



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

## Bitterley CE Primary School Newsletter 12.09.25

### Attendance & Punctuality

At Bitterley Primary School we place an emphasis on the importance of regular and punctual school attendance. We believe through good attendance at school children will achieve higher attainment, have better opportunities and establish good habits that will support them throughout their lives. Each week we report the attendance figures for each class. The aim of this is to promote good attendance for the children in our school and, as parents, we need your help and support to ensure your child reaches his or her full potential.



School opens at 8:40am your child can arrive between then and 8:55am. Arriving on time for school is important as late arrivals are disruptive for the class and can be embarrassing for the child who is late. Children can also miss important information during registration including the plan for the day. We understand that school mornings can be hectic, but ... Did you know? Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school!



We understand that there may be unavoidable circumstances on occasions when your child is absent from school, and we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the school absence procedures.

## **Illness**

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your children off school when they're unwell. It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a temperature, keep them off school until the fever goes. Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least two days (48 hours). <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> Please contact the school office by 9.00am if your child is unwell and will not be attending school.

## **Competition**

While we understand that illness happens and is unfortunate, the Trust want to celebrate all those who have 100% attendance in school. At the end of each term, children who have 100% attendance will receive a special certificate and earn an extra-curricular treat for their class!

## **BASC Bookings**

A reminder that bookings must be made via Eduspot and if any last minute booking are made, these must be paid for by the following day. Unfortunately, if arrears remain unpaid, we will not be able to take any bookings going forward. Please do contact us if you have any questions regarding this.

## Careers Day



Are you willing to inspire, motivate and engage our children all about a range of successful career paths and an array of vocations?

We're having a Careers Day on Monday 20th October.

### **Our aims are to:**

Excite our children about their learning and how a successful education will aid their future.

Help our children create goals and aspirations.

Broaden and waken their imagination and dreams.

Motivate them with their learning.

**We are calling for anyone from any walk of life to share their educational journey and career paths to our children. It could be:**

Healthcare Professionals

Police/Armed Forces

Bankers

Librarians

Graphic Designers & Web Development

Dentists

Council Services

Plumbers

Fashion Stylists

Aerospace & Science

Photography

Veterinary Services

Business Owners & Entrepreneurs

Postal Services

Teachers/Lecturers

Engineers

Lawyers

Local Council Leaders

Sporting Professionals

Drama, Writing and Acting

If this is something you would be interested in, *please*

*email [admin@bitterley.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bitterley.shropshire.sch.uk) or contact the class teacher.*

## **Our School Council**

To support British Values the children have the opportunity to stand for election in our school council elections. Each candidate will need to prepare a short manifesto and then children in their year group vote for them, in a secret ballot. Once elected, pupils will plan activities to support the development of the school such as a KS2 tuck shop and reading area. Our school council elections will be Monday 13th October.

## **Waterproof Coats**

As the weather starts to turn more autumnal, please can you make sure all children bring an appropriate coat, preferably waterproof, to school daily. Children do take part in activities outside wherever possible so an outdoor coat every day is essential.

## **E-Safety Message - Fortnite**

We are writing to you to make sure that you are aware of a game that many of our children are playing online. The game in question is called Fortnite. It is a free online survival game, in its basic form, with players working together on various missions against an army of zombie-like creatures that are trying to kill them.

Despite Fortnite having a PEGI rating of 12, some of our children have been playing this game online and reported inappropriate comments from unknown online players. We are concerned that not all parents will understand what the game involves and so we are attaching some information which you might find useful when deciding whether or not your child should play the game. Can we urge you to sit with your child at some point when Fortnite is on the screen and to keep an eye on how who is in their shared online community at any given time.

Please do take the time to have a read of the attached documents which will give you the facts about the game.

## **Homework**

Homework will be set each week by the class teacher. This will be a mixture of reading and maths activities. Homework will be set on a Friday and due in on Thursday. The answers are in the back of the CGP books for your reference only. Please use these to support your child.

## **Mighty Oaks Homework**

Maths 10-minute weekly workout Autumn term work out 1 pages 2-3

Reading comprehension

Year 6 Dragon Pearl pages 2-3

Year 5 Portrait of a dragon pages 2-3

## **Times table rock stars homework - Mighty Oaks and Fantastic Firs**

Times Tables Rock Stars is an award-winning maths learning platform where children can practise their times tables like a rock star!

Suitable for all learners the question-based games automatically adapt to each child's unique learning needs, helping them to recall their times tables in record speed. Accessible on any device, via the app or browser, children can play anytime, anywhere.

### **Little and often**

In order to get the best out of TTRS, we recommend that children play regularly for short bursts at a time, aiming for 3 minutes, five times a week.

Find out more by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZxZbRVvbYM>

## **Numbots Homework Year 1 and 2**

What is NumBots? NumBots is an online maths learning platform that helps children learn how to add and subtract, improving their fluency and recall in basic mental maths, and equipping them with maths confidence. NumBots covers subitising, number bonds, and addition and subtraction of double-digit numbers; gradually helping your pupils to build a solid conceptual understanding of number sense.

### **Little and often**

In order to get the best out of NumBots, we recommend that children play regularly for short bursts at a time, aiming for 3 minutes, five times a week.

What is NumBots? An introduction for

Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEtVaPpWSQo>

A day in the life of a NumBot

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnfBBgms0-E>

## **Asthma**

Can you please update the office regarding any changes to asthma care plans for your child for this year.

## **Potential choking hazards for young children**

Grapes are a good healthy fruit snack but if you include grapes in your child's packed lunch, please remember to always cut them lengthwise first. Thank you for your cooperation.

In school this week

Little Acorns Class



Our Little Acorns have been exploring the signs of the changing season.

## Wondrous Willows Class



This week WWC have been enjoying Forest School which supports the building of relationship and teamwork skills by providing a natural environment for collaborative activities, such as building shelters and solving problems, which fosters empathy, communication, and a sense of community among children. It is also a lot of fun!

### **Homework for YR:**

This week homework will be to read your school reading book. Next week we will introduce a Maths book too.

### **Homework for Y1:**

Read your school reading book.

Practise your mental calculations using NUMBOTS.

Practise for our spelling test on Monday - feel, food, sort, down, out.

Complete pages 2&3 in your Maths Homework books.

### **Homework for Y2:**

Read your school reading book every day and ask an adult to record your reading in your Reading Record books.

Practise your mental calculations using NUMBOTS.

Practise for our spelling test on Monday - they, believe, whole, eye, happy.

Complete Workout 1 on pages 2&3 in your Maths Homework books.

Complete page 1 in your Reading Comprehension books.

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

## **Fantastic Firs Class**



This week, Fantastic Firs have been getting stuck into their new class text 'King of the Birds.' They have been answering comprehension questions and looking at key vocabulary from the story.

### **Homework**

KS2 English Reading Comprehension book - Yrs 3 & 4 to complete pages 2 & 3.

KS2 Maths book -

Yr 3 - Complete pages 2 to 4

Yr 4 - Complete pages 2 to 6

## **Mighty Oaks Class**



This week, we discovered evidence of an alien encounter! It's all part of our new English unit about journeys, sparking excitement and creativity.







We have explored the technique of paper cut in art.





During science, we spent time exploring the order of the planets and their distances from the sun. We also met Kallan, a Graduate Physicist from the Ministry of Defence, who shared intriguing insights about potential career paths in physics.

## Learning Value Awards

					
	Enthusiasm	Determination	Perseverance	Creativity	Collaboration
Little Acorns	Aurora for great enthusiasm in her play as she makes new friendships.				
Wondrous Willows	Paisley for her collaborative nature and the support that she offers her friends. Myla for her enthusiasm in all of our learning.				
Fantastic Firs	Teddy and Reuben for both showing excellent enthusiasm.				
Mighty Oaks	James for showing enthusiasm and determination in maths. Zara for consistently showing our learning values.				

## Christian Vision awards

	 <b>BITTERLEY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> <i>"Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love" (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)</i>
Little Acorns	Lottie for returning to Little Acorns Class with confidence and showing kindness to a younger child.
Fantastic Firs	Lucas for showing kindness to his peers. Charlie S. for being a super helper.
Mighty Oaks	Lizzie, James, Zara and Caspar for being great Buddies. Effie, Thea, Pippa, AJ and Joe for helping children in Willows class.

## Handwriting Heroes

Wondrous Willows	Ana
Fantastic Firs	Archie
Mighty Oaks	Jordan

## Attendance

WWC	98%
FFC	92%
MOC	95%



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

#### September

Monday 8th September - Swimming begins for MOC.

Monday 15th September - Y6 SATs information meeting for parents  
- International Democracy Day

Friday 19th September - Jeans for genes day

Tuesday 23rd September - Phonics and reading workshop for parents YR-6

22nd -28th September - Recycling week

Thursday 25th September - Cross Country Carding Mill Valley, FFC

#### October

1st October to 31st October - Black History Month

Thursday 2nd October - Cross Country Carding Mill Valley, MOC

Friday 10th October - World Mental Health Day

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

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

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

Tuesday 21st October - Harvest Service at Bitterley Church, 10.00am

Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October - Half Term

#### November

Monday 3rd November - Swimming commences for FFC.

Monday 10th November to Friday 14th November - Anti-bullying week

Monday 10th 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 - 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.**