Be courageous; Be strong. Do everything in love (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

Bitterley CE Primary School Newsletter 23.10.26

Attendance

WWC	93%
FFC	87%
MOC	88%



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful way to end our first half term! It has been another busy and exciting week at Bitterley, filled with opportunities to celebrate our children's learning, achievements and the fantastic community we are so fortunate to be part of.

We started the week with a fantastic Careers Morning on Monday, when we welcomed visitors from a wide range of professions, including a pilot, paramedic, footballer and photojournalist.

It was a brilliant opportunity for the children to learn about the many different career paths available to them and to begin thinking about the exciting possibilities their futures might hold. Our visitors shared their experiences and talked about the values, skills and personal qualities that are important in their roles, helping the children to understand that attributes such as determination, resilience, teamwork and a willingness to learn are valuable whatever path they choose.

The children were a real credit to the school. They listened attentively, asked thoughtful questions and showed genuine interest and respect towards our visitors. It was lovely to see their enthusiasm and curiosity.

Oaks Class also wrote some wonderful thank-you letters to our visitors, expressing their appreciation for the time they had given and reflecting on what they had learnt.
A huge thank you to all our visitors for so generously giving up their time to inspire our children, and a special thank you to Mrs Archer for coordinating such a brilliant, varied and action-packed morning.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Parents' Evening this week. It was wonderful to welcome you into school and have the opportunity to share and celebrate the learning, achievements and progress your children have made during this first half term.

For all of our staff, it has been incredibly rewarding to see how well the children have settled into their new classes, established positive routines and risen to the high expectations we have for their learning, behaviour and attitudes.

We are proud of the progress being made, not only academically but also in the children's growing confidence, independence and relationships with one another.

The partnership between home and school is so important, and we really value these opportunities to talk together about your child's successes and next steps. Thank you for your continued encouragement and support.

We ended the half term with our first church service of the school year, our Harvest Festival.
It was a lovely occasion and a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community to reflect on the importance of gratitude, generosity and helping others.

A big thank you to Rev Parker, who led the service so brilliantly, and to all the children who performed their songs, poems and prayers with such confidence and enthusiasm. It was lovely to see them taking pride in their contributions and supporting one another throughout the service.

It was particularly special to see so many parents and carers joining us. Your presence and support mean a great deal to the children and help make these occasions so memorable.

Thank you also to everyone who kindly donated items for Ludlow Food Bank. Your generosity will make a real difference to families within our wider community and is a wonderful example of our school values of love, kindness and belonging in action.

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support, encouragement and feedback.

It has certainly been a busy and, at times, long eight weeks, but it has also been an incredibly positive start to the school year. We have seen the children settle confidently into school life, embrace new challenges and demonstrate a real enthusiasm for their learning.

We have continued to focus on building a strong sense of belonging, positive relationships and high expectations across the school, and it has been wonderful to see the progress we are making together.

I would also like to thank our dedicated staff team for their hard work, care and commitment throughout the half term. Their enthusiasm and determination to provide the very best for our children are greatly appreciated.

I hope all our children, families and staff enjoy a wonderful half-term break and have the opportunity for some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term.

Have a lovely half term!

Mrs West and the Bitterley team.

After school clubs

After half term, the following clubs are being run:
Monday – Dance Club with Mrs Archer, for children in Yr 3 to Yr 6.
Tuesday – Jam Coding Club with external supplier, for children in Reception to Yr 6.
Wednesday – Sports Club with a coach from Shrewsbury Town Football Club. For children in Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2.
Thursday – British Sign Language Club with Miss Pressley, for children in Yr 2 to Yr 6.

Letters were sent out on Wednesday for Dance, BSL and Sports Clubs. A reminder with the booking link was sent out via Dojo for the Jam Coding Club.

Please let the school office know if your child would like to attend a particular club. Payment requests will be sent out via Eduspot after half term.

Learning Value Awards

	 Enthusiasm	 Determination	 Perseverance	 Creativity	 Collaboration
Little Acorns	To all of our Little Acorns that joined in with our Soup and Songs event yesterday. Their homemade soup was delicious and they all worked so hard to learn the words and actions of our Harvest Songs. I think our families will agree that they did a fantastic job.				

Little Acorns

Eddy the Teddy is going home with Erin and Amelia for the half term break, they have both been so helpful, considerate and kind this week that he just couldn't choose between them!

Upcoming PTA Events



Are you having a sort out this half term? We are looking for any second hand books you might be wishing to donate to the school for our next PTA event on Friday 6th November 2026.
If you have any books you would like to donate, please could you bring these in to school by Tuesday 3rd November 2026.

Also, if you are able to make a cake or biscuits, etc, we would be very grateful. Please could you bring these into school on the morning of Friday 6th November.

Bitterley C of E Primary School PTA

DIARY DATES

2026/27

Friday 9th October	Non school Uniform day	Oaks - Red Firs - Blue Willows - Orange Little Acorns - Green
Friday 9th October	Children will be bringing their Christmas designs home	
Friday 16th October	Christmas Designs must be returned back to school	
Friday 16th October	Family Bingo Night	Bitterley Village Hall 6.30pm for 7pm
Friday 6th November	Second hand book fair and cake sale	3.15pm at school

Monday 9th November	Raffle Tickets coming home with children
Date to be confirmed	Sponsored Santa Run
Friday 5th February 2027	Quiz Night



Dates for the diary

Please note that there may be occasions when a date may need to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Further detail about each event will be sent nearer the time.



September

Coffee with Mrs West 3:15pm – 28th September 2026
First aid workshop KS2 - 29th September 2026
Phonics workshop 9am (Reception parents) – 30th September 2026

October

Black history month
Non- uniform day – Friday 9th October
Year 5/6 Condover 2027 Residential parent meeting – Wednesday 14th October
Autumn Bingo night – Friday 16th October
Careers Day - 19th October 2026
Parents Evening 3:30- 6pm - 19th October 2026
Parents Evening 3:30- 6pm - 20th October 2026
Harvest service at St. Mary's Church, Bitterley – Friday 23rd October 2.00pm. Everyone welcome.
26.10.26 to 30.10.26 – Half term

November

Remembrance Service & visit by Justin Parker – Friday 6th November
MTC workshop (Year 4 parents) 2:45pm - 11th November 2026
Children in need - 13th November 2026
Anti-bullying week – Break the silence - 16th November 2026
Odd socks day – wear an odd pair of socks - 16th November 2026
Oaks Class Coffee morning and Christmas decorating at Bitterley Village Hall – 27th November

December

Christmas Craft Day – TBC
Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 9th December
Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 10th December
Christmas Service -TBC
Carols around the tree - TBC
Pantomime Trip Yr R – Yr6 – Thursday 17th December
Christmas celebrations in classes – Friday 18th December
End of term – Friday 18th December

Bitterley CE Primary School

School Term and Holiday Dates 2026/27

Autumn Term

Term starts Thursday 3rd September 2026

Half term, Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026

Term ends Friday 18th December 2026

Spring Term

Term starts Wednesday 6th January 2027

Half term, Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2027

Term ends Thursday 25th March 2027

Summer Term

Term starts Monday 12th April 2027

Half term, Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2027

Term ends Tuesday 20th July 2027

Staff Development days – children not in school

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Tuesday 5th January 2027

Please note: these dates differ slightly from those published by the Local Authority