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: 7 **Date:** 16th October 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team



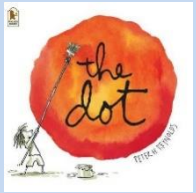
It was lovely to come together yesterday to celebrate Harvest. Although we had to change our plans and hold the service in school rather than at church, it was still a really special occasion. Thank you to Reverend Tony and Ruth for leading our worship and to the children who shared readings from the Bible, helping us all to think about the things we are thankful for.

The singing was a real highlight, and our Chamber Choir gave a fantastic performance. It was wonderful to hear the children singing together so enthusiastically!



Thank you also for your generous donations towards our Harvest collection. We really appreciate your kindness and support. If you would still like to contribute, there is time to do so, as we will be collecting donations until Tuesday.

Looking Ahead – Dot Day!



Next Friday, we will be holding our whole-school Dot Day to bring together everything the children have been learning this half term about our curriculum concept of *Identity*.

Throughout the day, the children will explore the story *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds, reflect on what they have learnt about themselves and others, and take part in a range of art activities to celebrate what makes each of us unique. We are looking forward to seeing what they create and will share photographs of their displays with you after the event.
Our PTA will also be holding a Mad Hair and Non-Uniform Day on Friday to raise funds for the school. Children are invited to come in their own clothes and with their most creative hairstyles to celebrate their individuality. We can't wait to see what they come up with!

It should be a lovely way to finish the half term, celebrating everything that makes our children who they are.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Late arrivals in school

In accordance with the school's attendance policy, parents and carers are kindly requested to accompany any child arriving late to school to the school office. This ensures that the reason for their lateness can be recorded appropriately. If you are unable to accompany your child to the office, please contact the school on 02380 499494 to provide a reason for their late arrival. Many thanks for your help with this.

Collective Worship Reflection



This week we have been looking at Black History Month which gave us the opportunity to learn about the achievements, contributions and inspiring stories of Black people throughout history. It encouraged us to celebrate diversity, recognise the importance of equality and respect, and appreciate the many cultures that make our community special.

We also came together to celebrate Harvest Festival at the church, giving thanks for the food we enjoy and the blessings we receive. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the importance of sharing, kindness and helping those in need. Through our donations and celebrations, we were reminded that even small acts of generosity can make a big difference.

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth.
Acts 17v26

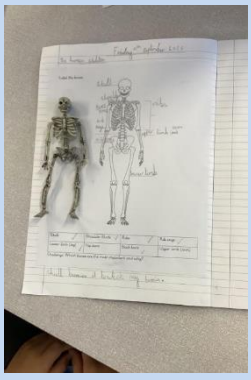
Year 3 and Year 4 Phase Leader Report

What a fantastic half term of learning it has been across Years 3 and 4! The children have thrown themselves into their topics with curiosity, creativity, and incredible enthusiasm. Here is a look at what we have been up to in class:

In Year 3, the children have taken a step back in time to explore the Stone Age.The children have been planning their own cave art compositions, stepping into the shoes of early human artists. Working with natural materials like charcoal—just as Stone Age cave painters would have used—they are working towards creating striking artwork that represents key stories and elements from their history learning. Outside of history, our young scientists have been exploring the human body. They have been busy identifying major bones in the human skeleton and discovering how our muscles and joints work together to keep us moving.



Year 4 pupils have been producing work of exceptional quality across their English and art lessons. They have been exploring the book *The Wisp: A Story of Hope* by Zana Fraillon. Inspired by its moving themes, the children have produced beautiful pieces of writing packed with ambitious vocabulary and creative expression. In art, the children have been honing their collage techniques, experimenting with textures, shapes, and layers. They are currently putting the finishing touches on their final pieces, which express their unique personal identities—tying directly into our whole-school concept of identity for this half term.



We have been blown away with the children's creativity and hard work this half term and look forward to seeing the final outcomes of all their hard work next week.

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

'What does your child enjoy most about coming to Bitterne CE Primary School?'

We would love to hear what makes school special for your child. Whether it's their learning, friendships, teachers or something else, please share your thoughts with us.

https://forms.gle/irHMwNexwduU3nWBA

Flu Vaccinations – Thursday 5 November 2026

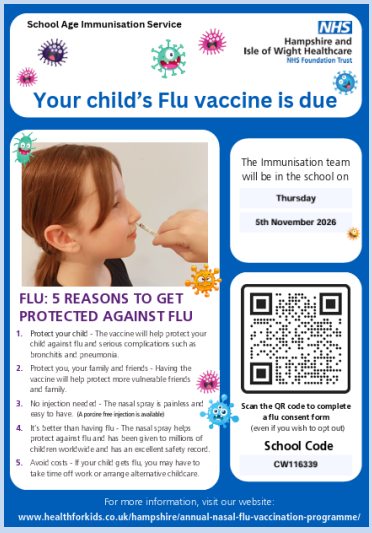
Flu Vaccinations will take place for all eligible children on Thursday 5th November. It is important to let the School Nursing team know whether you do or do not want your child to have the vaccination. It will take less than 5 minutes to respond using the link below. Without your consent your child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

Christmas Card Competition: Darren Paffey MP for Southampton Itchen

Darren Paffey, MP for Southampton Itchen is really pleased to be able to invite pupils to take part in his annual MP Christmas Card competition against this year. It's open to all primary school-aged children across the Southampton Itchen constituency and is great fun. Last year's winners were featured on regional BBC television news and in the Echo. All in all, it's a great opportunity for youngsters to show their creativity and talents.

Information on entering:

- Children can create their design on A4 paper (no glitter or stuck-on decorations please) on the theme of 'What does Christmas in Southampton mean to you'
- All entries can be submitted by post or email to Darren Paffey MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or darren.paffey.mp@parliament.uk by Friday 6 November.

Three winning designs will feature on Darren's official Christmas cards that will be sent far and wide to many people across Southampton and beyond, including community leaders, the Prime Minister and the King and Queen.

Further information is available on Darren's website at https://darrenpaffey.org.uk/2026/10/09/its-that-time-again-my-christmas-card-competition-is-open/

Weekly Celebrations



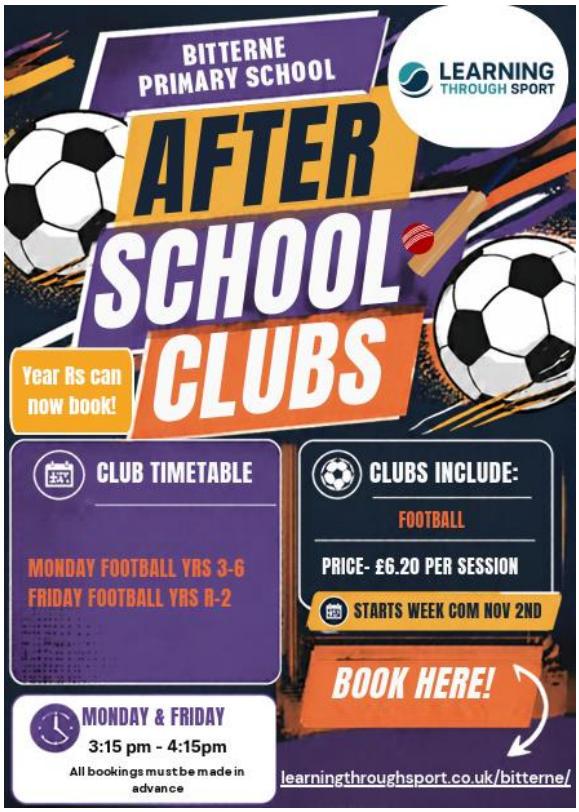
- This week's House Cup awarded to Brook House
- Congratulations to these children who have been awarded Star of the Week: Alexander F, Isla P, Zak, Noraya, Effy, Frankie, Maci, Bailey, Lydia, Toni
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year 3 Emerald and Navy Class
- This week's best attendance goes to Laurel with 97.1%

Well done everyone!

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

- **Monday 19 October:** SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library 3.15pm-4pm
- **Friday 23 October:** Last day of term


What's on
September - December 2026
SEACITY MUSEUM
SOUTHAMPTON CITY ART GALLERY
TUDOR HOUSE & GARDEN
OCTOBER HALF TERM
Wizard School (6yrs+)
Mon 26 & Tues 27 Oct | 10.30am, 12pm and 1.30pm | Tudor House | £8
Art for All: Bats on Bags Printing Workshop! (4 yrs+)
Mon 26 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8
Art for All: Autumn Watercolour Vignettes (7 yrs+)
Tue 27 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8
Art for All: Spooky Portraits! (5 yrs+)
Wed 28 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8
Hands on History: Frightening Folklore (6yrs+)
Thu 29 Oct | 10.30am, 12pm | Tudor House | £8
Art for All: Clay Pumpkins (4yrs+)
Thu 29 Oct & Fri 30 Oct | 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8
CULTURE CLUB for kids
Mon 26, Tue 27, Wed 28 Oct
9am - 4pm | SeaCity | £35, £90 for all three days
Get creative, explore our collections and learn new stuff while making really cool things at our themed activity days! Our theme for October Half Term is Spooky Autumn!
See our "What's on" brochure or venue websites for details on workshops and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com


BITTERNE PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEARNING THROUGH SPORT
AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
Year Rs can now book!
CLUB TIMETABLE
MONDAY FOOTBALL YRS 3-6
FRIDAY FOOTBALL YRS R-2
CLUBS INCLUDE:
FOOTBALL
PRICE- £6.20 PER SESSION
STARTS WEEK COM NOV 2ND
BOOK HERE!
MONDAY & FRIDAY
3:15 pm - 4:15pm
All bookings must be made in advance
learningthroughsport.co.uk/bitterne/


Valentine Primary School
PTFA
FIREWORKS EVENT
ptfa@valentineprimary.co.uk
Fireworks by FLASHPOINT
Sunday 1st November
Valentine Primary School
VALENTINE AVENUE • SO19 0EQ
Gates open 5:00pm
Gates close 7:15pm
6:00pm – Low Noise Firework Display
6:45pm – Loud Noise Firework Display
FOOD & DRINK
WR Engine 44 Fire Truck Bar
Alesha's Bakes & sweet treats
Candy floss
Popcorn
Crepes
Churros
Hot food available to purchase
PLUS...
Fidget toy stalls
Slime Bar
Handmade crafts
Pocket money stalls
And much more!
The PTFA will also have a fantastic selection of light-up novelties available to buy
TICKET PRICES
Adult ticket (17+) £7
Child ticket (3 - 16 Years) £5
Under 3s Free
Family ticket (2 adults + 3 children) £25
ON THE GATE
Adults £9 | Children £7
No family tickets will be available.
No sparklers, alcohol or pets allowed.
No alcohol to be brought in from outside.
No smoking/vaping on school grounds.
Book tickets using the link provided
https://www.pta-events.com/valentineptfa/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=122377


BOOK NOW
HSB CHILDREN + YOUTH
LIGHT
party with
Silent Disco
FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES
£5 A FAMILY*
*SUGGESTED DONATION
COME DRESSED AS LIGHT & BRIGHT AS YOU CAN
SAT 31 OCT
4:00 - 5.30PM
HOLY SAVIOUR CHURCH
WWW.HOLYSAVIOUR.CHURCH/EVENTS



Re:Minds

This Week at Re:Minds

12th–16th October

Book ahead

10am · Monday 12th October

CAMHS ADHD Advice Clinic

A private 10-minute virtual appointment to speak with a clinician about support for your child's mental health including where ADHD may be contributing to their needs.

Book your slot: info@reminds.org.uk

Drop in

10am–12pm · Monday 12th October

Northam Support Group

A safe, welcoming space to connect with other parents and carers who share similar experiences. Held at Northam Community Centre, Kent Street, Northam, Southampton

No booking needed – just drop in

Book ahead

From 12.30pm · Tuesday 13th October

SEND Legal Advice Clinic

A private 30-minute virtual appointment to discuss advice on EHCPs, school issues, appeals and tribunals, provision and placement concerns, and your legal rights.

Book your slot: info@reminds.org.uk

Book ahead

10am · Wednesday 14th October

CAMHS 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

Drop in **Millbrook Support Group** 10am–12pm · Friday 16th October

A safe, welcoming space to connect with other parents and carers who share similar experiences. Held at All Saints Church, Sedbergh Road, Redbridge

No booking needed – just drop in

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 · Shentons

Next Week at Re:Minds

Re:Minds

19th–23rd October

Drop in

10.30am · Tuesday 20th October

CAMHS Autism Advice Clinic

Short, private advice appointments for parents and carers who are concerned about their child's mental health including where autism may be contributing to their needs.

Book a 10 minute virtual session with an experienced CAMHS clinician to talk through concerns about your child's behaviour, attention or day-to-day challenges at home or school. You'll come away with practical advice and guidance to help you better understand and support your child.

Book your slot: info@reminds.org.uk

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 · Shentons