

Bitterne Park Primary School

February

Dear Parents

It has been a really great half term and I am glad to see the daylight increasing as we move through towards Spring. As always we are looking forward to immersing ourselves in World Book Day, which will take place in school on Thursday 7th March. We are excited to see the amazing outfits from staff and children. The school has already begun its transformation for this event.



Poetry By Heart

We wanted the children to be excited about poetry and know it is more than just words on a page; it's a gateway to imagination and emotion. By engaging with poetry, the children enhanced their language proficiency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Learning poetry by heart allowed the children to internalise the rhythm, cadence, and meaning of the verses. Moreover, the poetry encouraged empathy and emotional intelligence by exploring different perspectives and experiences.

Performing the poetry to parents was a thrilling culmination of the learning process. It provided children with a platform to showcase their creativity, expression, and confidence. Standing before an audience, they learnt to manage stage fright, project their voice, and use gestures and expressions to convey meaning. An enormous thank you to all of you that attended the performances, which made this so real for the children. Attached are videos of the class performance and individual performance that will be sent to the organisers of the competition to judge.



Inspire, Thrive, Achieve

ECO Warrior News at BPPS



ECO Focus – Tree Planting

We have been keeping a close eye on the 400+ trees we planted before Christmas. They seem to be doing well. The weather has been kind and they have obviously had plenty of water.



ECO Focus – Springing to Life

Spring is starting to come to life in our grounds. It is wonderful to see the daffodils coming through as well as the crocuses. We are also looking forward to a rich variety of other plants making an appearance.

ECO Focus – Seed Planting

Every class has received a packet of fruit or vegetable seeds to cultivate in their classrooms, before the weather is nice enough to continue their growth outside. These seeds range from fruits and vegetables that the children have most likely tried before, to more obscure varieties, such as Strawberry Sticks, Rocket and Swiss Chard. The children are excited to be able to try these products later in the year.



Inspire, Thrive, Achieve

Sanctuary Ambassador News at BPPS

Sanctuary Focus – Welcome Booklet

The children have been working together to create a 'Welcome to Bitterne Park Primary School' booklet for any of our new arrivals to show our Welcoming and caring nature. The children have designed the pages, which include information about the class teacher and plans of the school.



School of
SANCTUARY AWARD
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary



Sanctuary Focus – Welcoming Mural

Some of our Sanctuary Ambassadors had the fantastic idea of brightening up our outside space with a mural, showcasing our School of Sanctuary status. The Sanctuary Ambassadors have been working on possible designs and when they are finished, they will be shared with all the children for a final decision to be made.

Sanctuary Focus – Working with partnership schools

Some of the Sanctuary Ambassadors are very excited to be working on creating a PowerPoint presentation

Sanctuary Focus – Refugee Week 2024

We are very excited to have been invited by SWVG (Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group) to take part in the city's Refugee Week celebrations. This year, this entails creating a piece of artwork or creative writing which encompasses our beliefs around Sanctuary. These will be displayed collectively in the city during the celebrations, which culminate on 22nd June.

Inspire, Thrive, Achieve

Curriculum News at BPPS



Year R

This term we are exploring the traditional tale - The Gingerbread Man. The children have listened to the story and created their own story map. In Foundation, we made our own gingerbread man and decorated them. They were yummy! In Science, we have been learning about predictions. The children explored what would happen to different food products when you add water. The children then made a prediction of what would happen if the gingerbread man jumped into the river. We were excited to discover that the next day the gingerbread men had dissolved into a mushy mess! Ask your child to tell you their favourite part in the story.

Year 1

As we enjoy the new Spring 2 term, in maths, place value will be the main focus, with some topic work on shape. Please support your child by reinforcing their number-bonds to 20 (or 50, if able) with calculations using both addition and subtraction. Norman the Silly Slug is a funny fella . . . He's been up to his tricks again and, in our English writing slots, we will be re-writing the story of this mischievous minibeast! (Hint: it's World Book Day on Thurs 7th March . . . !)

Grace Darling is our 'Significant Historical Individual' this half term, and we will be focusing on Animals and the Seasons in Science.

As we approach the Christian festival of Easter, we will explore acts of kindness, happiness and sadness in RE and our Art focus is printing animal patterns, followed on from the related painting unit in the Autumn.

Year 2

We have been having an exciting time during our learning journeys across Year 2! In our history lessons, we've been learning about the incredible Florence Nightingale and her pioneering efforts in revolutionising healthcare. We've dived into the pages of history to understand how Florence's dedication and compassion transformed hospitals and nursing practices. Through stories and activities, we've gained a newfound appreciation for her contributions to improving healthcare for all!

Curriculum News at BPPS



Year 5

In our art lessons, Year 5 have been creating some fantastic abstract final pieces using printing files! Our work was influenced by Picasso and Andy Warhol, and the children really enjoyed getting stuck in and designing their own printing tile which was then used to create contrast using paint. The outcomes were outstanding it was wonderful to see how they took inspiration from two famous artists to create their final outcome!

In maths, the children have been expanding their knowledge of fractions. We have explored the key mathematical vocabulary for fractions to deepen their knowledge and apply it to finding equivalent fractions and converting between improper and mixed. It has been fantastic to see how the children have grappled with some tricky concepts! We will now be moving on furthering their knowledge in fractions by adding, subtracting and multiplying.

Year 6

In Maths, we have been embarking on a journey of logical reasoning and problem-solving. Through algebraic expressions and equations, we have been learning to decipher patterns, generalise rules and make connections between numbers and symbols. Going forward, we will be engaging with variables in order to foster a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts.

During our science lessons, Year 6 have been exploring Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection and have gained insights into the diversity of species and the interconnectedness of life. They have also traced the adaptations of organisms over time and have gained an understanding of the mechanisms driving evolutionary change. We couldn't quite believe some of the incredible changes species have gone through over the course of millions of years!

Enrichment News at BPPS

House Competitions Update



Knowledge - This half term's knowledge competition is focusing on our spelling skills. The children will be practicing different common exception words and sharing their knowledge through different quiz rounds.



Charity – Our charity competition this half term is focusing on donating a piece of artwork to a chosen charity. The children have been designing their final piece as a house and have chosen to make their designs out of:

**Centaurs - Dragons - Phoenix – cardboard and old fabric scraps
Unicorns –**

Please can you child bring in any of these recycling materials by **Friday 8th March** so that the children can use them to create their stunning pieces! In addition, just a reminder that 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 The Downs Syndrome Association (as chosen by our School Councillors).



Sport – The sports competition will be a five-a-side football competition, which the children will complete in during their PE lessons.



Creative – We would like to thank the children who designed a piece of artwork for their house team to create and give to a local charity, such as the library or a local care home. These designs were fantastic and the winning designs have now been chosen and are ready to create!



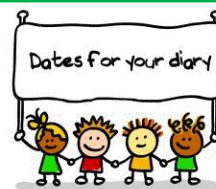
Community Engagement

Our Singing Club children are very excited to continue practicing their songs ready for sharing with members of Mayflower Court Residential Home closer to Easter.

Upcoming Events at BPPS

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 4th March 2024 – Class photographs
- Thursday 7th March – World Book day
- 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 and Tuesday 4th June – INSET days
- Wednesday 5th – 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



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 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!



Reminders at BPPS

Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 7th March**. 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.

As always, the Cake Sale was a great success raising over **£320** for BPPS.

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

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.

