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: 9 **Date:** 6 November 2026

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

What a fantastic start to the new half term! It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week and see them settling straight back into their learning.



There has been some super problem-solving work happening in maths across the school this week. I was particularly impressed with Year 4, who showed fantastic teamwork and determination when tackling some tricky problems together. Year 6 enjoyed their visit from City Mission, learning about different interpretations of the Gospels. It was lovely to hear the children enthusiastically sharing what they had learnt with me as they left school that day. I have also been really impressed with the learning in Year R this week. The children have embraced their new morning learning structure brilliantly. It has been wonderful to see such focused phonics sessions and children working hard to practise forming their letters. They are making great strides in their learning!

We have also enjoyed welcoming prospective new families to Bitterne this week. Our Year 6 children did a brilliant job of showing parents and their children around the school. We received so many lovely compliments about our pupils and the wonderfully calm atmosphere around the school. It is always a proud moment when visitors recognise what makes Bitterne such a special place.

Finally, a big well done to all the children who had their flu vaccinations on Thursday. They were incredibly sensible, and the nurses were full of praise for their behaviour and lovely manners. Another reason to feel proud of our children!

What a positive and busy first week back! Well done to everyone for such a fantastic start to the half term. I look forward to seeing all the wonderful learning that lies ahead.

Collective Worship Reflection: Collaboration and Teamwork

CREATIVITY

This half term, we are focusing on our value of creativity. Creativity is not just about painting, drawing or making things; it is about using our talents, imagination and ideas to solve problems and make a difference.

In the Bible, we learn about Bezalel, whom God blessed with special skills and wisdom. Alongside Oholiab and others, he used his talents to create beautiful items for the Tabernacle. Their story reminds us that sharing ideas, listening to others and working together can help us achieve great things.

We also explored Leonardo da Vinci, who used his imagination and curiosity as an artist, inventor and scientist to develop new ideas and solve problems. Just like Bezalel and Leonardo, we can all be creative by using our God-given talents, thinking differently and working together!

Year R Phase Leader Report

It has been a fantastic first week back in Reception! The children have settled back into school exceptionally well, confidently following our familiar routines and showing lots of enthusiasm and excitement for the term ahead.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing their Autumn treasures that they collected over half term. There has been lots of excitement as they shared their special finds, talked about the changes they had noticed and explored the different colours, textures and shapes of autumn.

We are also incredibly proud of the children as they have embraced our new phonics rotation. During these sessions, the children are busy learning new sounds, practising their reading, developing their name-writing skills and completing a different fine motor activity. They are building their independence, learning to manage each activity and move between tasks, and have coped with these new routines exceptionally well. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and enthusiasm shine through!

We have also kicked off our new Celebrations topic by learning all about Diwali, the Festival of Light. The children have loved exploring this celebration through a range of creative and hands-on activities. They have made beautiful Diya lamps using playdough, practised drawing mendhi patterns on hands and created colourful rangoli patterns using loose parts. We even took our learning outdoors, using natural materials found in the woods to create our own rangoli-inspired designs!

It has been a wonderful start to the half term, full of curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm. We are looking forward to exploring lots more exciting celebrations over the coming weeks, including Bonfire Night, birthdays and the Christmas story. We are particularly excited to be preparing for and performing in our very first nativity, as well as enjoying lots of fun and festive activities along the way.

Remembrance Day – Wednesday 11th November



Next Wednesday, we will be marking Remembrance Day with a special collective worship in school. This is such an important occasion for us to come together as a school community to remember and reflect on the sacrifices made by those who have served, and continue to serve, to protect others and bring peace.

Poppies are being sold in school, and children are welcome to purchase one if they would like to make a donation to the Royal British Legion and support this worthwhile cause.

Children who are members of organisations such as Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies, Rainbows or Guides are very welcome to wear their organisation's uniform to school on Wednesday.

We look forward to marking this important day together with the children.

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!

Reminder: School Photographs

Don't forget to order your school photos 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.

Southampton City Art Gallery Funday: Sunday 15 November

SOUTHAMPTON CITY ART GALLERY

Southampton City Art Gallery is pleased to announce they are holding a free family fun day on Sunday 15th November. Please share the information with your families as we would love for them to join us. For more information, please see https://southamptonmuseumsandgallery.co.uk/events/art-then-free-family-fun-day-funded-by-the-arts-society-southampton/

The free activities taking place will including hands-on art activities, facing painting, storytelling and much more! The day is being funded by The Art Society of Southampton as part of Southampton City Art Gallery's Art Then! exhibition.

Weekly Celebrations



- This week's House Cup awarded to Brook House
- Congratulations to these children who have been awarded Star of the Week: Cayla D, Naomi D, Hudson B, Jack H, Thomas B-W, Elliot S, Liana W, Lucas K, Henry W, Hughie B, Kahlan A, Lewis K, Ally B & Nicholas S,
- Tidy Year Group Award goes to: Year R – Indigo and Bronze Classes
- This week's best attendance goes to Ruby with 99%

Well done everyone!

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

- **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
- **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



