



Bitterne Park Primary School



July 2023 Newsletter

Inspire, Thrive, Achieve

Dear Parents

Welcome to our final newsletter of the academic year. This has been a very busy year and we have enjoyed the summer weather, although I am hoping for a slightly more settled August!.

Children and staff have worked hard to renew the School of Sanctuary Status. I felt very proud to see our Sanctuary Ambassadors contribution at Southampton's Refugee Week. Our Eco work has really strengthened this year with our great gardening work and school grounds project really flourishing. I was so happy to be able to welcome the BBC crew in to showcase the environmental work that has been at the heart of our yearlong curriculum work. This will all continue and deepen further over the years to come.

The "Big Help Out" will continue on as a thread throughout work next year too. Helping in our school, then locally and then globally is a wonderful way to manifest our bid to "Become Architects of a Better World". It makes me so proud to see the strategy and vision we have, weave through the whole curriculum for the benefit of all our learners.

Transition Day went really well and we have welcomed our new teachers into school for a full transition week ahead of their start. We plan this each year so that all new members of our teaching community can really get to know our partnership and systems. We are very lucky to be fully staffed with such a quality team and we look forwards to welcoming them into our family in September. The children have all now had the opportunity to visit their new class and a great deal of work has been put into ensuring this changeover is as easy for the children as possible.

Farewell and Thank You

Summer term is a real mix of pride, happiness and a little sadness. It is the time when we celebrate a year of achievement and personal successes for our children and staff community and a time where some teachers and support staff move on to pastures new, whether this is moving abroad, to new schools or to our Partnership Schools, we wish them well and thank them all for their dedication and care.



We sadly say au revoir to Mrs Vaughan from Bitterne Park Primary. We wish her a long and happy Semi-retirement working in the Partnership Finance Team for two days a week, then pursuing her hobbies and spending time with her family and thank her for her dedication and many years' service to our children, staff and families. She is our longest serving member of staff and we are super pleased she is staying with us for two days a week!!

News - Local and New ... Our Partnership Forest and Outdoor Learning Nursery and Early Years Centre!

We are very proud to have Hardmoor Nursery and Early Years Centre join our Partnership of schools. A hidden haven, with three acres of forest, gardening and not forgetting the chickens!!! It is just a few minutes from Bitterne Park Primary School. Hardmoor is a rare maintained nursery school, led by a qualified teacher and our Partnership Team.

The nursery takes children from 3 months to 4 years and is a wonderful forest Nursery. Mrs Jen Squires, our Director of Early Years, whom many of you know from Bitterne Year R, leads in a pivotal role. She has rewritten the curriculum and the new Outdoor Learning and Woodland Learning (O.W.L) curriculum underpins all experiential play and learning for our little ones. The gardening and chickens are such a brilliant resource alongside the forest school learning. The nursery is a hidden gem and we are very proud of our recent Local Authority Monitoring Visit, in which the provision was described as 'wow' and having many outstanding elements. If you are looking for a place for your child aged 3 months to 4 years, we have funded day places available and wrap around care (7.30am – 6pm). Please do take a look at our website, pop in for a visit.. or just drop by for some fresh eggs: <https://hardmoor.co.uk/>

Partnership Staff Vacancies

We have a number of modern apprenticeships across our partnership of schools. These include TA positions with Level 3 training and Nursery Level 3 practitioner placements at our wonderful birth to 5 nursery – Hardmoor Nursery and Early Years Centre. If you are interested in joining our team and are looking for qualification led training, then please do enquire via the school office and they will put you in touch with the correct team. Thank you!

Thank you to our School Leadership Board



I would like to extend on behalf of the whole school our sincere thanks to the Bitterne Park Primary Local Leadership Board, co-chaired by Mr Howard Whitehead and Mr Gavin Sumpter, who generously give their time and support in ensuring we provide a good quality education for all our pupils and monitoring effective teaching and learning. Members work very hard to scrutinize curriculum, safeguarding, budget and all strategic matters.



House Competitions

The children have continued this half term to work hard on their house competitions. They have competed in knowledge, sport and charity competitions.

History quiz competition

After four weeks of delving into the past, recalling numerous historical events and understanding the impact on today, a winner for the history quiz competition was finalised:

1st- Centaurs

2nd- Phoenix

3rd- Dragons

4th- Unicorns

Charity - Zumba for Zambia

This month, we participated in a fundraising event called 'Zumba for Zambia'. All of the children in the school were included in a Zumba session with the Superstar Sports coaches. We had so much fun and loved seeing everyone dancing and having a great time. Our teachers even enjoyed taking part too. We want to say a massive 'thank you' to those who donated: these donations added up to £500.50 for The Eneless Patmos School in Zambia.

Sport competition

This half term the children have been competing against the other houses in a variety of athletics activities. We have built on our success at The City Athletics Competition.

Children have enjoyed earning points for their teams by running, throwing and jumping in order to use all their athletics skills. They have also used their resilience and positivity to support their team members and cheer them on. Well done Everyone!

Lost Property

We have a substantial amount of unclaimed lost property. Please do pop in and take a look if your child has misplaced an item of clothing, book bag etc. All remaining items will be disposed of or taken to a local charity shop on the last day of term. Many thanks.

Pick up and Drop off

Please ensure that written permission is given ahead of a playdate or change in pick up organisation. Teachers will not release to anyone other than named adults on a contact list. Do not be offended if a teacher refuses to hand a child over to a friend or nominated adult other than parent without express written permission.

Attendance and Holiday Forms

Our target for attendance is 97.6% for every child. This academic year we have achieved a target of 95.69%

Please note that should you need to request a period of absence from school for your child, a leave of absence form needs to be completed in advance. The completion of these forms for 5 days or over are discussed on a case by case basis before decisions are made as to whether a penalty notice will be issued.

Medication kept in school

If your child has any medication on the school site, such as an inhaler, antihistamine, epipen etc. please collect it on the last day of term, **Friday, 21st July by the end of the school day** as we will need to dispose of medication left in school later that day. Thank you.



When we return to school in September, if your child needs any medicine during the school day which has been prescribed by their doctor, please hand it in at the school office and complete a new Administration of Medicine form for 2023-24.

Superstar Sports Play schemes

Superstar Sports will once again be holding their holiday activity club during the summer holidays. These will be on the following dates and if you would like your child to attend any of these sessions please book by visiting www.superstarsportsuk.com.

24th – 28th July

31st July – 4th August

7th – 11th August

14th – 18th August

21st – 25th August

Fliers have already been sent home outlining all the exciting activities they will be running during these weeks.

Current News

Year R

Year R have had an incredible year and to conclude the successes, the children have prepared a fossil filled expo for you to experience with them. In History, they have been learning all about Mary Anning and they have applied their learning in writing, reading and maths. In art, they created salt dough fossils, dinosaur figures and they have even created dinosaur footprint using their own feet pressed in cold, squelchy paint!

As well as this, they have been busy bees and have been writing letters to their Year 1 teachers! They are very excited to deliver their letters to Mr Arkinstall, Miss Smith and Miss Blackwell! (Shhh it is a surprise!)

The children should be immensely proud of their achievements this year as they have worked so hard and learnt so much in their very first year of school! The Year R teachers know that they will all continue to be super stars in Year 1!

Year 1

Year 1 have been looking to finish their last few days in the same way they want to begin their journey into Year 2 by working hard and being the very best that they can be. They are retrieving old bits of learning from this year and they are still cramming in new pieces of learning as well. Be careful because these children's brains will be barely able to fit out the door by the end of July.

The Wright's might crack flight.

In history this year, the children have been looking up at two pioneers of invention and growth mindset, quite literally. Year 1 have been studying the story of the Wright Brothers who created the first airplane in 1903. The children used their inventive brains and looked at how birds soar through the sky and made comparisons to the Kitty Hawk Flyer (the first plane they created). The children learnt that sometimes when you fly you need to fall and began to understand that there was a lot of 'turbulence' when it came to creating becoming successful. However, through the up and downs, corkscrews and flips, the Wright brothers showed that with resilience, determination and perseverance they were able to be successful. A good life lesson the children have been able to follow.

Are you giraffing at me?

As of our long writing topic this term we have been looking at a long, knobbly, clumsy character. Our favourite giraffe friend - Gerald. We have been putting ourselves into his shoes - which was tricky as he has 4 left feet - and been writing a range of diary accounts about how he felt throughout his story. We understood his emotions at different times in the story and used wow words, questions and show don't tell features to allow the reader to understand what we were feeling. This was at different times in the story, from when our long neck hung low because we were laughed at for our clumsy dancing and when we held our heads up high to the sky as we backflipped over the trees, the children were able to explain exactly how our character was feeling with a fantastic final piece.

Super sculptures - This term, year 1 have been pinching and push... Their Clay! No need to panic, these skills have been used only to create amazing clay sculptures of a animal of their choice. They were able to identify different animal features and learn how to replicate them using their different techniques. This could be to pulling playdough to create 8 hairy tarantula legs or rolling clay to create a stretchy, slivery snake. I'm no expert but some of these models look too realistic to me especially as the children have been using different tools to create patterns and textures to make their creations come to life.

Finally, you may be aware if you want to hear or know more about what the children have done please come to our work expo - chat to teachers, learn from the children and maybe even take home a new bit of art for the living room? Join us in the afternoon on Friday 14th July.

As you can see, Year 1 learning has not stopped whether soaring through the clouds, dancing in the jungle or getting clay covered fingers, these children just don't stop learning. We have enjoyed every second with our classes this year and wish them the very best of luck as they venture into Year 2. We want to thank you for your love and support this year and show our greatest appreciation for everything you do. We hate to see our year 1's moving forward but we know that we are going to love what they are going to do next.

Year 2

Year 2 have laughed, learned and loved during the whole year. There have been many highlights in Year 2 such as visiting Marwell Zoo, getting a special visit from the Fire Service and being able to take part in a school disco. But let's not forget about their brilliant learning. All of the Year 2 children have made fantastic minibeast collages, created their own computing game, explored what happened during the Great Fire of London and have become excellent, confident and fluent readers! I think every child is raring and ready for Year 3! We all can't wait for you to all see our hard work and resilience showcased at our end of year expo. I think you'll be blown away!

Year 3

Year 3 have worked so hard all year and it has certainly paid off! Each and everyone of us have made so much progress and we cannot wait to show off all that we have achieved in our work expo at the end of the year. At the start of the year, we learnt a variety of new skills during Art week and then developed them throughout the year. This week, we have applied these skills to our Ancient Greek pottery. They took a lot of time, patience and resilience to create and the outcomes are fantastic!

We have become experts in all things light and shadow this term. We have used our scientific investigation skills to investigate how light travels and how shadows are made. We then used this knowledge to create our very own shadow puppets and made observations to decide how to make them bigger and smaller. We loved doing this!

Those scary dragons are still on the loose! Luckily, year three have been writing some very detailed non-chronological reports that use expert language. After reading one of these, you will know all about the dragons' appearance, habitat, diet and statistics. How else will we warn the public of the dangers of the Bitterne Park dragons?

Year three auditions for the talent show have been taking place this week. From singing, dancing and playing musical instruments to magic shows and football skills, year 3 have got it all! What a talented year group we are!

Year 4

What a year it has been in year 4! It seems so long ago that the children came in enthusiastically to create a tension filled paragraph about Miss Trunchbull to now create their own twisted version of a fairy tale. A range of skills such as show me not tell me, fronted adverbials and powerful verbs have been used by the children to create an engaging and exciting storyline. We are so proud of the progress and creativity shown in their writing. In maths, the children have all made huge strides in their times tables- they have used rhymes, patterns and constant practice to become masters of this skill. We know these skills will stay with them for life and provide a great foundation to their year 5 maths learning.

We have been exploring what it means to be a geographer this half term. Comparing and contrasting, using maps and describing cause and effect are key skills. Using this, we looked at how Dubai turns its vast source of salty seawater into drinkable water to create a sustainable and desirable place to live, work and visit. In contrast, we explored the initiative shown by a range of less economically developed countries to create systems to sanitise water. Replacing financial strength with creativity and initiative was needed for these people to design Tippy Taps, Rainwater Harvesting Jars and Chlorination treatments (to name a few). We loved learning about this!

Being a great scientist is also important to us and this has been a half time for us to showcase these skills. We observed how rain could be created indoors, predicted what the weight of air could be and experimented with different ways of presenting our results. These are skills we know the children can transfer to a range of other subjects and their own lives.

DT has been very exciting this half term as we researched and then designed our own bug houses. Materials were purposely chosen to attract a range of insects and careful consideration was made to ensure they were constructed in a way that could battle the elements and keep the bugs safe. Please let us know what inhabitants take refuge in these over the summer holidays!

We are so proud of all that the children have achieved this year. We are both sad to say goodbye but excited to hear about how our year 4 superstars continue to grow and develop in year 5.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a brilliant year and are excited about their upcoming learning in year 6. One of our final projects this half term has been making CAM toys in our DT lessons. Some of the children chose to base their toy on a book, whereas others used their imagination to create something unique to them. The children have worked incredibly hard in order to problem solve and overcome obstacles when building their mechanisms.

We are all so impressed with the outcomes which have been created including a range from acrobats at a circus and a teddy bears picnic.

In science, we have been experimenting and investigating to help Alex Rider on his spy missions. This has included finding the most appropriate material to make a zip wire and creating a new substance by combining an acid and an alkaline. The children have really enjoyed our cross curricular learning and being able to understand the essential components of spy life.

Year 6

After a long, yet very successful and enjoyable year in Year 6, we have been very focused on our Leavers' Show - "I'm an eleven year old, get me out of here!" Over the past few weeks we have held auditions, learned songs, learned lines, rehearsed, made props and rehearsed some more! We can't wait to perform the show to you in the final week.

Alongside this we have continued normal lessons. For example in English we have explored the style, structure and language of traditional fairy tales. Then we imagined what twists could happen that might change the course of the plot in interesting ways. We planned out the impact of these changes on the characters and the plot and are rewriting our versions in class. In maths we are continuing to make sure that children are 'secondary-ready' with regular practice of the key arithmetic skills for year 6. The children are then applying these to more open-ended problem solving sessions in which the task might be more investigative or experimental, looking for patterns or testing theories. It is great to see how well the children are able to apply their learning in quite challenging contexts.

Finally we are particularly looking forward to the Work Expo in the last week. Children have chosen a particular subject area to focus on and are looking back on their learning throughout the year to prepare practical demonstrations and hands-on activities to share with parents. Expect to be shown how your digestive system works, how to draw perspective, and how to write a computer programme (to name but a few). Oh and also, get revising, because one of our stalls is: "Are you smarter than an 11 year old?" involving real SATs questions for you to try out! See you there!

Dates for your Diary

- Monday, 4th September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5th September – Pupils return to school
- Thursday 7th September – Coffee morning
- Monday, 6th November - School Photographer – individual photographs
- Tuesday 21st November – Tuesday 28th November – Book Fair
- Wednesday 29th November – Young Shakespeare Company - Macbeth
- Friday, 8th December – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 12th December – 'Big Foot' Panto for KS1
- Tuesday 12th December Year 5 & 6 Mayflower trip
- Wednesday 13th December Year 3 & 4 Mayflower trip



Dates for your
Diary

STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Monday, 4th September

Friday, 8th December

Friday, 22nd March

Monday, 3rd June - Disaggregated

Tuesday, 4th June - Disaggregated

Please check the school website for up-to-date information

<http://www.bbpslive.net>

And finally.....

Do have a safe and joyful Summer break, we are working hard to focus on a great year ahead.
Thank you for choosing our school..... Mrs Montague, Miss Firman, Miss Chambers and Mr Evans.