



Barford St. Peter's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School

Together we love; together we learn

Newsletter

Friday 25th September

We have had another wonderful week in school this week, with the highlight being our special Reception Welcome Service. All of the children in reception did incredibly well and were so brave and confident, introducing themselves and singing to their parents! We were also very proud of our magnificent Year 6 children who supported their buddies and read prayers and readings, demonstrating themselves as exceptional role models. Well done everyone!

We have also thoroughly enjoyed our European Day of Languages today, during which children celebrated by creating their very own t-shirt. I am certainly glad I did not have to choose a winner for each class, which was not an easy task! Our sincere thanks to Mrs Del Rio for organising such an enjoyable day for our whole school.

In collective worship this week we have been thinking about what prayer is and what it means to us. Children gave thoughtful contributions, including the idea that prayer is like 'writing a letter to Jesus'. We looked at what the Lord's Prayer means and compared the modern and traditional versions.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our Harvest Festival service next Thursday 1st October at 2pm at St. Peter's church.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Mary Baker
Headteacher



Parents' Meetings

On Monday 28th you will receive a link to book an appointment for parents' meetings which will take place on **Tuesday 20th October from 3.30pm to 6pm** and **Wednesday 21st October from 3.30pm to 6pm** for children in Reception to Year 5. These will take place via Teams – the link will be sent out to you closer to the time.

We would encourage all parents to make an appointment and do ask that only one slot per child is booked please, as unfortunately due to time constraints we cannot accommodate two slots for families who are parenting apart. We will also be unable to offer meetings for parents outside of these allocated times.

Parents meetings for Year 6 children will take place on Wednesday 2nd December and we will write with further information on this closer to the time.

My School Fund – Please Sign Up!

Thank you to parents who have already registered for a 'My School Fund' account, which has raised an amazing total of £702 so far for the school to use for learning resources. 'My School Fund' is an initiative that families can participate in to earn cashback from spend at participating retailers for both themselves and the school. It's simple and completely free to sign up, please see the poster issued with the Newsletter for more information. We would really encourage as many families as possible to register and start boosting the school's budget!

School Photographer

Apologies for the delay in providing the date for the school photographer. This has now been booked for **Tuesday 3rd November** for individual and siblings in school. Further information to follow closer to the time.

What We've Been Learning

Reception

Last week in Reception we really enjoyed reading the book 'A squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson. We thought about what it means to be grateful and shared our feelings of what we are grateful for. We recreated the story by building with bricks and acting as the animals. In our maths learning we practised 'subitising' 1 – 3 (just knowing without counting) and we played a fun game feeding our number cruncher monsters and checking how many marbles they had eaten.

This week we have been finding out more about our emotions and feelings through our 'My Happy Mind' programme of work, and we also read 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. We have taken great notice of ways to keep emotionally regulated, using 'Happy Breathing' to help us. In art we learned to draw a recognisable picture with paint and used paint to fill a space, creating the most wonderful colour monsters which are going on display in our room. We also made stick puppet monsters to make up shows about our feelings. In our drawing club we drew colour monsters and then developed our pictures by imagining how we could help the monsters to regulate their feelings.

In RE we have been finding out about belonging to groups and looking at how we can tell people belong to groups or different faiths. We read the book 'Hats of Faith' illustrating hats and head coverings used in different faiths. We draw pictures about groups we belong to, including our families, and we talked about how it feels to be included and be part of a group.

The children started their phonics learning last week and we are so proud of them for working so hard to remember their new letters and sounds. The children made up their own school role play to practise them by taking turns to be the teacher delivering a phonics lesson! We now have so many teachers in Reception!



Year 1

We have had a fantastic start to Year 1 and have been working very hard in all of our lessons. In English, we have been reading *Lost in the Toy Museum* and using adjectives to make our writing more interesting. We described bunting using lots of exciting words, and one of our favourite adjectives was "**stripey**"! We have enjoyed thinking carefully about how words can help readers create pictures in their minds.

In maths, we have been learning about finding **one more** and **one less** than a number. We have enjoyed using number lines to help us work out the answers and build our confidence with numbers. We have had lots of fun practising our counting skills in different ways.

In history, we are loving our topic about **toys**. We have learned about toys from the past, including the toys that our very old grandparents might have played with when they were children. It has been exciting to compare old toys with the toys we enjoy today. In science, we have been learning about different materials and their properties. We have been exploring words such as **hard**, **soft** and **transparent (see-through)** to describe the materials around us.



Our favourite things about Year 1 so far have been doing lots of grown-up work in our books and using our pencils just like the older children. We have also loved listening to and reading lots of wonderful stories. Another highlight of our week is our dance lesson, where we have lots of fun moving, learning new routines and expressing ourselves. We are having a brilliant time in Year 1!

Year 2

We are loving Year 2! We have been working really hard and are already very proud of ourselves because we are learning new things and improving every single day. One exciting change this year is that we have been allowed to use highlighters, which feels very grown-up. We used them to spot and correct all of Mrs Stock's

mistakes. She seemed to get so many questions wrong, so it was a good job we were there to help her fix them!

We have also been doing lots of PE and have really enjoyed gymnastics and netball. We have been playing some exciting games too. One of our favourites is when we run around in a space and listen carefully to Mrs Stock's instructions. If she says "line", we have to get to a line as quickly as we can, and if she says "stop", we have to freeze straight away. The last few people to do it are out. It always makes us laugh and is so much fun!

In art, we have been learning about the illustrator Quentin Blake and creating drawings in a similar style to the illustrations in his famous books. We have loved experimenting with our sketches and bringing characters to life. In RE, we have been learning about why churches are important to Christians. We know that churches are special places where people can worship God, pray and come together as a community. We are really looking forward to visiting church next week for our Harvest celebration.

Our favourite things about Year 2 so far have been trying new challenges, using our highlighters, taking part in lots of PE lessons and having fun while we learn. We are very excited for our school trip next week!

Year 3

We have had a fantastic start to Year 3 and have been very busy with lots of exciting learning. One thing we are especially proud of is how much Spanish we have already learned thanks to our amazing teacher, Mrs Del Rio. We have been learning colours, numbers and how to introduce ourselves. We can even introduce ourselves in Spanish already, saying things like, "*Me llamo Mollie*" and "*Me llamo Alba!*" We are enjoying learning a new language and discovering more about different cultures.

In RE, we have been learning about important Jewish festivals, including **Shabbat**, **Passover** and **Hanukkah**. As we have explored these celebrations, we have been able to make links to our own school Christian values. We learned that **kindness** and **compassion** are shown when families come together to support one another, **thankfulness** is reflected in celebrations and traditions, and **respect** is shown through following religious customs.

We have also thought about how **responsibility** is important in family and community life, and how **perseverance** can help people stay strong through challenges and difficulties.

We are also loving our class book, *Stone Age Boy*, which links brilliantly with our history topic. The story has helped us imagine what life would have been like in the Stone Age and has made our learning even more exciting.

Our favourite things about Year 3 so far have been taking part in the Daily Mile, which helps us stay active and ready to learn, and seeing all of our friends again after the summer holidays. We are having a wonderful time in Year 3 and can't wait for all the exciting learning still to come!

Year 4

We have had a wonderful start to Year 4 and have been enjoying lots of exciting learning. In maths, we have been learning how to round numbers to the nearest 10 and 100. We have especially enjoyed taking part in our maths spotlight sessions, where we have been able to practise our skills in fun and engaging ways.

In English, we have been reading *Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx*. We have been learning how to write persuasive letters and use powerful language to encourage someone to do something. We wrote questions and arguments to try to convince others to set Marcy's dad free. We have really enjoyed bringing our ideas to life through our writing.

Our Ancient Egypt topic has been a huge highlight so far. We have learned lots of fascinating, and sometimes gruesome, facts about mummification. We discovered that ancient Egyptians removed the brain using a hook through the nose, while the body's organs were placed into canopic jars. The heart was left inside the body because they believed it was needed for the journey to the afterlife. In geography, we have also been learning about the River Nile and why it was so important to Ancient Egyptian civilisation.



One of our favourite things about being in Year 4 so far has been our lovely teacher, who always listens to us and make our classroom feel calm, peaceful and welcoming. Egyptian Day was another huge highlight, and we loved taking part in all the exciting activities. We have also been working hard to earn rewards as a class. We collect flowers in a jar for our positive choices and teamwork, and we are very proud of how many we have already earned!

Year 5

We have had a fantastic start to Year 5 and have already been enjoying lots of exciting learning. In maths, we have been focusing on place value and learning how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. One of our favourite activities was taking our maths learning outside for an orienteering challenge. We used numbers and rounding skills to help us navigate a map, and it was great fun learning maths in the fresh air. We have also been playing maths games using four dice. After rolling the dice, we could arrange the numbers in 24 different ways to create a four-digit number. We then chose different numbers and rounded them to the nearest multiple of 1,000.

In English, we have been learning about deforestation and writing balanced arguments to explore both the advantages and disadvantages. We also enjoyed a virtual field trip to the Amazon rainforest. Afterwards, we wrote reviews in chronological order, remembering to include our own thoughts and feelings.

So far, our favourite things about Year 5 have been meeting our teachers, who are really kind, fun and supportive. We have also loved taking part in the new Daily Mile, which helps us exercise, enjoy some fresh air and clear our minds so that we are ready to learn our very best in class.

Year 6

We have made a brilliant start to Year 6 and have already enjoyed lots of exciting learning opportunities. In geography, we have been learning about lines of longitude and latitude. To help us understand them, we practised using oranges! We carefully drew the lines onto the oranges and used cocktail sticks with sticky labels to identify the five key lines of latitude. We have also been exploring how height and physical features are shown on maps. We have learned about topographical maps, which show physical features and the shape of the land, and thematic maps, which focus on a single theme or type of information.

In history, we have been discovering all about Rosa Parks and the important role she played in the Civil Rights Movement. We took part in a hot-seating activity, where we became Rosa Parks and answered questions about her life and experiences. We also used a range of historical sources to gather information and generate facts about her achievements.

As part of our USA topic in English, we have been learning how to integrate dialogue into a narrative. This has been a challenging skill, but we have used our Christian value of perseverance to help us improve our writing. Our learning has been linked to our class text, *Pig Heart Boy*, which we are thoroughly enjoying.

One of the things we have loved most about starting Year 6 has been meeting our Reception buddies. We were very proud to welcome them into our school family during the Welcome Service on Wednesday and have enjoyed getting to know them. We have also been enjoying the new school menu and trying lots of delicious foods. Some of our favourites so far have been the lasagne, cheese petit pain, and chicken and stuffing. The honey and yoghurt has been a real hit with all of us!

This Week's Prayer



Dear God,

Thank you for the people who help our school grow: our children, families, staff and friends. As we prepare to celebrate Harvest, help us to notice the good things we have and to share generously with those who need our help. Give us kind words, patient hearts and the courage to care for one another.

Amen.

“Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Hebrews 13:16

Autumn Term 2026 Dates

Autumn Term 1 st Half			
Date & Time	Event	Year Group	Location
Wednesday 16 th September 5pm	Reception Curriculum & Phonics Information Meeting	Reception	Hall
Wednesday 16 th September 7.30am	FABs AGM	All	The Granville
Wednesday 23 rd September 9am	Reception Welcome Service	Reception	School Hall
Friday 25 th September	European Day of Languages	All	N/A
Saturday 26 th September	Armonico Concert	Selected Choir Children	St. Mary's Church, Warwick
Thursday 1 st October 2pm	Harvest Festival	All	St. Peter's Church
Friday 2 nd October	FABs Speed Quiz	All	Hall
Friday 9 th October	Year 5 Cake Sale	All	Hall
Tuesday 13 th October 8.45am	Year 5 Poetry & Music Assembly	Year 5	Hall
Tuesday 13 th October	Year 1 visit to St. John's Museum	Year 1	St. John's Museum
Friday 16 th October	FABs Disco	All	Hall
Monday 19 th October	PGL Residential	Year 6	Boreatton Park
Tuesday 20 th October	Year 2 Class Assembly	Year 2	Hall
Tuesday 20 th October 3.30pm to 6pm	Parents Meetings	Years R - 5	On Teams
Wednesday 21 st October 3.30pm to 6pm	Parents Meetings	Years R - 5	On Teams
Thursday 22 nd October	INSET DAY		
Friday 23 rd October	INSET DAY		

INSET Dates for 2026 to 2027

Tuesday 1 st September
Thursday 22 nd October
Friday 23 rd October
Monday 4 th January
Monday 7 th June

Autumn Term 2 nd Half			
Date & Time	Event	Year Group	Location
Thursday 5 th November	Year 5 visit to Cadbury World	Year 5	Cadbury World
Friday 6 th November	Divali Day	All	N/A
Saturday 7 th November	Bonfire & Fireworks	All	School Field
Tuesday 10 th November 8.45am	Year 3 Poetry & Music Assembly	Year 3	Hall
Wednesday 11 th November	Remembrance Day	All	TBC
Friday 13 th November	Year 4 cake sale	Year 4	Hall
Tuesday 17 th November	Year 3 Volcanoes Workshop	Year 3	Hall
Friday 20 th November 2.45pm	Year 1 Parent Share	Year 1	Year 1 classroom
Tuesday 24 th November 3.30pm	Mrs Cooke's Dance Club Performance	Dance Club	Hall
27 th November 2.45pm	Year 3 Parent Share	Year 3	Year 3 classroom
27 th November	Christmas Wreath Workshop	Parents	Hall
30 th November 8.45am	Advent Service	All	St. Peter's Church
Wednesday 2 nd December 3.30pm to 6pm	Year 6 Parents Meetings	Year 6	On Teams
Thursday 3 rd December 3.30pm to 6pm	Year 6 Parents Meetings	Year 6	On Teams
Friday 4th December	Christmas Fair		
Monday 7 th December 2pm	KS1 Christmas Show	Reception, 1&2	Hall
Tuesday 8 th December 2pm	Christingle	All	St. Peter's Church
Wednesday 9 th December 9am	KS1 Christmas Show	Reception, 1&2	Hall
Thursday 10 th December 5pm	KS2 Christmas Show	Years 3, 4 & 5	Hall
Friday 11 th December 2pm	KS2 Christmas Show	Years 3, 4 & 5	Hall
Tuesday 15 th December	KS1 Visit to Gruffalo's Child	Reception, Years 1 & 2	Warwick Arts Centre
Wednesday 16 th December	KS2 Pantomime Trip - Cinderella	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	Spa Centre
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Service	All	St. Peter's Church

****Please note change of date!****