BITTERNE
C of E PRIMARY

HOPE
COURAGE
CREATIVITY

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: 5 **Date:** 2nd October 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

It has been another busy week at Bitterne, with lots of opportunities for our children to explore, question and learn.





Science has been great to see in action. Year 1 headed out on a sound walk, listening carefully to the different sounds around our school. Year 6 explored our school grounds to collect leaves and natural items before learning to classify them using dichotomous trees. It was particularly good to hear the scientific discussions and vocabulary as they decided which questions would best sort their collections.

Democracy has also been in action with our School Council elections! Thank you to Miss Scriven, Miss Grove and Mrs Perrin for giving the children the opportunity to visit the Bitterne polling station to cast their votes. The votes are being counted – watch this space for the results!

Year 5 have been busy with Bikeability, developing their skills and confidence to cycle safely on our roads. A big thank you to the Bikeability team for all their work this week.

Finally, we wish Year 6 a fantastic residential at Marchants Hill next week. Have a brilliant time, make lots of memories and enjoy every minute!
Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Johnson

Collective Worship Reflection



This week in Collective Worship we have been thinking about Wonder and problem solving
Wonder happens when something makes us stop, look closely and think, "How did that happen?" or "I wonder why?" Wonder encourages curiosity and can be the beginning of creativity and discovery. Christians believe that God created many wonderful things

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."
— Psalm 19:1

Imagine you need to move a football across a room without touching it with your hands. How could you do it? Problems give us opportunities to think creatively, try ideas and learn from mistakes. There are many examples of these in the Bible

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously."
— James 1:5

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



"How likely would you be to recommend Bitterne CE Primary School to a parent who was considering sending their child here?"
Please use the link below to give your opinion:
https://forms.gle/Cun7QLvzLDC7GWR6A
Thank you for completing the survey.

Some Lovely News!



We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Mrs Bennett (Emerald class teacher) and her husband are expecting their second baby!
We are absolutely thrilled for Mrs Bennett and her family as they prepare to welcome their new arrival.
We know that our whole school community will join us in congratulating Mrs Bennett and her husband and wishing them lots of happiness as their family grows.
Congratulations, Mrs Bennett!

Weekly Celebrations



- This week's House Cup awarded to Maytree House
- Congratulations to these children who have been awarded Star of the Week: Noah; Imogen; Cuthbert; Carter; Aubree; William; Lewis; Yusuf; Freya; Maryam April and James
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year 1 Tahiti and Talisman
- This week's best attendance goes to Orient Class with 98.2%

Well done everyone!

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

- **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


- PLAY -
BADMINTON
PICKLEBALL
& TABLE TENNIS
AT ITCHEN COLLEGE COMMUNITY
GET ACTIVE
HAVE FUN
BADMINTON
PICKLEBALL
TABLE TENNIS
booking@itchen.ac.uk
02380 448787
Itchen College Community
Whites Road
Bitterne
SO19 7NS
From £15 per 55mins
Mon. -Thurs. evenings
& Saturday mornings
BOOK YOUR SLOT TODAY
ITCHEN
SIXTH FORM
COLLEGE


THE
GREGG
Discover The Gregg Difference
From Reception to GCSE, our pupils learn with confidence in small class sizes. They are truly understood by their teachers, academically challenged and supported as individuals.
Pair this with the wide range of enrichment clubs, activities and trips together with our beautiful 23-acre campus, and you have the ideal environment for children to learn and play.
We know the difference it makes to every one of our pupils.
We invite you to come and see for yourself.
Open Evening
Thursday 8th October
4.30pm-7pm
Open Morning
Tuesday 24th November
9.30am-11.30am
Book now!
thegreggschool.org


Next Week at Re:Minds
Re: Minds
5th - 9th October
Book ahead
5pm · Monday 5th October
CAMHS Evening Advice Clinic
A private 10-minute virtual appointment with a CAMHS clinician about any issue covered by the service. Open to all Re:Minds members seeking general advice.
Book your slot: info@reminds.org.uk
Book ahead
5pm · Monday 5th October
Eating Disorders Advice Clinic
A private 15-minute virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about concerns you may have about your child's eating or relationship with food.
Book your slot: info@reminds.org.uk
Drop in
10am-12pm · Monday 5th October
Sholing Support Group
A safe, welcoming space to connect with other parents and carers who share similar experiences. Held at Salvation Army, 93 North East Road, Sholing, SO19 8AF
No booking needed - just drop in
Drop in
6pm · Wednesday 7th October
Virtual Support Group
For parents and carers of children who are neurodivergent and/or have mental health needs. Meet others who understand, from the comfort of home.
Zoom link shared in our Facebook group
Please check our Facebook events page for any changes, or visit our website to find out more information about our advice clinics and support groups.
reminds.org.uk
/groups/reminds
info@reminds.org.uk
With thanks to
NHS
Hampshire and Isle of Wight
CAMHS
Shenions

DISCOVER THE MUSIC

SINGING & INSTRUMENT LESSONS

September 2026 – July 2027 - Sign Up Now

Dear Parents & Pupils,

We are delighted to share information about our programme of **musical instrument and singing** lessons that will be taking place from September 2026. We are looking forward to welcoming new pupils and have provided all the information below.

Who is Eligible?

Children in years 1-6 can sign up for lessons.

What Can I Learn, and Can I Loan a Musical Instrument?

Orchestral Instruments - Flute | Oboe | Clarinet | Alto Saxophone | Trumpet | Euphonium | Baritone | Trombone | French Horn | Tuba | Violin | Viola | Cello
Rhythm Instruments - Piano, Drums, Guitar, Ukulele, Voice
Instruments are available to hire for an annual cost of £25. We are not able to loan pianos/keyboards or drum kits.

What Instrument(s) Should I Choose?

The social and wellbeing benefits of learning a musical instrument are profound for all children.

While learning rhythmic instruments such as the piano, guitar, or drums can be highly rewarding, there are often fewer opportunities for pupils to perform regularly, as music groups such as orchestras with places for these instruments can be few & limited. We do not loan pianos or drum kits and so recommend having an instrument to practise with at home eventually.

Learning an orchestral instrument opens up an additional range of exciting opportunities. Pupils can join our weekly youth orchestras across Southampton, where they can make new friends, develop teamwork skills, and experience the joy of making music together. They will also have the opportunity to learn and perform repertoire that complements their individual ability and supports their progression in lessons.

If you sign up to play an orchestral instrument, we will offer **free membership** into one of our training ensembles on Saturdays from 9-10am at Holy Family Primary School from January 2027 or after, depending on when your teacher recommends you are ready, for the rest of this academic year.

Can I Hear Some of the Instruments First?

Members of our senior Youth Pops Orchestra have recorded some instrument demonstrations right here - https://discoverthemusichq.com/learn

When Will Lessons Start and When Are They?

There are 32 lessons across the academic year which are highlighted in a calendar which is accessible online and updated in real time should there be any changes across the year. Lessons will commence from **Monday 7th September 2026.** Lessons take place during the school day.

What is the Annual Cost and Payment Method for Lessons?

There will be 32 lessons across the year (unless you start later than September) and the total annual cost is as follows:

Group Lessons (up to 3 pupils): Total yearly cost - **£273.00**
Individual Lessons: Total yearly cost - **£390.00**

The total annual cost of your lessons (and any optional extras which are laid out below) is **calculated into 11 equal monthly payments** from September 2026 - July 2027 which is paid via **Direct Debit** on the 1st of each month. You will need to set up an account with our Direct Debit provider GoCardless and a link with instructions to set up your account can be found below.

There is a one off start up fee of £10.00 which covers the administrative cost of setting you up on our system. You do not need to pay this again to continue in subsequent years. We will only charge this once including if your child chooses to have lessons in more than one instrument.

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Optional Extras - Costs *(details below):*

When you sign up for lessons for September 2026, you can opt in for these extras at your discretion. Here is a table of annual costs for all additional offerings. Optional extras are calculated into your total annual payment and monthly direct debit plan.

Optional Extras	Annual Cost	Notes
Practise Journal	£3.00	
Tuition Book	£15.00	Covers the cost of your first tutorial book.
Instrument Loan	£25.00	This is a non-refundable annual donation towards the usage, minor wear and tear of the instrument should it need serviced by our team. You do not have to loan an instrument from us. Please note that families are subject to the cost to replace or repair the instrument should it become lost or damaged in your care. We do not loan piano or drums.
Music Theory Classes *(subject to interest)*	£192.00 (£6.00 per session)	**Monday** - 4.30-5.30pm - Bitterne Park Primary School, SO18 1NX **Tuesday** - 4.30-5.30pm - Holy Family Primary School, SO16 9LP
Joining our Music Ensembles		
Fiddlesticks	£75.00	**Details of our rehearsal days and times, along with which would be best suited to you are included below.** Beginner pupils on orchestral instruments are invited to join Fiddlesticks (strings) and Young Players Orchestra (wind, brass & percussion) for free for the rest of the academic year once ready to do so.
Hear Our Voice Children's Choir	£0.00 Free	
Youth Jazz Orchestra	£75.00	
No Fret Guitar Ensemble	£75.00	
Young Players Training Orchestra	£75.00	
Youth Pops Orchestra	£105.00	

Music Ensembles: Information

Fiddlesticks Junior String Orchestra - £75 (£2.35 per session x 32 sessions).
Fiddlesticks are an energetic bunch, full of personality and fun. Rehearsing every Saturday for 1 hour, the group is perfect for musicians learning to play the violin, viola, cello and double bass who are working their way up from an earlier level of learning.
Saturday - 9.15-10.15am - Holy Family Primary School - SO16 9LP

Hear Our Voice Vocal Group - £0 - Free for the 2026-2027 year.
Hear Our Voice are our fantastic youth choir. Rehearsing for 2 hours every week, HOV performs in 3 and 4 part harmony a huge range of songs from an eclectic collection of musical styles. The group is great fun and creates a strong sound. We are always looking for more young people who love to sing to join us each week. Hear Our Voice have performed twice on the National UK Tour for BGT winners COLLABRO.
Saturday - 10.00am-12.00pm - Ages 9-17 - Holy Family Primary School - SO16 9LP

Youth Jazz Orchestra - £75 (£2.35 per session x 32 sessions).
Our Youth Jazz Orchestra is a really fun way to start the weekend. We currently have 14 musicians who come together each week to learn a wide variety of music from Jazz Standards, Big Band, Latin, and more. We are always looking for new musicians to join us from approximately Grade 2 all the way through to Grade 8. If you play the trumpet, trombone, saxophone (all kinds), electric guitar, bass, piano or drums we'd love you to come and try us out!
Saturday - 9.00-10.00am - Holy Family Primary School - SO16 9LP

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No Fret Guitar Ensemble - £75 (£2.35 per session x 32 sessions).
There is nothing more chilled than the sound a group of enthusiastic guitarists can make when making music together. No Fret! bring together an aspiring group of young learners who play the guitar (acoustic and electric), ukulele and bass guitar and they are a great fun group to be part of. The group learn specially created arrangements of pieces of music from a wide range of musical artists from Billie Eilish, Coldplay to classical composer, Grieg.
Wednesday - 4.30-5.30pm - Bitterne Park Primary School - SO18 1NX
Thursday - 4.30-5.30pm - Holy Family Primary School - SO16 9LP

Young Players Training Orchestra - £75 (£2.35 per session x 32 sessions).
Our Training Orchestra meets every Saturday with a focus on developing ensemble skills from a very early level of playing ability. There are parts available for musicians working at beginner level right up to grade 1-2 level for all instruments in the main 4 orchestral families - strings, woodwind, brass and percussion. When ready, pupils will move into our Youth Pops Orchestra which also rehearses on Saturdays.
Saturday - 9.00-10.00am - Holy Family Primary School - SO16 9LP

Symphonic Youth Pops Orchestra - £105 (£3.30 per session x 32 sessions).
Our Youth Pops Orchestra is a force of over 50 musicians from a range of abilities from grade 2 up to Grade 8. We take pride that our orchestra enables musicians who haven't been learning for so long to sit alongside more experienced peers to train and be inspired and get the buzz from playing in a really special group. We learn and perform movie, pops, theatre scores as well as light classics covering a huge variety of genres and playing styles designed to challenge each musician.
Saturday - 10.15am-12.15pm - Holy Family Primary School - SO16 9LP

Start Up Fee & Parental Agreement:

A detailed agreement outlining the terms of these lessons will be sent to you to sign before lessons can begin. You should take time to read it carefully before signing. This will reassure you of our commitment to ensure children receive all of their lessons, our safeguarding commitment and our terms for payment and lesson termination. The agreement supports us in protecting the livelihoods of our hard-working teaching team as well as peace of mind for families looking for a reliable service.

Our agreements are rolling, meaning you do not need to sign a new one each academic year, it remains valid until you decide to withdraw from lessons whether that be after 1 year, or until your child reaches their final year group and leaves the school. Please read the agreement carefully to understand all of the terms and deadlines before signing.

The start up fee of £10.00 is payable upon sign up and is non-refundable should you change your mind.

Apply for Lessons - by July 14th 2026

Registering for Lessons

Here is the timeline:

Step 1 - First, please sign up using this form - www.discoverthemusichq.com/lessons-d **by July 17th 2026.**
Step 2 - Once you have signed up, click here to **set up your direct debit** account with us (if you do not already have one) - This must be done as soon as possible as this is how we will collect your one off start up fee shortly after.
Step 3 - Once the start up fee has been paid, we will send you our parent agreement to sign.
Step 4 - We will confirm your lesson day, time and teacher in good time before your first lesson. Lessons can only begin once the parent agreement has been signed.
Step 5 - Your first monthly payment will be collected on September 1st 2026.
Step 6 - Lessons will begin from Monday 7th September 2026.

Who should I contact with any queries?

When signing up using the link, there is a space to enter any queries you might have, and we will respond to these in order of submission. Here is the form link - www.discoverthemusichq.com/lessons-d