

Bitterne Park Primary School

November 2022 Newsletter



Inspire, Thrive, Achieve

Dear Families

Welcome to our November newsletter.

Many thanks for your continued support it is very much appreciated. We are very excited to be offering some lovely Christmas celebrations and we hope to see you at one of our Christmas performances. As we speed through autumn and into winter, please remember to wrap up warm as we will still be outside at playtime. Please remember that it is school policy that only children wearing a helmet are allowed to cycle to school... With the darker mornings and evenings please check that lights are working too. Thank you.

Lest we forget



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Robert Laurence Binyon

A two-minute silence was observed at 11 o'clock on Friday, 11th November. We offered our prayers for all who serve, or have served, in the forces and their families. The children spent some time in school reflecting on a virtual workshop that took place on Wednesday 9th November, thinking about the story behind one of the world's most famous poems, In Flanders Fields, and its links to the poppy as a symbol of commemoration. They learnt about what the different coloured poppies represent and designed a new style of Remembrance poppy with a specific focus, thinking about those who fought and lost their lives during the war and honouring their memory. These poppies were all put together to form a Remembrance Display in school and you can see the photo of this on our school blog on the website.

Curriculum and Enrichment

The children are very much looking forward to their visit to the Mayflower Theatre (KS2) and Big Foot Musical Theatre (in school KS1) for exciting pantomime performances to get us all in the spirit of Christmas.

Year R

In Year R this term, we have been thinking about Diwali. We have immersed ourselves in the festival of light! We have a brand new home corner that allows us to dress up and celebrate! During Writing, we have been using our new phonics knowledge to write words and phrases about Diwali including Rama and Sita.

In Expressive Arts and Design, we have created playdough to make our very own Diva Lamp. To mirror this, we have learnt to mix our primary colours to create secondary colours. We made beautiful firework pictures. In Maths, we are focusing on our number to 10 while developing our formation, counting and ordering skills.

Year 1

In Autumn 2, Year 1 have been learning about....

Maths: We have been finishing our additional learning, recapping some of our place value and most recently have been working out subtraction. This has involved using part - part whole models, number lines to count back and crossing out. We have been experts at this, no one can stop us now we are subtraction Superheroes.

Writing: We have read the wonderful story Norman, the slug with a silly shell. Our journey start by looking at adjectives and comparing the different object oppositions he could use for a shell. We even tried some of them on as a shell, we had to test it to make sure it was only the very best for Norman! We then wrote our final piece outlining which we found to be the best option for Norman. We have also looked at the poem Chocolate Cake by Michael Rossen. We have been acting this out, linking this to our seasonal knowledge to create our own mini poems.

Topic: In geography, we have been learning about our local area. We have explored the world in which we live and discovered what our Country, the closest city, and Town are!

In Science, we received a message from the fourth little pig- He needed our help! Percy needs help in building a house to prevent the wolf from getting to him. We decided it needs to be secure, safe and warm in this cold, wet winter weather. To help him we have been learning all about different objects and their materials, helping us to consider what material would be best for different parts of the house and why. We have learnt lots of key words to help us make the decision, absorbency, transparent, opaque.

Year 2

In Year 2 we have done some excellent writing to create our own versions of the Rainbow Fish story using adjectives and adverbs. We have done lots of exploring in the Rainforest looking into animals and the different layers, as well as investigating other habitats in Science. Did you know that a polar bear has blubber to keep it warm? We are very passionate about protecting the Rainforest and Year 2 have learnt some super facts about why the Rainforest is so important!

Year 3

Year 3 have had an amazing term so far! In writing, we have been exploring 'The Twits' and writing our own additional chapter to the story where Mr Twit gets revenge! We have been thinking of revolting tricks from our trick shop and illustrating these characters' devious nature. In maths, we have been learning how to use column addition and subtraction and applying these to real life scenarios to deepen our understanding. We have been thoroughly enjoying our learning in history on Walter Tull. We have been learning about his early life, career as a professional football player and his life as a soldier in World War 1. We have been able to link this back to our prior learning on significant people across history such as Florence Nightingale!

Year 4

We have been busy recount writing this half term! The children have impressed us by writing exhilarating pieces based on the book 'My Brother is a Superhero!' In maths, our main focus has been subtraction whilst developing our confidence with a range of written methods. In history, Year 4 has enjoyed learning facts about the impact that The Roman Empire made on Britain including architecture, bathing and The Celts. We were lucky to be visited from the University of Southampton to participate in a workshop related to our electricity science topic as well! What a busy half term so far.

Year 5

In English, the children have been writing persuasive pieces on the magic, mystery and importance of our ocean and the devastating effects that plastic pollution is currently having on it. In their maths lessons, Year 5 have been focusing on the skills of multiplication and division. So far, they have learnt about factors and multiples, and have applied our knowledge through a variety of challenging activities.

Year 6

As part of our Remembrance learning, we were lucky to join a Zoom session led by 'Big Ideas' and The Maple Leaf Trust. Along with other schools in the partnership and the UK we learned the moving story of John McCrae and marked the 150th anniversary of his birth. We listened to and read his famous poem, *In Flanders Fields*, and explored its links to the poppy as a symbol of commemoration. The children were challenged to design a new style of Remembrance poppy with a specific focus. Examples included: blue for the navy, green for the wildlife and nature affected and white for the children who lost parents. Later in the week we brought our designs to life ready to add to a whole-school display.

Year R Pip and Pap Phonics

In year R we have learnt all of our orange phase sounds. The children are now working on applying their phonic knowledge and blending sounds to read rocket words! The children are very excited to explore the digraphs and trigraphs in Pink phase this term.

Year R parents have very much enjoyed attending our Friday Pip and Pap Phonics workshops learning with their children.

Rotary Shoe Box Appeal

A very big thank you to all families who filled a Rotary Club shoe box full of gifts to share with children in need this Christmas. We collected **172** "family shoeboxes" this year! They were collected by the Rotary Club who will ensure the shoeboxes reach children in Eastern Europe in time for Christmas. Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.

Scholastic Book Fair

A big thank you to all who visited our book fair last week. We raised a staggering £880.54 in rewards towards books for the school library.

Basics Bank Collection

We are once again collecting donations of tinned foods, jarred food, rice, noodles, squash etc to support those families less fortunate than ourselves around the city during the Christmas period. Thank you once again for your support.

Allergies

We have a number of children with severe nut allergies. With this in mind, I ask that families do not have any snacks and ensure that all packed lunches are 'nut free'. This includes peanut butter or Nutella and Pesto which can be a major cause of anaphylactic shock in some children. Your care and support in this is greatly appreciated.

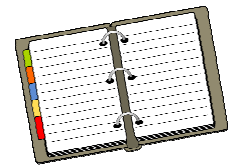


Year R 2022 Application Deadline

Year R (infant/primary school) places deadline: **15 January 2022 at 23:59**

Please ensure you have submitted your applications on time and used all 3 preferences. Late applications can result in your child missing a place at your preferred school.

Dates for your Diary



- Friday, 2nd December – Year 4 Showcase Music Concert – 2.15pm – 3.15pm
- Monday, 5th December – Year R and Year 6 Height and Weight Checks
- Monday, 5th December – Year 6 Christmas Celebrations – 2.30pm start
- Tuesday, 6th December – Year 3 Christmas Celebrations – 2.30pm start
- Wednesday, 7th December – Year 5 Christmas Celebrations – 2.30pm start
- Thursday, 8th December – Singing Club performance at Bitterne Park Secondary – 5.30pm – 6.30pm
- Thursday, 8th December – Year R Christmas Celebrations – 2.30pm start
- Friday, 9th December – Year 4 Christmas Celebrations – 2.30pm start
- Monday, 12th December – Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 – Bigfoot Panto (in school - morning)
- Monday, 12th December – Year 2 Christmas Celebrations – 2.30pm start
- Tuesday, 13th December – Year 1 Christmas Celebrations – 2.30pm start
- Wednesday, 14th December – School Christmas dinner and Christmas Jumper day (donations to Save the Children)
- Thursday, 15th December – Year 3 and 4 – Goldilocks at the Mayflower
- Friday, 16th December – Year 5 and 6 – Goldilocks at the Mayflower
- Friday, 16th December – break up for Christmas holidays
- Tuesday, 3rd January – school opens for Spring term
- Monday, 6th March - Class Photographs
- w/c 13th March – Year 5 Bikeability
- w/c 13th March – Year 5 swimming for 3 weeks
- w/c 10th July – Year 6 Residential to Skern Lodge

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerida Montague".

Gerida Montague
Executive Headteacher