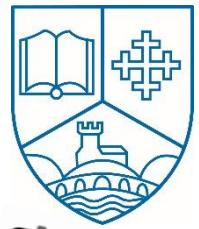


Bidford on Avon Church of England Primary School



NEWSLETTER 21 – 13th February 2026



Dates for your Diary (new dates added in green)

Monday 23rd February – Children return to school

Friday 6th March – World book day

Monday 9th March – LKS2 Enrichment day

Tuesday 10th March – Reception trip to Oversley Hill Farm

Wednesday 11th March – SEND coffee morning at 9am (focus - ASD, an opportunity for parents/carers to share strategies and resources)

Friday 13th March – Non-uniform day (chocolate donation)

Monday 16th March – UKS2 Enrichment day

Tuesday 17th March – KS1 Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park

Friday 20th March – Comic Relief Day

Friday 20th March – Easter Bingo

Friday 27th March – KS1 Enrichment day

Friday 27th March – Break up for Easter

Saturday 18th April – BSA Car Boot Sale

Friday 1st May – SEND coffee morning (Focus - Mental Health, an opportunity for parents/carers to share strategies and resources)

Friday 19th June – Summer Disco

Tuesday 30th June – SEND coffee morning (Focus - Transition, how to prepare your child for change)

Reception

Our topic on space has really captured the children's interest. They have been curious to learn about the planets and have shown wonderful imagination in creating pictures and models of aliens. The children have enjoyed sharing their knowledge with one another through non-fiction books. We spent time learning about the features of planet Earth and shared stories and ideas about how we can all work together to make our world a better place to live. Space Day – The Reception children arrived for our Space Day dressed in wonderful space-themed outfits. The following are just some of the learning experiences the children had the opportunity to engage in throughout the day: creating clay aliens, making model spaceships, mixing coloured icing to decorate planet-themed biscuits, taking part in role-play adventures in our very own International Space Station, and launching paper rockets through straws. A big thank you to all the parents for supporting us by dressing the children in such fabulous outfits for the occasion. We all had a fantastic day.

In Maths, we have been investigating length, height, mass, and capacity. In number work, we have been exploring the composition of numbers within 10. In Literacy, we have been practising our letter formation daily and continue to work hard at applying our phonic skills when writing words, captions, and sentences.

In our PE sessions, the children have loved using the apparatus to develop their climbing and balancing skills. They are growing in confidence when using the equipment. These sessions will continue next half term.

During the final week of this half term, we learned about how Lunar New Year is prepared for and celebrated in China. The children made dragon puppets and took part in dragon dancing in the hall, creating their own music using percussion instruments.

KS1

The latest half term has been incredibly busy, and the children have achieved so much since their return from the Christmas break. We have been working on our new 'Africa' topic, which has allowed us to explore a range of curriculum areas. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their learning this term and have relished discovering many interesting facts over recent weeks.

Our English work has been firmly set in the deserts of Botswana and the savannahs of Kenya and Tanzania, bringing vibrancy to the three Key Stage One classrooms. Our *Meerkat Mail* stories enabled the children to bring these quirky creatures to life, as their hero travelled to what seemed like a never-ending number of distant relatives. Our Tingatinga tales then helped the children to answer the seemingly impossible: who knew that a zebra once tried on a very tight black outfit, or that a crocodile once pulled poor Elephant's nose into a trunk? The children truly loved each of the stories we shared and then used the patterns and structures we identified to create their own Tingatinga tales.

In our Geography work, we learned about the landscapes of Kenya and compared them with the familiar sights of our British locality. The sights and sounds of the savannah were brought into the classrooms, and we explored the culture of the people living in the Maasai Mara National Reserve. It was wonderful to see each child's curiosity ignite as we discovered how people live their lives many thousands of miles away. Furthermore, the respect shown as the children learned about ways of life so different from their own demonstrated growing maturity.

We now look forward to continuing our learning journey through East Africa after the half-term break. Have a lovely week away from school; we look forward to welcoming you back on our return.

LKS2

In English, we began the term by diving into *Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx*, where the children explored how to write their own riddles and experimented with a range of techniques to create suspense and tension in their narrative writing. Since then, we have moved on to the graphic novel *The Story of Tutankhamun*, which has helped to deepen our understanding of the boy king in preparation for writing fact files after half term.

Across the three classrooms, there has been a great deal of Maths taking place. The children have been practising multiplication using formal written methods, including expanded methods, with Fox Class focusing on the 6 times table and Hare Class working on the 7 times table. In addition, Fox Class has begun a unit on measurement, starting with length and progressing to perimeter. Meanwhile, Hare Class has moved on to fractions, learning to count in given fractions on a number line and to partition mixed numbers with increasing confidence.

In Science, we concluded our "Rocks" topic by discovering how soil is formed through the story of *Roger the Rock*, before exploring how fossils are created over time. Following this, Badger and Fox Classes launched into our new topic, "States of Matter." The children have been identifying solids, liquids, and gases, and investigating the processes of melting, evaporation, and condensation.

Our History focus on Ancient Egypt has sparked great enthusiasm. The children have located Egypt on a map, learned about the vital role of the River Nile, and begun to consider the concept of social hierarchy. They have also used Google Slides to present their research into daily life in Ancient Egypt.

In RE, our enquiry question this term has been, "What or who is God?" To explore this, the children have been analysing what different images suggest about Jesus' relationship with God and beginning to unpick Christians' understanding of the Holy Trinity.

UKS2

This half term, Year 5 and 6 have been very busy with their learning across the curriculum. In English, the children have been studying *Treason* by Berlie Doherty, a historical fiction text set in the Tudor period. They have produced some fantastic pieces of writing, including a vivid setting description of a treacherous sea, a formal letter using Tudor language to show that William is ready for court, and a diary entry describing what it would have been like to leave the countryside and travel to the city for the first time.

In Maths, much of the focus has been on fractions, algebra, and ratio.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their Tudor topic so far, learning about how the Tudor dynasty began, exploring the Tudor family tree, and creating fact files comparing the king when he was younger and older. They have also focused on Henry VIII's first two wives, writing a letter to the Pope requesting a divorce from Catherine of Aragon and drafting a death warrant linked to his second wife.

In Science, the children have been learning about animals, including humans. They have studied the different organs of the body, explored the effects of caffeine and drugs, and carried out an experiment to investigate the effect of exercise on the heart.

In Music, they have begun learning about *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*.

We hope all the children have a lovely half-term break and kindly ask that they continue to read regularly over the holidays.

Bidford-on-Avon Youth Working Group

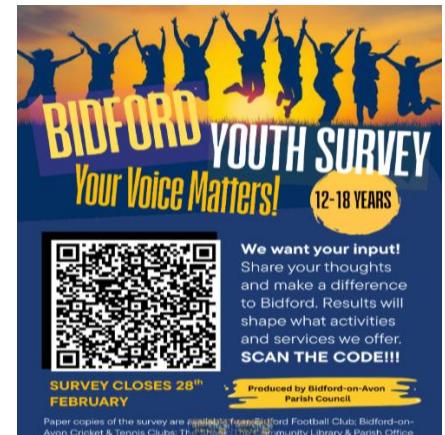
If you have an older child aged **12–18**, we'd really value their views.

Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council is running a Youth Survey to help understand what young people want from activities, spaces, and services in the village.

The survey will also help shape a new **Youth Working Group**, giving young people the opportunity to have a real voice in decisions that affect them. Their feedback will directly influence future plans and provision in the community.

Please encourage your child to take part by scanning the QR code on the poster.

Their voice matters, and their input can make a real difference.



Notes/Reminders

- If your child has sickness or diarrhea, they need to remain off school for 48 hours from the last episode

It has been a very busy half term, with lots going on and a real buzz of excitement around the school. It was lovely to see so many of you at our parent consultations and to share the great progress your children have made this term. It truly is a team effort, and I know the staff greatly appreciate the opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements with you.

As we come to the end of the first half of the year, I would once again like to thank you all for your tremendous support. Working together enables us to provide the very best education for all the children in our school.

We return to school on Monday 23rd February and look forward to welcoming you all back then.

I would like to wish you a restful and enjoyable half term, and I hope you are able to spend some quality time together as families.

Mr A. Morris