



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

Bitterley CE Primary School Newsletter 05.06.26

Attendance

WWC	93%
FFC	99%
MOC	95%



Phonics Screening Next Week

Do you have a child in year 1 at primary school? If so, your child will take part in the phonics screening check **next week**. The purpose of the phonics screening check is to confirm that all children have learned phonic decoding to an age appropriate standard.

What is the phonics screening check?

The phonics screening check contains 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words. Pseudo-words are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning. They are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using their phonics skills. All pseudo-words in the check are accompanied by a picture of an imaginary creature. Children are taught that when a word has a creature next to it, it is a pseudo-word. This ensures that they are not trying to match the pseudo-word to a word in their vocabulary.

Do I need to do anything to prepare my child for the check?

Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents play a very important part in helping with this. You can highlight the phonics sounds when you read with your child. With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word, you can talk about what it means and help them to follow the story.

Schools will have access to all their pupils' results to identify those who need additional support and make plans to help them improve.

Visiting Author Laura Dockrill

On Tuesday 16 June at 10am all families and friends of pupils in reception, year 1, year 2 and Year 3 pupils are invited to a special visit by Laura Dockrill.

Laura Dockrill is an award-winning children's author, illustrator, script-writer and performance poet who has been shortlisted for the Waterstones' Book of the Year prize and has twice been nominated for the Carnegie Medal. She is a poet-in-residence for Radio 1.

For this special event pupils will need to bring a pair of socks. Please see below.



Please help us provide a warm welcome by attending this event.



Community Project

This week, pupils from Mighty Oaks were invited by the village hall committee to help develop new habitats for animals. The children worked brilliantly together, planting and adding twigs to the new hedge to make it a welcoming home for wildlife. It was a lovely opportunity for everyone to learn about caring for the local environment while making a real difference in the community. A big thank you to the village hall committee for providing the refreshments and supporting the pupils throughout the project.



Open the Book

This week we had a special visit from Open the Book. They used drama to retell the bible story of the missionaries Paul and Silas, who were imprisoned in Philippi but chose not to escape. Pupils enjoyed making the sound of the earthquake.



Relationships, sex and health education

On Wednesday 17th June at 5pm, we would like to invite parents and carers to review the relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) provision at Bitterley School.

Our curriculum reflects our pupils' age and maturity levels, as well as their cultural and religious backgrounds, the values of our school community, every pupil's learning needs, and what pupils need to know to be healthy and safe in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider, ever changing world. There will be a separate email providing more information and answers to frequently asked questions.

This meeting will provide an opportunity to review the teaching materials and ask any questions before these units are taught to pupils.



Bitterleys' Got Talent -Wednesday 15th July 2-3pm

Do you have a talent that you would like to share with our school community?

You could:

- perform a poem, song or rap
- play a musical instrument
- perform a magic trick
- perform a dance routine
- performance art
- showcase football skills
- or something else...

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to shine on stage.

SPECIAL NOTICE - Parents and carers are welcome to perform alongside pupils if you wish. Please let Mrs France know if you would like to perform. **Auditions taking place on Friday 3rd JULY.**

Your PTA Needs You!

The PTA is a vital part of our school community, helping to bridge the gaps that education budgets cannot always cover. Thanks to PTA support, we can fund valuable extras such as trips to the pantomime and other enriching experiences for our children.

Our PTA volunteers and helpers are the oil in the machine, helping run stalls, assist at discos, sell prize draw tickets and generally enabling us to run events on the scale needed to support a large school and reach our fundraising goals.

There are lots of ways to help this summer term, whether you can give an hour selling ice lollies on a Friday for Freezy Fridays, help with raffle tickets and cakes at sports day, or play an active role in leading the PTA.

If you can help, please email admin@bitterley.dhmat.org.uk, contact a PTA member or message us via our Facebook page.



TTRS AWARDS

Ashleigh - Rock Star

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.



June

2.6.26 School photographs

1-12 June Multiplication and times table check, Year 4

8-12 June Phonics Screening, Year 1

9.6.26 Ludlow Castle Trip, Wondrous Willows

16.6.26 Visiting author - Reception, Yr 1, 2 & 3 parents welcome (10.00am)

23.6.26 Sports afternoon with parents and carers - 12.30pm

30.6.26 Back up sports afternoon

25.6.26 Year 6 leavers service at Hereford Cathedral (pupils only)

29.6.26 New Reception Parent meeting, 5-6pm

July

6-7.7.26 Year 6 transition days at Lacon Childe School

7.7.26 Meet the new teacher

7.7.26 Optional Parents evening

7.7.26 Moving on morning

8.7.26 National sports week alternative sports session

8.7.26 Year 6 induction Day at Tenbury School

10.7.26 Meet the new teacher

14.7.26 Year 6 leavers assembly, 2:00pm

14.7.26 Year 6 leavers disco (whole school welcome)

15.7.26 Bitterley's Got Talent

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 Tuesday 6th 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.**