



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

## Bitterley CE Primary School Newsletter 10.10.25

### Attendance

|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| WWC | 84% |
| FFC | 93% |
| MOC | 98% |



### Safeguarding Concern

It has been brought to our attention that the children's book series 'Spy Dogs/Pups' and 'Spy Cat books', written by Andrew Cope, contains a link to a website which contains highly pornographic content.

The book invited children to explore the website to find out more about the characters. It appears the website (identified on the back or inside page) had once belonged to Andrew Cope (author) but the domain printed in the book has subsequently been acquired by a third party.



It seems this matter is circulating on Tick Tok with a lot of attention being given to the issue. Puffin, the publisher of the series, is now working to remove the affected editions from primary schools and bookshops. At school we have removed copies of these books from our libraries.

To support the management of this at home please:

1. Check reading books.
2. If you use an online reader programme, disable the access to this series.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

## Xmas4schools™

Today your child will bring home a PTA Christmas card project form. This includes a letter explaining what you need to do to order high quality cards, gift labels, tea towels, calendars & mugs. The school PTA earns £1 per product sold. There is a form on the reverse which parents/carers can complete and return to school by **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October**. Once this order is placed, parents will receive their orders within two weeks. This is a great way to raise money for our school.



### Conkeration

On Monday, following a whole school assembly, we'll be launching the traditional game of conkers! This cherished game has stood the test of time, enjoyed by generations. With a conker in hand, we're excited to keep the connection alive! Pupils are welcome to bring in their own conkers from home, but remember, they shouldn't be baked, boiled, painted, or soaked in vinegar—those are against the rules! Don't worry if you don't have one, as all children will be provided with conkers. Rest assured; all lunchtime tournaments will be supervised.

What are the rules of playing conkers?

1. Ready, set, swing! Aim to give your opponent's conker a good thwack.
2. Missed on the first try? Don't worry. You get two more swings to redeem your conker's honour.
3. Tangled strings? The first to shout "strings" earns an extra shot.

4. A hit causing the opponent's conker to complete a full circle (known as 'round the world') grants the hitter an extra go.
  5. The game continues in turns until one of the conkers is completely destroyed.
- Why not have a practise at home?



## Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October - High Sheriff returns

Youth Awareness Day is a powerful new campaign designed to spotlight the needs and potential of young people across Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin. Spearheaded by the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Jane Trowbridge, this is a youth-led initiative that aims to make a real difference. On Thursday, 16th October, schools in the region will wear blue to show solidarity and hope for our next generation. Pupils at Bitterley are encouraged to wear something blue and make a small voluntary donation to support youth charities in South Shropshire.



We're excited to announce that pupils in Mighty Oaks will be running their own mini challenge! We'd love for everyone to bring in copper coins to create a continuous coin trail around the playground. All the funds raised will go to support youth charities in South Shropshire.



## Harvest Donations

As part of theme of helping our community the pupils would like all food donations to go to the Ludlow Foodbank. Please can you send in non-perishable items to classes next week in preparation for the service. Examples are provided below. Thank you.

- Cereal
- Soup
- Pasta
- Rice
- Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce
- Lentils, beans and pulses
- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Tea/coffee
- Tinned fruit
- Biscuits
- UHT milk
- Fruit juice

## Harvest Service

This is taking place on Tuesday 21st October, starting at 10.00am at St. Mary's Church, Bitterley. All families are welcome. Please ensure all children have a coat and warm clothing. We will be transported to and from church by minibuses.



## Wall of remembrance

We would like our school community to come together to mark Remembrance Day by creating a beautiful wall of poppies in the school grounds. The poppy has become a powerful symbol of remembrance for those who lost their lives in World War One, and it now serves as a heartfelt tribute to all those who continue to serve today. We invite everyone to get creative! Whether you prefer knitting, sewing, or crafting poppies out of recycled materials, your contributions will help us honour this important occasion. We've also reached out to members of Bitterley village and the Women's Institute to contribute to this event, making it a true community effort. Please remember to return your poppies by Tuesday, 5th November, to ensure we have them ready for display. Thank you for your support in remembering those who sacrificed so much for us.

## Sports Leaders



As the new year starts, we're thrilled to introduce our new sports leaders! They'll promote sport in school by organising lunchtime activities and fundraising events. We can't wait to see the amazing things they'll achieve.

## School Reading Volunteers

Could you spare a small amount of time each week to become a regular reading volunteer at Bitterley School, and help us with one of our most important activities? Helping children to become confident, independent readers is one of the most important things that a school can do - and it is an area of our work where parents, carers and other members of the community can make a big difference. We are looking for volunteers who come into our school regularly

and help the children with their reading by listening to them read and talking to them about their books and reading choices. We are always keen to hear from people who would be interested to help us in supporting the teaching of reading by joining our volunteers.

Please contact class teachers or the school office if you are interested. Bitterley School is committed to safeguarding all of our pupils: we require enhanced criminal record checks (through the Disclosure and Barring Service) and background checks for all regular volunteers.

## **Birthday Books**

If it's your child's birthday, why not celebrate by donating a book to the class library? Each book will get a special birthday book sticker and will be presented during assembly for everyone to enjoy.

|                                |                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Birthday Book                  |  |
| This book was donated by _____ |                                                                                    |
| on _____                       |                                                                                    |

Books must be of new quality please.

## **Art Club**

After half term, we're excited to launch a new art club for KS2. Mrs Pitts, a talented artist who hosts workshops across Shropshire, will be leading the sessions. Each Tuesday evening from 3:20pm to 4:20pm, children can explore their creativity and produce fantastic artwork to bring home each week, celebrating their achievements. The cost is just £4 per session. Check out some examples of Ms Pitts' amazing work in schools below! We can't wait to see what will be created. Letters will be sent out next week for your child to attend if they would like to.



## In school this week

### Little Acorns Class



It has been a very busy week in our Little Acorns garden this week, we have been making the most of the Autumn sunshine!

## Wondrous Willows Class



This week the children have been developing their understanding of instructions.

## Fantastic Firs Class



Yesterday, Firs had a fantastic trip to the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, learning all about how volcanoes erupt and how different rocks are formed. We carried out a rock soil survey, testing the pH level of the soil. The children got really into observing the smell, colour, texture, and consistency, and they even conducted a sedimentation test. It was an exciting day filled with hands-on learning!

## Mighty Oaks Class



This week, we've been brainstorming ways to make our village more inviting. We're excited to share our ideas at the village harvest supper.





During PHSE, we explored the challenges faced by refugees moving to a new country. Each ball represented a barrier that could overwhelm people. It really brought home the difficulties they encounter and made us think about empathy and support.

## Learning Value Awards

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |  |  |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | Enthusiasm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Determination                                                                     | Perseverance                                                                      | Creativity                                                                         | Collaboration                                                                       |
| Little Acorns | Amelia for ALWAYS wanting to do things for herself!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |
|               | Effie for sharing equipment - from Mrs Wilson<br>Pippa for being a super role model - from Mrs Archer<br>Nova for helping others at playtime - from Mrs France<br>Josh for making everyone welcome - from Mrs France<br>Leila for being helpful to all adults - from Mrs France<br>Theo for showing determination to succeed - from Mrs France<br>Mr Thomas for playing football - from year 6 |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |

## Christian Vision awards

|  |  <b>BITTERLEY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL</b><br><i>"Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love" (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Little Acorns                                                                       | Erin for noticing that her sister's bike wheel had got stuck and rushing to help her.                                                                                                                           |
| Wondrous Willows                                                                    | Addison for her super enthusiasm in our outside learning work. Kurt for his collaborative nature in supporting his friends during our maths work.                                                               |
| Fantastic Firs                                                                      | Charlie D. for showing excellent enthusiasm in maths, particularly with times tables. Ezra for showing great creativity through art.                                                                            |
| Mighty Oaks                                                                         | Pippa for consistently showing creativity and enthusiasm. Reuben for determination in maths.                                                                                                                    |

## Handwriting Heroes

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Wondrous Willows | Olive   |
| Fantastic Firs   | Ashton  |
| Mighty Oaks      | William |



Ada - Iron



## TTRS Awards

Fern - Headliner

## Homework

| Wondrous Willows                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Fantastic Firs                                                                                                                                                           | Mighty Oaks                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Reception</p> <p>This week homework will be to read your school reading book.</p> <p>Complete page 7 in your Maths books Homework</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Y3</p> <p>Maths p12 - 13</p> <p>Reading comprehension p10 - 11</p> <p>TTRS 5 minutes a day</p> <p>Reading 15 minutes a day</p> <p>Comment in yellow reading log</p>   | <p>Y5</p> <p>Maths workout 5</p> <p>Reading comprehension p10-11 Tales of King Arthur</p> <p>TTRS 5 minutes a day</p> <p>Reading 20 minutes a day</p> <p>Review in green reading log</p> |
| <p>Year 1</p> <p>Read your school reading book</p> <p>Practise your mental calculations using NUMBOTS</p> <p>Practise for our spelling test on Monday – day, cloud, boy, read, said</p> <p>Complete page 9 in your Maths Homework books</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p>Read your school reading book every day and ask an adult to record your reading in your Reading Record books</p> <p>Practise your mental calculations using NUMBOTS</p> | <p>Y4</p> <p>Reading comprehension – p10 - 11</p> <p>Maths p12 - 13</p> <p>TTRS 5 minutes a day</p> <p>Reading 15 minutes a day</p> <p>Comment in yellow reading log</p> | <p>Y6</p> <p>Maths workout 5</p> <p>Reading comprehension p10-11 Cider with Rosie</p> <p>TTRS 5 minutes a day</p> <p>Reading 20 minutes a day</p> <p>Review in green reading log</p>     |

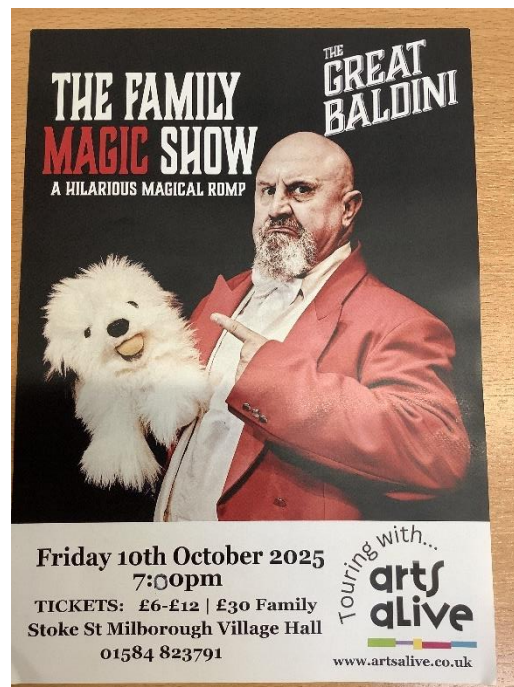
Practise for our spelling test on Monday – happy, each, apron, shriek, myth

Complete Workout 5 on pages 10 & 11 in your Maths Homework books

Complete page 5 in your Reading Comprehension books

Please note that YR and Y1 reading books need to be returned to school on Monday morning. Y2 will need their reading books and Reading Records in school every day.

Y1&Y2 Maths books and Y2 Reading Comprehension books are now due in by Thursday.



### PTA Dates for the diary

Bake Sale - October 3rd & Nov 7th

Halloween Disco - 24th October

Christmas Wreath making - 27th November

Christmas Fayre - 6th December

Christmas Movie night - 12th December

Elfridge's Christmas Shop - 18th December (TBC)

Quiz at Rugby club - January 23rd



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.

### Dates for the diary

#### October

1st October to 31st October - Black History Month

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October - Careers Day

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October - Parent/Carer Meetings Evening - 3:30pm - 6:00pm

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Parent/Carer Meetings Evening - 3:30pm - 6:00pm

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Harvest Service at Bitterley Church, 10.00am

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Half Term

#### November

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Swimming commences for FFC.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Anti-bullying week

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Odd socks day

Tuesday 11th November - Maths workshop for parents YR-6

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need Day

### **December**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Y4-5 Advent Service, Hereford Cathedral

Wednesday 10th December - Christmas play at Bitterley Village Hall (1.30pm & 5.00pm performances)

Thursday 11th December - Whole school pantomime trip to Ludlow Assembly Rooms

### **The Staff Team**



**Bitterley C.E. Primary School**  
**School Term and Holiday Dates 2025/26**

**Autumn Term**

Term Starts Wednesday 3rd September 2025  
Half Term Monday 27th October 2025- Friday 31st October 2025  
Term Ends Friday 19th December 2025

**Spring Term**

Term Starts Monday 5th January 2026  
Half Term Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Term Ends Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Summer Term**

Term Starts Monday 13th April 2026  
Half Term Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026  
Term Ends Thursday 16th July 2026

**Staff Development days—children not in school**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025  
Monday 5th January 2026

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