BITTERNE
C of E PRIMARY

HOPE
COURAGE
CREATIVITY

Weekly Newsletter

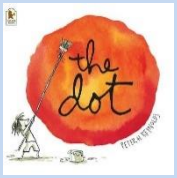
*At Bitterne Church of England Primary School, we are a welcoming and inclusive community where every child is valued as a unique individual, created and loved by God. Guided by our Christian values of **Hope**, **Courage** and **Creativity**, we work together so that all our pupils flourish - confident 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: 8 **Date:** 23rd October 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team



What a busy and exciting half term it has been at Bitterne CE! Today, we have brought the half term to a wonderful close with our whole-school Dot Day, celebrating *Identity* – the concept that has been at the heart of our learning across the school over the past seven weeks.



Our day began with Mrs Sullivan leading a special collective worship, sharing the inspiring story of *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. The story follows a young girl called Vashti who believes she cannot draw, but with a little encouragement discovers that even the smallest mark can become something wonderful. It reminds us of the importance of believing in ourselves, having the courage to try and recognising that everyone has something unique to offer – a lovely reflection of our school values of Hope, Courage and Creativity.

Throughout the day, children have explored what makes them unique, reflecting on their families, interests, strengths, ambitions and the positive impact they can have on others. Every child has created their own Identity Dot, which will form part of our whole-school Constellation of Identity. Each dot is different, but together they create something truly special – a wonderful reminder that every child matters, every child belongs and Together we soar…



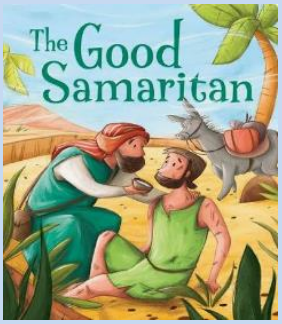
It has also been fantastic to see the children embracing our PTA fundraising event, coming to school in non-uniform and sporting some wonderfully wild and creative hairstyles for Mad Hair Day! A huge thank you to our brilliant PTA volunteers who braved the rain this morning to collect donations, and to all our families for supporting the event. Your generosity and enthusiasm are very much appreciated.

Next half term, our whole-school concept will be Change, as we explore the question: *'How does change shape our world?'* We look forward to seeing the children develop their knowledge, curiosity and understanding as they explore this question through their learning.

Finally, I would like to say a huge well done to all our children for their hard work, enthusiasm and achievements this half term. I would also like to thank our wonderful staff team, who work so hard every day to support, inspire and nurture our children, making Bitterne CE such a special place to learn and grow.

Wishing all our families a fantastic, restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half term!

Collective Worship Reflection: Collaboration and Teamwork



This week, we have been exploring the importance of collaboration and teamwork through the traditional story of Stone Soup and the Bible story of The Good Samaritan.

In Stone Soup, a traveller arrives in a village where everyone is reluctant to share what they have. By suggesting that they make soup together, the traveller encourages each person to contribute a small ingredient. As everyone adds something, the simple stone soup becomes a delicious meal that the whole village can enjoy. But what made the soup special? Was it the stone? Not really! It was the fact that everyone contributed something.

We have also reflected on the story of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37), which teaches us the importance of kindness, compassion and helping others. The Samaritan showed that we can make a real difference when we notice someone in need and choose to take action. The Bible reminds us: "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour." — Ecclesiastes 4:9

Year 5 and Year 6 Phase Leader Report

What a fantastic first half term it has been for our Year 5 and 6 children! We have enjoyed a wonderful start to the year, filled with exciting opportunities, new challenges and plenty of moments to celebrate.

Our Year 6 children had an unforgettable residential trip to **Marchant's Hill**, where they took part in a wide range of adventurous outdoor activities. From soaring through the air on the zip wire and tackling rock climbing and abseiling, to building buggies, trying their hand at archery and rifle shooting, there was something to challenge everyone! The children also developed their survival skills by learning how to build a shelter and make a fire. Throughout the residential, they showed tremendous courage, determination and resilience, pushing themselves outside their comfort zones and facing their fears head-on. It was wonderful to see them encouraging one another, supporting their friends and celebrating each other's achievements.

Meanwhile, our Year 5 children took part in their **Bikeability training**, developing the knowledge, confidence and practical skills needed to ride their bikes safely on the road. They worked hard to improve their cycling skills, learn about road safety and understand how to make sensible decisions when out and about on their bikes. Well done to everyone for embracing this valuable learning opportunity!

We are incredibly proud of **all our Year 5 and 6 children**, who were excellent ambassadors for Bitterne CE Primary School throughout these experiences. Their positive attitudes, enthusiasm, excellent behaviour and respectful interactions with the external instructors were a real credit to themselves, their families and our school community.

It has been a brilliant first half term and we hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved half-term break!







Can You Help? Parent Volunteers Needed for School Trips!

We are keen to provide even more exciting enrichment opportunities for our children, particularly by making the most of our wonderful local area. However, to make these visits possible, we need your help!

We are looking to build a list of parent volunteers who would be willing to accompany classes on school trips and local visits. You wouldn't need to commit to every trip, and we would be especially grateful for parents who would be happy to support other year groups, not just their own child's class.

Having a list of willing volunteers, we can contact when additional adults are needed would make a huge difference to the opportunities, we can offer our children.

If you could spare some time to help, please email the school office at office@bitterneceprimary.net so that we can begin the process of arranging a DBS check.

We really do rely on the support of our families to make these valuable experiences happen. Without enough adult volunteers, some visits simply cannot go ahead.

Thank you, as always, for helping us make learning exciting, memorable and meaningful for our children!

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



As we reach the end of our first half term, we would love to hear your thoughts on how your child has settled into the new school year. Your feedback helps us celebrate what is going well and identify where we can make further improvements.

How positive has your child's experience of the first half term been?

https://forms.gle/wFnsmXJPd9b5qTck8

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. We really value your feedback!

School Photographs

You should have by now received your child's photograph proof. Please ensure that all orders are made online using the details on the proof card by Tuesday 10 November. We regret we can not take any cash or make orders in the school office. If you need the proof card information please contact the school office.

Reminder: Bitterne Friends Christmas Artwork

🎄 CHRISTMAS ARTWORK SHOP – NOW OPEN! 🎨🎅

A little reminder that our Christmas artwork online shop is now open! 🎁

Every purchase helps raise funds for our keep school cool cool campaign ❄️

🛍️ Don't forget to look out for your child's personalised order form, which contains everything you need to place your order online. It should have come home from school last week, but if it didn't, let us know at pta@bitterneceprimary.net

⏰ The online shop closes on Monday 2nd November 2026

Reminder: Flu Vaccinations – Thursday 5 November 2026

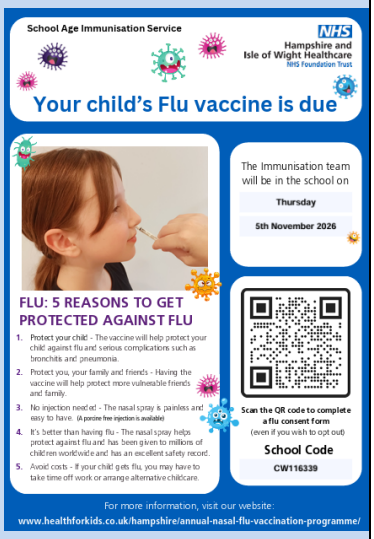
Flu Vaccinations will take place for all eligible children on Thursday 5th November. It is important to let the School Nursing team know whether you do or do not want your child to have the vaccination. It will take less than 5 minutes to respond using the link below. Without your consent your child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

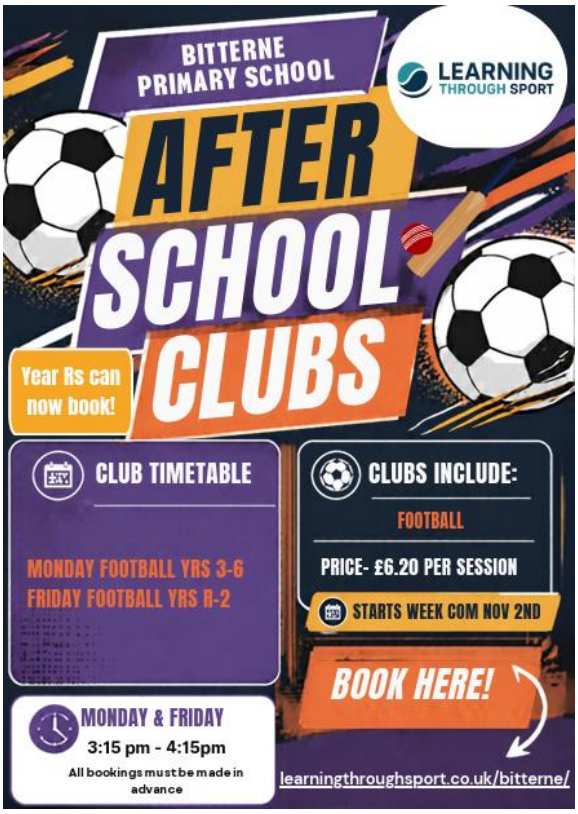
Contact the School Nursing Team: Speak to a member of our team by calling 0300 123 5074 or email hiowh.sotonimms@nhs.net

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
- **Monday 2 November:** Back to school
- **Monday 2 November:** SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library 3.15pm-4pm
- **Tuesday 3 November:** Year R 2027 Entry Parent Tours
- **Wednesday 4 November:** Year 6 Southampton City Mission Question of Faith Day
- **Thursday 5 November:** Flu Vaccinations
- **Tuesday 10 November:** Parents Evening, 3.45pm-6pm
- **Thursday 12 November:** Parents Evening, 3.45pm-6pm
- **Monday 16 November:** Inset Day
- **Thursday 26 November:** Year R 2027 Entry Parent Tours
- **Monday 30 November:** SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library 3.15pm-4pm
- **Thursday 10 December:** KS2 Carols in the Playground, 2.30pm-3pm
- **Monday 14 December:** Year R and KS1 Rehearsal at Holy Saviour, 10am-11am

- **Monday 14 December:** SENDCo Drop-in session in the School Library 3.15pm-4pm
- **Tuesday 15 December:** Year R and KS1 Christmas Show, 10am-11am and 1.30pm-2.30pm
- **Thursday 17 December:** Christmas Church Service at Holy Saviour, 10am-11am
- **Thursday 17 December:** Christmas Lunch
- **Friday 18 December:** The Great Exhibition, 1.30pm-2.30pm


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

SHOWSTOPPERS
PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

@ Bitterne CE Primary School!

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. We are currently working towards a Christmas Show!

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

SO:Dance

Tiny Toes, Big Dreams...





- Tots Dance- Walking-4Yrs
  Friday 9.30-10.00am
- Pre Primary Ballet- 3-5Yrs
  Saturday 9.00-9.30am
- Pre Primary Tap- 3-5Yrs
  Saturday 9.30-10.00am

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

info@sodance.info 07873866249 www.sodance.info