this happens. Please use this NHS 'Is my child too ill for school' link to help you decide if your child should attend school or not: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If your child is going to be absent from school, please ensure you ring the school office to inform us of this. This office will call if they do not hear from you to ensure everyone is safe and seek reason for absence. Please ensure your contact details are up to date,

Medical appointments should be avoided during the school day. However, if children do need to leave for an appointment, evidence will be required of this. Without this, children are expected to be in school everyday from 8:40am to 3:00pm.

We monitor all children's attendance and will speak to you if your child's attendance is falling below an acceptable rate.

Gate Times

The gates on Peartree and Oakley John will open for 8:30 every morning ready for the children to come into school. A member of the leadership team will be on each gate should you need to speak to us. Gates will close at 8:40 when the children should be in school. If your child arrives late, they will need to enter through the school office.

Gates will open just before 3pm in the evening. We cannot open them earlier due to PE lessons on the playground. Gates will close at 3:15 to allow for any outdoor clubs to start promptly. Thank you for your cooperation.

Year 6 Pupil Leadership Roles

I met with the year 6 children last week to share the Pupil Leadership Roles for this academic year. We will be appointing:

- A head boy and head girl
- A deputy head boy and deputy head girl
- Prefects
- House Captains
- Play leaders/ mediators
- Librarians
- Digital Leaders

The children are now busy writing letters of applications for the positions.

Diary Dates for October!



Tuesday 3 October	Year R and Year 6 Health Checks
Tuesday 3 October	Parents Evening 1 – 3:30-5:30pm
Thursday 5 October	Parents Evening 2 – 4:00-6:30pm
Friday 6 October	Individual Pupil Photographs.
Tuesday 10 October	Year 1 Trip to Hilliers Garden Centre
Friday 13 October	Year 4 Trip to Stubbington
Friday 20 October	Harvest Church Services at school – more details to follow
Friday 20 October	End of Autumn 1 half term
Monday 30 October	Autumn 2 begins – children return to school
Monday 31 October	Deadline for Secondary School applications for year 6