



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

Bitterley CE Primary School Newsletter 13.06.25

Sports Day - Tuesday 17th June

Our annual sports day is taking place next Tuesday. Parents and carers are welcome to bring a picnic and eat with their children on the school field from 12.00pm. Please do not use the Forest School area under the trees at the bottom of the field. During this time, parents are responsible for their child. Pupils will return to their classes at 1.00pm for registration.

We aim to start races at 1:10pm and should finish at approximately 2:50pm in time for the end of the school day. Pupils will be collected from classes by their parents and carers.

Please cancel your child's school lunch for Tuesday if you are bringing a picnic for them.

As in previous years, we will be cancelling school buses on this afternoon and ask that parents/carers take their children home with them once the races have concluded. If cancelling transport raises any issues for any parents/carers, please contact the school office by Monday 16th June.

Farewell

We are sorry to say that Miss Leeson will be leaving us for pastures new at the end of the summer term. She will be joining the staff at Shifnal Primary school. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Miss Leeson good luck in her new post and thank her for her commitment to our school over the past twelve months. We shall miss her dedication, laughter and support. Good luck.

Class Structures 2025-2026

This year from September, class structures will look slightly different due to a decline in the birth rate.

Wondrous Willows will be a reception, year 1 and year 2 class. This model is used successfully across schools in Shropshire and the UK. Miss Jones has had the opportunity to work closely with other schools who currently have this model in place.

All class teachers will be supported by teaching assistants.

Each year we review our class structure alongside our budget and pupil numbers.

Below are some answers to 'frequently asked questions' by parents about this.

How will we cover the National Curriculum?

We follow the National Curriculum which offers a spiral curriculum and means that pupils can be taught within mixed years. This is successfully achieved by many schools.

The class structure for 2025-2026 will be:

Nursery - Mrs Lacey and Mrs Lane

Reception, year 1 and year 2 - Miss Jones

Year 3 and 4 - Miss Rees

Year 5 and 6 - Mrs Archer and Mrs France

All of the classes will be supported by teaching assistants.

Learning and the curriculum: Will the separate curriculums be covered at EYFS and KS1?

We plan and teach the wider curriculum (e.g. science, history, art) lessons as a cycle across the school to accommodate mixed class teaching.

We ensure that all areas of the National Curriculum are taught across the correct phase (EYFS, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2, Upper Key Stage 2). This means that, for example, some children will learn about "The Great Fire of London" in Year 1 and some will learn about it in when they are in Year 2.

English lessons have always been the same for both year groups although the finer teaching objectives for each year group differ. In maths we have been using the White Rose mixed-age planning materials this year which means that pupils in the class all learn about the same concept at the same time but are taught the appropriate content for their year group.

How do lessons work in a Reception and KS1 mixed age class?

Most lessons take place as a whole class although staff plan creatively so that pupils are taught what they are needed in the way that will help them learn best. Sometimes teachers teach one year group at a time for short periods within a lesson, while the others do an activity led by the Teaching Assistant (TA), Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) or work independently. We carefully consider the staffing of both Teachers and TAs across the school as a whole. By differentiating tasks and providing the necessary support or challenge, we ensure that all pupils are working at their appropriate level, irrespective of class structure.

Will my child make the necessary progress?

Our priorities as a school are to ensure all pupils make progress academically, that they are safe and that their experience at the school is one to remember positively. There is no evidence to suggest that being in a mixed year class has any detrimental effect on the education of children in that class. Our teachers and planned curriculum ensure that teachers skilfully aim lesson content at the different year groups in each class. Mixed-year classes enable teachers to revisit simpler content with pupils who need it. Currently and historically, all the teaching at Bitterley has been judged to be good. Our pupils continue to make good progress in both the smaller and larger classes because of the excellent intervention and support offered by our staff and you at home.

Pupil experience

It has been found there are advantages to being taught in a mixed year groups such as problem-solving skills, vocabulary and social competences. There is often a greater sense of cooperation and opportunities to work with a wider circle of peers.

How will mixed year classes be monitored?

Teachers regularly monitor student progress through both informal day-to-day assessments and formal evaluations. For students who need additional support, we are committed to creating innovative strategies, supporting them within the classroom or through targeted intervention groups. We also compare books across teams to ensure consistent standards and outcomes. Members of the Leadership Team frequently monitor lessons and books, and this includes observations of lessons. Where things could be improved, staff are supported in this. Governors monitor the progress of pupils termly, as well as over time.

Will pupils' emotional needs be picked up, and pupils nurtured in a mixed class?

Emotional needs are picked up in all the usual ways and the older children are often able to pass on the benefit of experience in class discussions. We have strong values as a school and work with all pupils on this through daily interactions, assemblies, worship and specific RSHE lessons. We are committed to nurturing every child's development and well-being.

We have planned a **'Moving Up'** morning on **Tuesday 8th July** for your children to meet their new class teachers and the teaching assistant who will be in their classes.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Arthog 2025

Mighty Oaks pupils had a fantastic three days at Arthog, filled with excitement and adventure! From paddle boarding and canoeing to gorge walking and rock climbing, the pupils embraced every activity with enthusiasm. Scrambling through the rugged terrain and participating in team-building games helped to foster camaraderie and resilience among the groups.

Throughout the trip, many staff members at the centre commented on the exemplary behaviour of our pupils. Their respectful attitude and willingness to try new challenges truly stood out, making everyone proud to be associated with them. It's safe to say that our Mighty Oaks pupils did not just take part; they shone brightly and supported one another brilliantly. They should be extremely proud of their achievements over the three days.





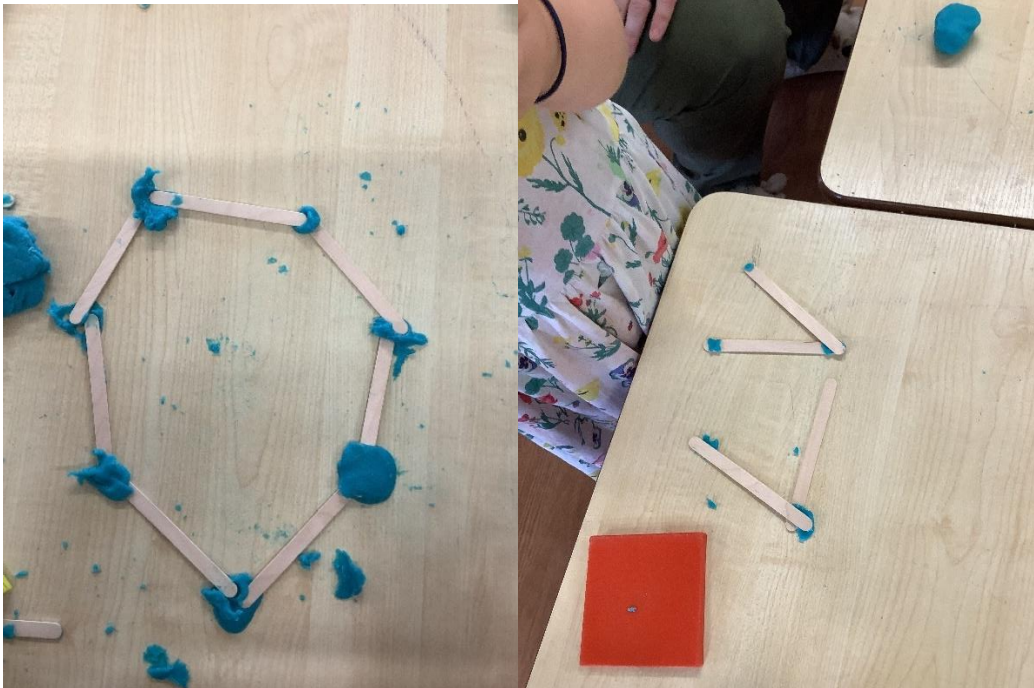
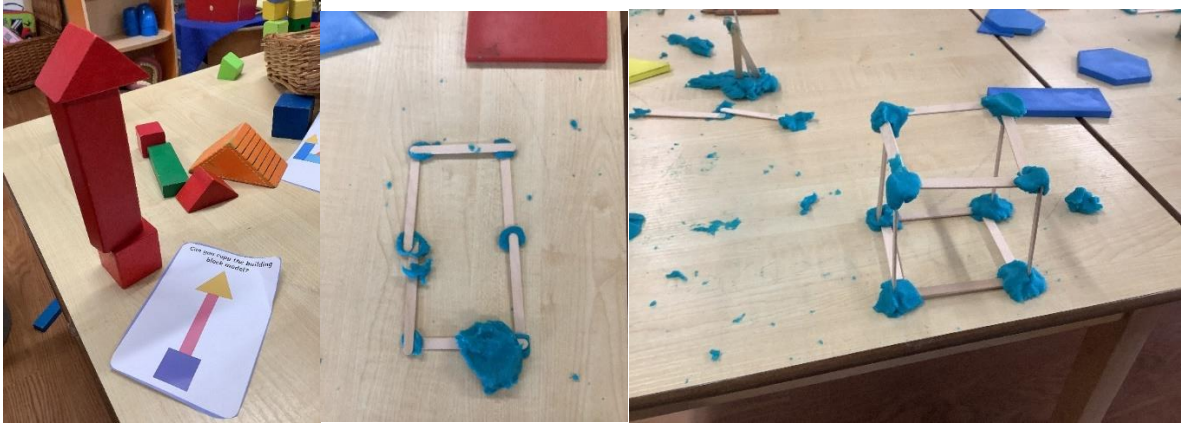






In school this week

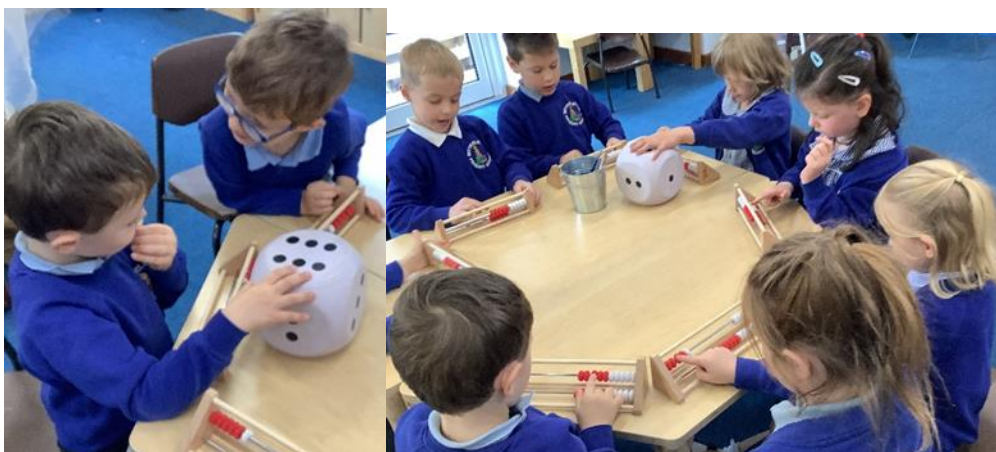
Little Acorns





Shapes, shapes and more shapes in Little Acorns Class this week! Our children have been using playdough to make their 3D structures more stable. Following construction diagrams and making 2D shapes with craft sticks.

Wondrous Willows



This week in WWC Year Reception have been using a Rekenrek (a counting rack composed of 20 beads in two rows of ten with five red and five white on each rod) for the first time and Year 1 have been investigating the scientific question - Do taller trees have wider trunks? We have also been making cards using a printing and stencil technique.

Majestic Maples



This week in Maples Class, we learned that a fruit is the part of a plant that has the seeds in. We had a look at some foods and made guesses about whether they were fruits based on our idea of seeds. After that, we cut them in half to check for seeds inside. If we found seeds, then we knew it was a fruit!

Fantastic Firs








This week in Fantastic Firs, the class have been replicating Samba sounds and practising creating their own Samba rhythms.

Mighty Oaks





This week, we have wrapped up our set designs and it's all starting to come together! We've kicked off our stop motion animation projects, bringing our artwork to life in a fun and creative way. It's exciting to see everyone's ideas taking shape.

Learning Value Awards

					
	Enthusiasm	Determination	Perseverance	Creativity	Collaboration
Little Acorns	Luca for demonstrating such great determination and perseverance as he untangled hoops in the garden - great job Luca!				
Wondrous Willows	Sophie for her creativity in our model building work. Leila for her collaboration in our 'Owl Babies' work.				
Majestic Maples	Charlie for showing excellent perseverance when learning to tell the time to five minutes.				
Fantastic Firs	Michael for enthusiasm in PE. Teddy for enthusiasm in computing.				
Mighty Oaks	Pippa for a super character flaw story. Lucie for perseverance in maths.				

Christian Vision awards

	 BITTERLEY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL <i>"Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love" (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)</i>
Little Acorns	Lottie and Teddy for always looking out for each other at Nursery. What a lovely friendship these two have.
Wondrous Willows	Jack for showing love for his peers.
Majestic Maples	Otilie for helping others.
Fantastic Firs	Archie for showing love to others at playtime.
Mighty Oaks	Mrs Leggett for spreading positivity. Noah for being kind and helpful. Zara for showing courage and strength.



Numbot Awards

Louis	Rust level

Handwriting Award

This week our handwriting heroes are:

Wondrous Willows	Sofia
Majestic Maples	India
Fantastic Firs	Daisy
Mighty Oaks	AJ

Attendance

Attendance this week:

Willows	94%
Maples	83%
Firs	95%
Oaks	94%

Thermomix. Like never before.

🌿 Thermomix Demo Night! 🌿

Watch. Learn. Taste. Enjoy.

✨ Discover the magic of Thermomix!

👁️ See the TM6 and the all-new TM7 in action

🍴 Taste delicious food

🤝 Socialise and have fun!

📅 Friday, 13th June

📍 Bitterley Village Hall

🕒 7:00 PM

Don't miss it — bring a friend!

♥️ Limited spots – message to
reserve yours spot or book via
Event Brite

thermomix
VORWERK

BOOK TICKETS HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.PTA-
EVENTS.CO.UK/BITTERLEYSCHOOLPTA/INDEX.CFM](https://www.pta-events.co.uk/bitterleyschoolpta/index.cfm)



BAR, FOOD,
ICE CREAM

BITTERLEY SCHOOL COLOUR RUN



ALL DETAILS ARE ON OUR PTA EVENTS
PAGE!

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

POSTCODE: SY8 3HF

SUNDAY
29TH JUNE
STARTING 10AM

A GREAT DAY TO BE
ENJOYED BY THE
WHOLE FAMILY!
RAISING MONEY FOR OUR WONDERFUL
SCHOOL!

Our charity registration number is 1113304

Volunteers are needed to help with the Colour Run event. Please contact the school if you would like to help.



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.

Event	2025
Sports Afternoon	Tuesday 17 th June
Yr 6 Crucial Crew trip	Wednesday 18 th June
MOC Parent drop in 9-9.30am	Tuesday 24 th June
Hereford Cathedral Year 6 Leavers Service	Thursday 26 th June
Bitterley School Colour Run	Sunday 29 th June
Year 5/6 Bikeability	Monday 30 th June
Moving on morning	Tuesday 8 th July
Reserve Sports afternoon	Tuesday 8 th July
Leavers Service	Tuesday 15 th July 9:30am
Leavers Disco	Tuesday 15 th July 4:30-6pm

The Staff Team



Bitterley C.E. Primary School
School Term and Holiday Dates 2024/25

Autumn Term

Term Starts Wednesday 4th September 2024
Half Term Monday 28th October 2024- Friday 1st November 2024
Term Ends Friday 20th December 2024

Spring Term

Term Starts Monday 6th January 2025
Half Term Monday 17th February 2025 – Friday 21st February 2025
Term Ends Friday 11th April 2025

Summer Term

Term Starts Monday 28th April 2025
Half Term Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025
Term Ends Thursday 17th July 2025

Staff Development days—children not in school

Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Monday 4th November 2024
Friday 18th July 2025

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



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 20th February 2026
Term Ends Friday 27th 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 1st and Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Monday 5th January 2026

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