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: 6 **Date:** 9th October 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

It's been another wonderful week at Bitterne, with lots of exciting experiences and opportunities for our children!

On Wednesday, Year 2 welcomed visitors from Southampton City Mission, who led a fantastic day of learning about *People Jesus Met*. The feedback from City Mission was lovely, with particular praise for the children's enthusiasm, engagement and thoughtful contributions throughout the day. Well done, Year 2!

Our Year 6 children have been enjoying their residential adventure at Marchants Hill, challenging themselves and showing courage and determination through a range of outdoor activities. Mrs Bailey shared some wonderful feedback from one of the instructors, who described our children as one of the best groups they had ever led! What a fantastic compliment and a real credit to the children. A special well done also goes to Miss Stephenson, who bravely took on the zip wire!
A huge thank you to Mrs Bailey, Miss Stephenson, Miss Carey, Mrs Muehlnickel and Tony Palmer for accompanying the children and making this memorable experience possible.

Meanwhile, our Year 6 children who remained at school have had a brilliant week of their own! They've been busy tackling Taskmaster challenges, designing websites and developing their cooking skills. Some particularly delicious rock cakes were made (and thoroughly enjoyed!) on Wednesday.

We also enjoyed a lovely Year R Welcome Event on Wednesday evening, organised by our wonderful PTA. It was fantastic to see our newest families coming together to enjoy some wonderful entertainment, meet one another and spend time in school with their children. Events like these are such a lovely way to build our school community, and we're very grateful to the PTA for the time and effort they put into organising and running the evening.

Another great week of learning, friendship and new experiences at Bitterne!
Have a lovely weekend, everyone!

Collective Worship Reflection



This week in our collective worship, we have been thinking about resilience — the importance of keeping going, even when something feels difficult.

We imagined what it would be like to climb a mountain. Reaching the top can seem impossible when you are standing at the bottom, but by taking one step at a time and not giving up, you can eventually reach your goal. We also thought about a tiny seed pushing its way through the soil. It takes time, patience and determination for that
small seed to grow into something strong.

Our Bible focus was: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." — Hebrews 12:1

We also thought about Noah, who spent a very long time building the ark. Imagine how difficult it must have been to keep working when people around him questioned what he was doing. Noah showed incredible perseverance by continuing with the task he had been given.



It was also World Mental Health Day this week, we have also been reminded that perseverance does not mean we have to struggle alone. Looking after our mental health means recognising when things feel difficult, talking to someone we trust and supporting others when they need encouragement. Sometimes, being determined simply means taking the next small step.

Year 1 and Year 2 Phase Leader Report

What a brilliant start to the term it has been in KS1! Year 1 and Year 2 have thrown themselves into their learning, and it has been wonderful to see so much curiosity, enthusiasm and hands-on learning across the phase.

Year 1 have been out and about exploring our local area as part of their Geography learning. Linking to our concept of identity, they have been identifying human and physical features and thinking about what makes our local area special. The children particularly enjoyed putting their geographical skills into practice by using maps and compass directions to help navigate their way around the local area. Thank you again to all the parents who were able to support this trip and enable us to go.

Things have also been getting a little smelly in Year 1! In Science, the children have been learning all about the human body and the five senses. This week, they put their sense of smell to the test with some mystery sniffy cups – some smells were definitely more pleasant than others!

Year 2 have been getting creative and hands-on with their RE learning. They had the pleasure of welcoming Southampton City Mission, who helped them explore the concept of friendship within the Christian faith through a range of engaging activities and discussions.

There has also been lots of excitement in Year 2 Maths, where the classrooms have been transformed into shops! The children have been exploring money and addition, enjoying the chance to have their own 'money' to spend. They have been thinking carefully about which coins they could add together to make the correct total – a fantastic way to put their maths skills into a real-life context.

We are so proud of the fantastic start both year groups have made and cannot wait to see what the rest of the term brings. Keep up the brilliant work, Year 1 and Year 2.

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

Thank you to the parents who are taking part in our Question of the Week. Your voice really does matter to us. Please do take the time to respond to the questions each week.

We want every child at Bitterne to feel happy, included, valued and that they truly belong.
When we talk about a *sense of belonging*, we mean feeling accepted for who they are, having positive relationships with other children and adults, feeling included in school life and knowing that they are an important part of our school community.

Thinking about what your child shares with you and how they feel about school, we'd love to know:

To what extent do you feel your child has a strong sense of belonging at our school?

Your feedback helps us celebrate what we're doing well and identify where we can make school even better for our children.

Google form link: https://forms.gle/Lqtpk4hCViB4Gyk26

School Photos Monday 12 October

A reminder that is it school photographs on Monday 12 October. Please ensure your child wears full school uniform and not PE kit (even if they have PE). A photo proof will be sent home in due course and you will be able to order copies online.



Harvest Festival At Holy Saviour Church: 15.10.26 at 2pm

Our Harvest Festival will take place at Holy Saviour Church on Thursday, 15 October 2026 at 2:00pm. Parents are very welcome to attend. If you are able to walk to the church with us, please complete the Google Form: https://forms.gle/xpQWNEvtL1xU2scj7 Please do note, we may need to allocate parents where we need walkers, so you may not be able to walk with your child although we do endeavor to facilitate this where we can. We would also be very grateful for any food donations, e.g. tins, jars or packets rather than fresh food. Please bring your donations to Reception.

Thank you very much for your support!



Flu Vaccinations – Thursday 5 November 2026

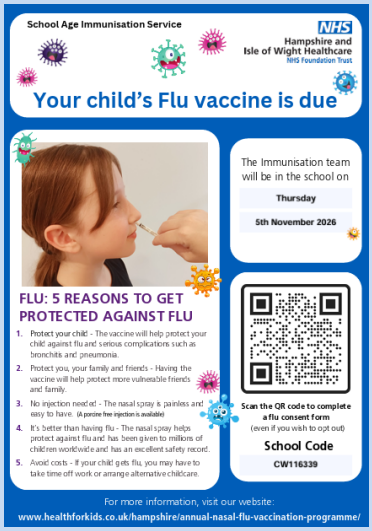
Flu Vaccinations will take place for all eligible children on Thursday 5th November. It is important to let the School Nursing team know whether you do or do not want your child to have the vaccination. It will take less than 5 minutes to respond using the link below. Without your consent your child will not be given the vaccination.

Flu Vaccination Form:
https://www.hiowhealthcareimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu?schoolcode=CW116339

Please respond by Tuesday 3rd November. Please enter the Year group that your child is currently in.

If you cannot use the online form, you can respond over the phone using the contact details below. Speak to a member of our team by calling 0300 123 5074 or email hiowh.sotonimms@nhs.net

About the children's flu vaccine:
https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/
The vaccine protects against flu, which can cause serious health problems such as bronchitis and find a range of information resources about the vaccine on GOV.UK, including in other languages. Most children are given the vaccine as a nasal spray. This is a quick and painless spray up the nose and offers the best protection against flu. The nasal spray contains a small amount of gelatine derived from pigs (porcine gelatine). If your child does not use gelatine products, or cannot have the nasal spray for medical reasons, you can choose an alternative injected vaccine that has no gelatine or any other animal product. You can request this in the consent form. This vaccine will be given at the session in school. Please contact either the school immunisation team or your school if you want to be present for this.



Find out more about the use of gelatine in the flu vaccine (including the views of faith communities) by clicking here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccines-and-porcine-gelatine

Contact the School Nursing Team: Speak to a member of our team by calling 0300 123 5074 or email hiowh.sotonimms@nhs.net

Weekly Celebrations



- This week's House Cup awarded to Pound House
- Congratulations to these children who have been awarded Star of the Week: Frankie; Margo; Freya; Michail; Alfie; Eli; Hayat; Jacob; Gael; Rei-Christine, Laura, Isaac
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year 5 Olden and Harlequin
- This week's best attendance goes to Carmine with 96.5%

Well done everyone!

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

- **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

SCC Neurodiversity Team

Are you a parent looking for advice, signposting, or ideas to help your child thrive?

Come and meet the SCC Neurodiversity Team!

This October you can find us and Southampton Parent Carer Forum...

SEND Get Togethers		
Date	**Time**	**Location**
Wednesday 7th October	10-12	Lordhill Community Centre SO16 8LX

Parent Workshops			
Date	**Time**	**Topic**	**Location**
13/10/26	10-12	EBSA	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL
26/11/26	10-12	Anxiety	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL

If you would like to reach out to our team, please contact us on:
SCCNeurodiversityTeam@southampton.gov.uk

Whats On Locally ...



Keep an eye on our website for family events taking place during the October half term. Places are limited, so all activities must be booked through our website.







SPCF on tour

This year, we've challenged ourselves to visit at least 75% of schools across the city, helping us hear from even more families.

We need your help! Could you share our details with your school or encourage them to invite us along to an event, such as a parents' evening, coffee morning, Christmas event or summer fair?

Whats On ... FREE ENTRY

Date	Event Info	Time	Location
Wednesday 7th 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
Wednesday 7th October	Consultation event - School Travel and Social Care staff will be attending to share the new school travel policies, direct payment policy and short break statement	9.30-10.30	Springwell School, Hinkler Rd, Thornhill, Southampton SO19 6DH
Wednesday 7th October	Facebook Live - School travel service about the new policies	7pm	On our facebook page
Tuesday 13th October	Workshop - EBSA delivered by ND team	10-12	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL
Wednesday 14th October	Consultation event - School Travel and Social Care staff will be attending to share the new school travel policies, direct payment policy and short break statement	10-12	High Point, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, SO19 8BR
Tuesday 20th October	SEND get together - Sharing experiences and Wellbeing focus	10-12	Honeysuckle Family Hub, Honeysuckle Rd, Southampton SO16 3BZ
Friday 6th November	10 years celebration - See poster on next page	10-12	High Point, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, SO19 8BR
Monday 16th November	SEND get together - Sharing experiences and Wellbeing focus	10-12	Clovelly Family Hub,Southampton SO14 0AU
Thursday 26th November	Workshop - Anxiety delivered by ND team	10-12	Harbour Lights, Southampton SO14 3TL

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

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.io
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

There are still spaces at Showstoppers Drama – please sign your child up online