

Bitterne Park Primary School



Dear Parents

Spring has truly sprung at Bitterne Park Primary School and what a great half term we have had!

Highlights have included a visit from the NSPCC, taking part in the 'Love your journey to school' and even new life hatching in the year 2 corridor.

We hope you all enjoy a lovely Easter break and look forward to welcoming the children back for fun-filled summer term.

Farewell and Good Luck!

As we begin our Easter holidays, we wish good luck to Mr Evans as he moves on to a flexible position ahead of joining the Police Force. We know that this is an exciting time of change and challenge for him and we thank him for his time with us at Bitterne Park, for the last year, and the wider partnership before this. We thank him for his support within our leadership team. We know that he has gained valuable experiences and knowledge which he will take into his new role and we all wish him well.

World Down Syndrome Day – Odd socks



On Thursday 21st March, the children and staff came to school wearing brightly coloured odd socks in aid of World Down Syndrome Day. They spent time in their classes learning more about this charity and we are extremely grateful for the donations of support. Here are some photographs of some of the fantastic socks!

We thank you for raising over £500 for odd socks and non-school uniform day!



Inspire, Thrive, Achieve

World Book Day

We had an absolute ball on World Book Day! Princesses, princes, fairy tale characters, animals, astronauts, superheroes, mythical creatures and more adorned the school as part of our World Book Day celebrations! The air was buzzing with excitement as each class entered through an 'imagination door', created by their teachers, linked to the day's story! Each class partook in a plethora of activities that brought the magic of their chosen book to life. This culminated with each child creating a piece of 'beautiful work' to show off their learning about their book.



A highlight of the day was the school assembly and 'fashion show', with a burst of colour and creativity as students and teachers alike donned costumes inspired by their favourite literary characters. The winners of our partnership Extreme Reading competition and Pip and Pap 'design a front cover' competition were also announced - thank you to everyone that entered, it was very hard to pick the winners! Teachers also partook in a 'Masked Reader' competition! Our pupil Reading Ambassadors created a 'Book Bistro' for pupils to try new stories at lunchtime- they did a splendid job! All students received a £1 voucher to purchase a 'World Book Day Book' or to put towards a book of their choice.

Pupils were all gifted a free World Book Day book from October Books, our local independent book shop in Portswood! We are so very grateful - that's more than 600 books donated! Our pupil Reading Ambassadors are visiting the bookshop soon, to learn more about how a bookshop runs and to transfer this knowledge and information to their school library.

We are very grateful to all the teachers, children and parents who contributed to making this day a resounding success.

Until next year's literary extravaganza, happy reading!

ECO Warrior News at BPPS



ECO Focus

The team has been enthusiastically promoting the growing of plants in classrooms. The main purpose being to then transfer these outside to hopefully pick, wash, prepare and taste.

The Eco Warriors were given a choice of seeds and selected for their year groups. They selected the following: Year One are growing cucumbers; Year Two strawberries; Year Three carrots; Year 4 tomatoes; Year Five peppers and Year Six courgettes.

The children are all super excited to see their seeds grow and transform into luscious edible produce. We feel it is really worthwhile giving the children the opportunity to grow from a seed, food to cook or prepare, plate up and eat.

The Eco Warriors worked tirelessly to weed and rake the areas by the field reading area and next to the pavilion ready to sow wildflower seeds. This will hopefully create a kaleidoscope of colour and a source of nectar for an increasing variety of insects.

Future plans include a sunflower competition and planting more seeds to keep our grounds blooming.



School Council News at BPPS

School Council Focus



Our school councilors continue to work tremendously hard at supporting with school campaigns related to our travel plan. We are so pleased that two of our children won the top prizes from the 'Love your Journey to School' competition. This is a city wide competition and to have the overall winner and a runner up is amazing and a credit to the creativity that our children have. Well done Matilda Y5 and Layla Y5. Our thanks go to the enthusiasm generated from our class councilors with this competition.

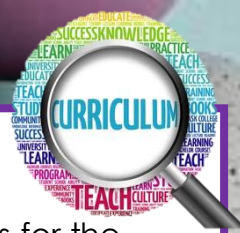


This half term, we have focused on gathering data in support of 'The Big Walk and Wheel 2024', encouraging our children to travel actively wherever possible, through cycling, scooting or walking. Thank you school councilors for your continued enthusiasm!



We are looking forward to encouraging our families to walk to school and 'park and stride' with the warmer weather coming in the summer term. We will be introducing a poster completion to encourage this so watch this space!

Curriculum News at BPPS



Year 2 continued

We have looked at her significant impact in changing hospital conditions for the future generations, if you would like to extend this learning during the holidays, you can visit one of Florence Nightingale's real beds, at Fort Nelson on Portsdown Hill!

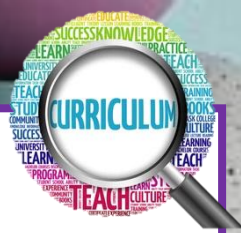
According to local legends, this half term Year 2 have been transported to a mythical dream land. We have designed our own mythical creatures and created fact files about them. Ask us about how to spot our creature, where it lives and what its unique talents are - which make it a breathtaking sight to behold (if you are fortunate enough to locate it)! During our maths learning this half term we have begun our exploration of money. The children are learning to recognise amounts of coins and how these totals can be made in different ways, using the coins available. We have talked lots about the situations that we could use this learning in real life. Over the holidays can you test us on our knowledge of coins, whilst we are out and about in shops, cafes and experiences?

Year 3

In Year 3 we have been scientists this half term and have been learning about plant life cycles. This included dissecting and labeling a daffodil and growing our own carrots in the classroom. This led to a discussion around our big question: are all plants the same? In maths we have been extending our fraction knowledge, we can identify unit and non unit fractions as well as finding fractions of shapes and numbers. Year 3 loved world book day! We focused on a story called ' Let's Celebrate', this provoked learning and artwork inspired by festivals around the world such as Holi, Carnival and Cherry blossom festival.

Year 4

This half term Year 4 have been exploring the awe and wonder of lost words. The children have created beautiful acrostic poems. They have been investigating the states of matter and rivers in science. They really enjoyed their experiment to find out which state of matter ice cubes melt in the fastest, they were surprised with the results!



Year 5

In Year 5, our budding engineers have been learning about bridges, experimenting with various pillars and arches, as well as evaluating different materials and designs. Working in small groups, our teams have created detailed diagrams of their bridge designs. With excitement building, the children are eager to start building and reflecting on their final creations as the half term comes to a close.

Year 6

In writing, our Year 6 pupils have embraced their inner adventurers, inspired by the gripping narratives of Katherine Rundell's 'The Explorer' and the real-life escapades of survival expert Bear Grylls. They set out to pen their own tales of resilience and ingenuity.

Choosing their own settings, from dense jungles to desolate islands, our young authors concocted thrilling scenarios where protagonists faced daunting challenges. They crafted narratives filled with tension, courage, and the unwavering spirit of survival. From escaping treacherous predators to overcoming natural disasters, each story unfolded a unique problem for their characters to conquer, leaving readers on the edge of their seats.

Our Year 6 mathematicians have been sharpening their skills in area and perimeter; they navigated the complexities of compound shapes. From calculating the area of triangles and parallelograms to determining the perimeter of irregular farm-lands, our students showcased their problem-solving skills. Year 6 has also tackled real-world scenarios, applying mathematical concepts to unravel the complexities of shape and space.

During our afternoon learning, our Year 6 scientists explored the inner workings of the human body. Through hands-on investigations and interactive experiments, our budding scientists explored the factors influencing heart rate and the intricate processes of nutrient absorption. From dissecting diagrams to conducting pulse-raising activities, they deepened their biological understanding of the human body with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Enrichment News at BPPS



Knowledge –

Literacy Championships

Knowledge

BPPS won best newcomer and received a prize. Although we didn't progress to the London final, our pupils did very well against the entire South East, including competing against secondary schools.

6th Place – BPPS Team A and 9th Place – BPPS Team B

A huge well done to all that took part.



Charity –

We raised over £500 for the Down Syndrome Association from Odd Socks Day and the non school uniform day on the last day of term. A big thank you to all that donated.



Sport – Southampton Schools Netball Tournament

On Monday 11th March, 14 Year 5 and 6 children attended Bitterne Park School to compete in a Southampton schools netball tournament. The children were an absolute credit to the school demonstrating excellent team work and fair play from the very first match. Both teams played 9 matches each in total and perfected their netball skills through the rounds. The Year 6 team went through to the final unbeaten, but came up against a strong St Marks team. Despite a valiant effort the team had to settle for runners up. That team was then invited to the county final. A huge congratulations to all involved.

Netball County Final

The standard of netball was very high as well as the level of competition. The year 6 team made huge improvements throughout the matches.

Their passing and moving, transitions and goal scoring was super slick. The team failed to progress from a tough group, but came away with huge pride in the way they played and represented BPPS. I'm sure you will join us in congratulating them.



Enrichment News at BPPS



Sport (Continued)-

Physical

Mud, mud glorious mud- Year 5/6 Cross Country Championship

In testing conditions on Friday 15th March we entered boy and girl runners from Years 5 and 6 in the Southampton Schools Cross Country Championship. The course at the Sports Centre is not an easy one with several uphill sections and previous weather conditions meant there were a number of boggy areas to avoid. But this proved no barrier for the determination and resilience of our runners. The children trudged on regardless with smiles lighting their faces especially when crossing the finish line. Lots of comments of enjoyment of the challenge and an all round sense of achievement. A huge well done to all- we are awaiting the final team finishing positions. Notable mentions to Archie who finished third and gained a bronze medal accordingly, Isaac and Josh, who also finished in the top ten for the boys. Lottie was the stand out performer for the girls finishing 5th both fields had over 100 runners so they did very well.

Breaking news: we received a very exciting update from the county sports team. After they collated all the results from the championship event Bitterne Park Primary boys team were the GOLD medal winners!!! Additionally the girls team received a very respectable BRONZE medal too!!!



Upcoming Events at BPPS

Dates for your Diary



- Monday 15th April - first day of the Summer Term
- Monday 15th April - Friday 3rd May 2024 – Year 5 swimming (1 week per class)
- Wednesday 17th April 2024 - Year 2 Marwell Trip
- Monday 6th May - bank holiday
- Monday 13th May - Fire and Rescue visit - Year 2
- Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May - Year 6 SATS
- Monday 20th May - Friday 24th May - Y5 Bikeability
- Tuesday 21st May - Sports Day (weather permitting)
- Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May - May Half Term
- Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th June - INSET days
- Wednesday 5th – Friday 7th June - Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
- Tuesday 11th June – Friday 17th June - Scholastic Book Fair
- Monday 10th June – Friday 14th June - Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July - Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential
- Thursday 25th July - Summer holidays begin

Pip and Pap Workshops



Our Pip and Pap Phonics workshops are continuing to be a great success and will continue running on even weeks (Weeks 2, 4 and 6) of the Summer Term 1. These take place on: Tuesday – Year 2, Thursday – Year R, Friday – Year 1 starting at 2.45pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Reminders at BPPS

Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 2nd May**. 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!



PTFA

As always, our PTFA are working hard to organise different events for our children.

The year 1 & 2 disco was a roaring success and made £290

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

Cake Sale – Friday 24th May

Year R Disco – Thursday 27th June

Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a School Crossing Patrol Officer, if you are interested in the role or know of someone who might be, the advertisement can be found here:

<https://careers.southampton.gov.uk/vacancy/school-crossing-patrol-officer-552930.html>

Alternatively you can contact:

schoolcrossing.patrolservice@southampton.gov.uk

If you have any questions or would like more information on the role