

Bitterne Park Primary School

JANUARY

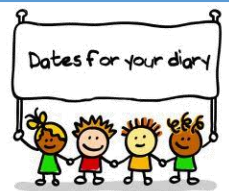
Dear Parents

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2024! We do hope that all of our families had a very happy and peaceful Christmas. The children and staff have all returned to school, energised and excited for the New Year! We have, yet again, been touched by the support of our families, dedication of our staff team and care that our children continue to show for each other and for their school family and wider world.

There are so many exciting things planned for the upcoming term, including the arrival of the much loved Ducklings in Year 2 and a Reading Ambassador Trip to Orchard Bookstore. We cannot wait to celebrate all the successes the children have!

Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 1st February 2024 – Coffee Morning
- Monday 12th February- Friday 16th February – Half term
- Monday 4th March 2024 – Class photographs
- Monday 11th March – Incredible Eggs hatching kit in Year 2
- Friday 15th March 2024 – Y1 – Y6 Children's Reports out to parents.
- Friday 22nd March – INSET day
- Week commencing 25th March – Parents' evenings
- Monday 15th April – Friday 3rd May 2024 – Year 5 swimming (1 week per class)
- Wednesday 17th April 2024 – Year 2 Marwell Trip
- Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May – Year 6 SATS
- Monday 20th May - Friday 24th May – Y5 Bikeability
- Monday 3rd June – Friday 7th June – Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
- Monday 10th June – Friday 14th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July – Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential



Inspire, Thrive, Achieve

ECO Warrior News at BPPS



ECO Focus – Tree Planting

The children have taken a bold step towards a greener future. With a vision to instill a love for nature and sustainability, the children have recently planted over 400 new trees of various varieties around the edge of the field.



ECO Focus – Crocus Bulb Planting

Our whole Eco Warrior group teamed up with the amazing Rotarian charity group to plant crocuses. It was like we were planting hope right into the ground!

The afternoon started with a buzz of excitement. We gathered together and Mr. Alan Williams from the Rotary charity group gave us our own crocus bulbs.



They were special because they were going to make the world a better place as every crocus represented the Rotary's campaign to Stop Polio Now.

ECO Focus – Seed Donations

We would like to extend our gratitude to Haskins Garden Centre, who have kindly offered to donate a box of seeds to the school for us to plant and nurture. We are very grateful and cannot wait to nurture our seeds into plants and produce!



School Council News at BPPS

School Council Focus – Love your Journey to School



Bitterne Park Primary School Councilors have been incredibly enthusiastic with launching the 'Love your Journey to School' campaign, which is an upcoming Southampton City Council competition. We are looking forward to finding out what our children enjoy most about their active journey to school, especially related to walking, cycling and scooting!

Competition entries could include:

- a poem about your journey to school,
- photos of scooting, walking or cycling,
- creative descriptions about your child's favourite part of the journey,
- drawings or paintings

There are some super prizes up for grabs! Parents can enter via the details on the poster or send in any entries via the school office FAO Miss Shervell.

Love your journey to school

This Valentine's Day, we want you to tell us everything you love about your active journey to school.

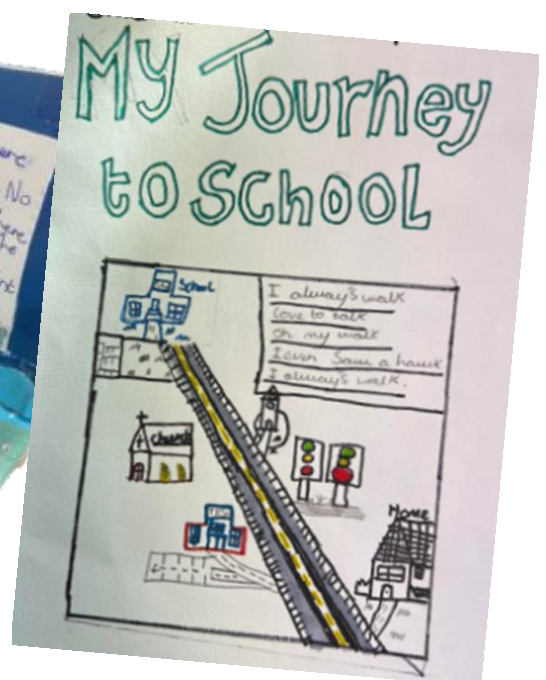
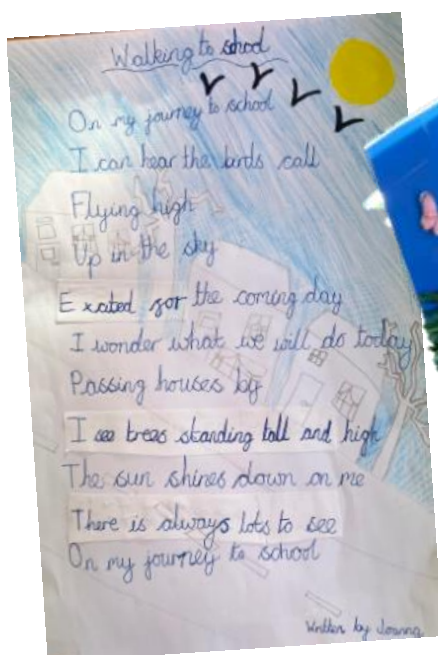
For a chance to win:

- 1st PLACE
JD Bug Classic Street 120 scooter
- 2nd PLACE
Treasure trail voucher
- 3rd PLACE
Scooting goody bag

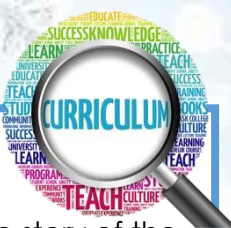
Submit your entries by 23 February 2024.
Email rachel.oliver@southampton.gov.uk or post on social media and tag My Journey with your entries, using the hashtag #LoveYourJourneySoton
See myjourneysouthampton.com/loveyourjourneyschool

The deadline is Friday 23rd February 2024.

Here are some of our entries so far:



Curriculum News at BPPS



Year R



We are exploring the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Dragon! We have read the story of the Zodiac and are learning how to make lanterns, dragons, money wallets and fortune cookies! We have also been Busy Bees exploring textures and smells of rice, rice noodles and playdoh. We look forward to learning more!

Year 1

The story of the Gruffalo has been our focus. Have you seen him? The children have designed wanted posters to get this creature found! If you see terrible teeth, knobby knees or orange eyes in your local area please get in contact. Following this, the children have created their own creatures and are writing their own versions of the Gruffalo story. We cannot wait to read them!



Year 2

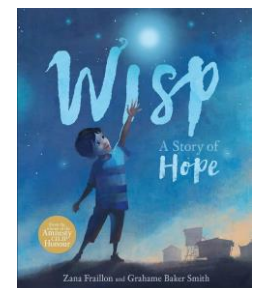
The John Lewis advert featuring 'Moz the Monster' has been our hook! Inspired by this heartwarming yet suspenseful tale, we embarked on crafting our own stories, using our tension toolkits. Can we make our readers feel scared? Only time will tell...



We have also embarked on a journey of discovery around St. Lucia, exploring the different physical and human features that the country has to offer. Have you ever seen their drive-through volcano?

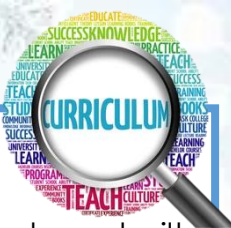
Year 3

We delved into 'The Wisp,' exploring hopes and dreams, making links to journeys of refugees. Our classrooms became a space for creative expression, fostering empathy and awareness.



It has also been so exciting to travel back in time to explore the ancient Egyptians! We were able to make inferences about who we thought the ancient Egyptians were and what life was like for them. Did you know it took 5000 men to build the pyramids?

Curriculum News at BPPS



Year 4

We are learning about the Vikings - were they raiders or settlers? So far, we have built our own Viking longships and had a visit from Sven the boat builder. In writing, we are building tension and taking our readers on a journey. We are going to be building our knowledge of figurative language to paint a picture in our reader's mind.



Year 5

We have dived headfirst into our thrilling new topic that revolves around the captivating landscape of Alaska and ambitious vocabulary and figurative language to describe a journey across this landscape..

We have also begun our exploration of the Victorians, beginning with detailed inferences, drawing comparisons between the stark differences in social classes, especially the harsh realities of workhouses.



Year 6

Following a visit from the Young Shakespeare Company at the end of the Autumn Term, we have launched our Macbeth topic. The children have been focusing on learning and applying high level language choices and interesting sentence types in order to create vivid descriptions of three mysterious figures upon a stormy heath. We simply cannot wait to read the outcomes that the children produce at the end of this unit!



Fiver Challenge Update

The current totals of each class are as follows:

Year R: £69.00	2BF: £5.00	3M: £51.00	4C: £5.00	5M: £18.10	6Q: £5.00
1A: £13.00	2F: £5.00	3O: £25.29	4D: £5.00	5S: £13.00	6S: £5.00
1B: £16.45	2G: £5.00	3W: £14.40	4M: £5.00	5W: £22.20	6T: £5.00
1S: £5.00	2M: £5.00		4T: £5.00		

Enrichment News at BPPS

House Competitions Update



Knowledge - This half term's knowledge competition is focusing on our recall of key characters, authors and plots from familiar stories. The children will be exploring different key texts and sharing their knowledge through different quiz rounds.



Charity – Our school council have chosen to continue to support The Downs Syndrome Association this term. World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), 21 March, is a global awareness day. On **Tuesday 21st March 2024**, we will be encouraging the children to wear odd socks to school and bring in a donation to raise money for this very worthwhile cause. The focus this year is 'End the Stereotypes'. This is an opportunity to support our curriculum, where we celebrate difference and learn to accept.



Sport – The sports competition will be a hockey competition, which the children will complete in during their PE lessons.



Creative – We would like the children to design a piece of artwork that can be created by their house team and given to a local charity, such as the library or a local care home. In the past, these pieces of artwork have included a recycling theme linked to their favourite book and a nature theme, bringing the outdoors in. Please can the children's suggested designs be returned to school by **Monday 19th February**.

Community Engagement

Our Singing Club children made Christmas Cards for Mayflower Court Residential Home, which were very gratefully received. "Our residents were very touched by these lovely Christmas cards that they received from the children of Bitterne Park Primary School. We will be welcoming them into the home in the New Year to say Thank You.



Reminders at BPPS

Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 1st February**. We hope this will be another way to drop in and have an informal chat and coffee or tea with a member of the senior team. We look forward to seeing you there!



Basics Bank Food Collection

Last term, across the partnership of schools, the children worked together to collect dry goods for our local charity food bank, Basics Bank. We would like to thank all of our children and parents at BPPS for all of your generous donations. We know it made a real difference to many families over the Christmas period who are not as fortunate. The charity was very appreciative.



PTFA

As always, our PTFA are working hard to organise different events for our children. 'Elfridges' and the end of term Film Club were resounding successes, raising over **£1200** for BPPS.

So far, in the diary for the rest of this academic year, we have:

Cake Sale – Friday 9th February

Year 1 & 2 Disco – Thursday 14th March

Year R Disco – Thursday 27th June

School Photographers



Fraser Portraits will be in school on Monday 4th March to take class photographs. Proofs will be sent home via the children, so parents can place an order if they wish. If you do not wish for your child to be in this photograph, please let the school office know by Monday 26th February at the latest.

Pip and Pap Workshops

Our Pip and Pap Phonics workshops have started up again and will be running on even weeks (Weeks 2, 4 and 6) of the Spring term. These take place on: Tuesday – Year 2, Thursday – Year R, Friday – Year 1 starting at 2.45pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

