

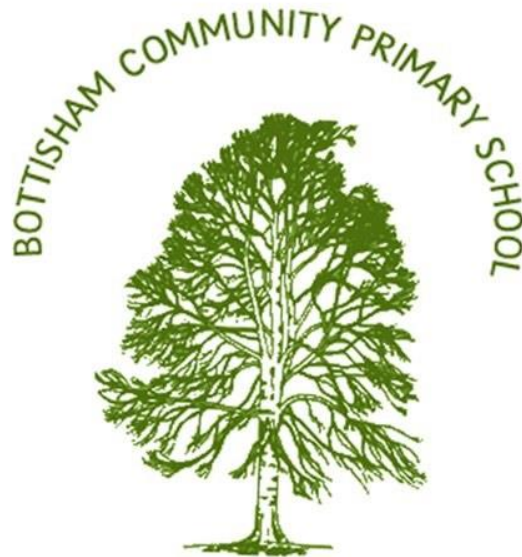
BCPS News 13.01.23



Welcome to this fortnight's edition of our school newsletter!

Friday 13th January 2023

Headteacher Update



Welcome back to the Spring Term! It was lovely to welcome the children back to school after the Christmas holiday - I do hope that you were all able to have an enjoyable and restful break over the festive period.

The start of a new term marks the start of new topics across the school which is always exciting. You can see below an overview of which topics are being taught in each year group and your child's class teacher will have written a start of term newsletter which will contain more detailed information about what they will be doing this term. There is also a calendar of key dates for the term in this newsletter to help you plan ahead.

The recent wet weather has meant that the school site is particularly muddy at the moment; in spite of clearing this, with every heavy downpour, we find the mud accumulates again. With this in mind, please do take care when walking around the school site. The school field has been out of use since we returned due to the wet conditions but we are hopeful that we will be able to get back on to it as soon as possible.

Finally, a PDF copy of this newsletter will now be available on our new school website along with previous newsletter. This can be found [here](#).

Mrs Johnston

Spring Term 2023 Diary Dates

Thursday 5 th January	School opens to pupils
Friday 13 th January	Y6 Cool Choices session
Monday 16 th January	Burwell House residential trip (Y4) – information event
Thursday 19 th January	Diversity Role Models Workshop – Y5/6
Friday 20 th January	PTA Film Night
Thursday 2 nd – Friday 3 rd February	Y4 residential visit to Burwell House
Monday 6 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 10 th February	PTA Valentine's Cake Stall
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th February	Half term
Friday 24 th February	PTA Young Apprentice event – Y5/6
Tuesday 28 th February	Parent / Carer Consultations
Thursday 1 st March	Parent / Carer Consultations
Friday 2 nd March	World Book Day
Tuesday 4 th March	Sycamore Class Assembly
Friday 17 th March	KS1 visit to Mountfitchet Castle
Monday 20 th March	Y5 Bikeability
Monday 20 th March	YR Village Walk
Wednesday 22 nd March	World Water Day
Thursday 24 th March	Anglian Learning Y5/6 Cross Country competition
Tuesday 28 th March	Y3/4 Production
Wednesday 29 th March	Willow visit to Wellcome Genome Campus
Thursday 30 th March	Maple & Sycamore visit to Wellcome Genome Campus
Thursday 30 th March	Anglian Learning Y3/4 Music Event @ West Road
Friday 31 st March	Last day of term

Diversity in the Curriculum



1 - The Headteachers from the Anglian Learning Primary Academies with Bennie Kara (centre)



2 - Teacher's working together on curriculum planning.

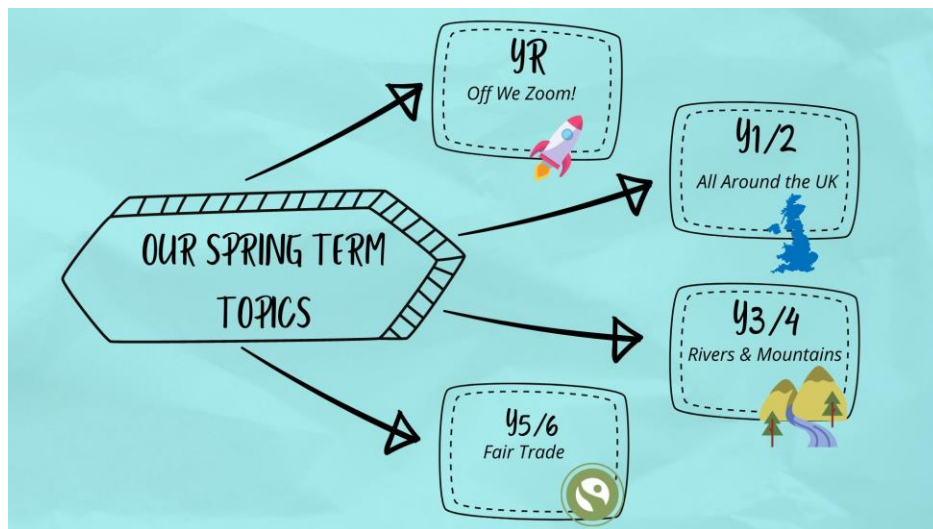
On 4 January, the staff from BCPS along with staff from the other Trust primaries, enjoyed a motivational and thought-provoking training session given by Bennie Kara, co-founder of Diverse Educators.

A gifted speaker and specialist on diversity in the curriculum, Bennie delivered a thought-provoking session on topics such as the importance of learning about and respecting cultures and histories; how to consciously cater for all voices in our classrooms; how we can ensure inclusive environments for those with disabilities, and the importance of creating belonging through curriculum.

Her messages on how social justice is a concept that can and should begin at school, and how we can each influence positive change from our own level of leadership were both particularly powerful.

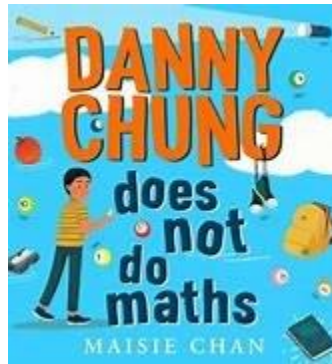
In the afternoon, empowered by the messages that Bennie had delivered, teachers had time to work together on curriculum planning.

Spring Term Topics

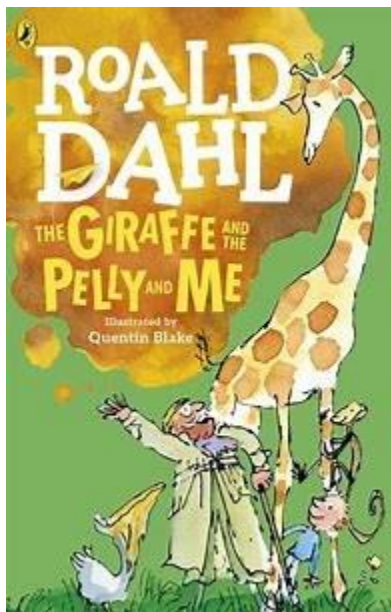


We LOVE books!

Encouraging the children to have a love of reading is one of our most important goals. We know that when children find a book they love, it can be the key to opening up a whole world of wonderful stories and non-fiction texts. With this in mind, we thought it would be nice to share with you which books we are enjoying in school this week.



3 - Willow Class



4 - Hazel Class



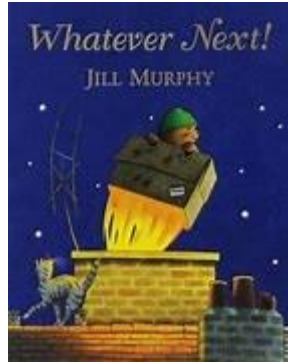
5 - Pine Class



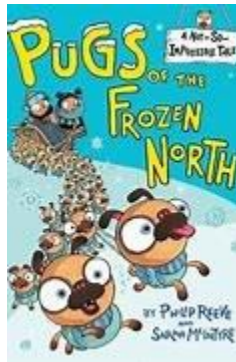
6 - Sycamore and Maple Class



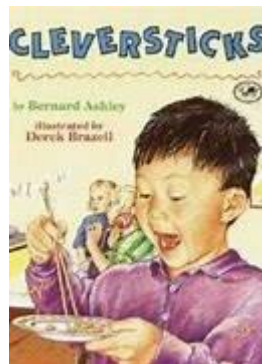
7 - Birch and Cedar



8 - Oak and Ash Class



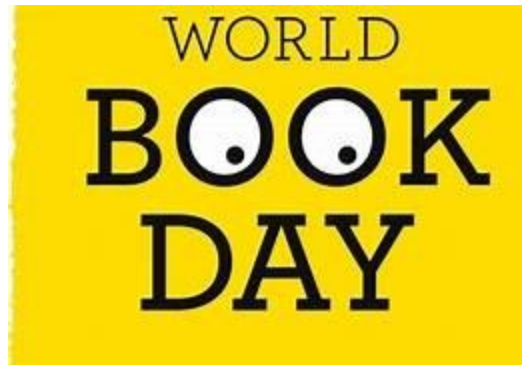
9 - Beech Class



10 - Acorn Class

World Book Day: 2nd March

Date for your diary: we will be celebrating World Book Day on 2nd March and will be inviting the children to come to school dressed as their favourite character from a book.



New school website



We are pleased to announce that our new school website is now live. The new website has been designed to provide easier access to key information that you will find helpful such as term dates, copies of newsletters and class information, the school lunch menu and policies as well as other helpful documents. We hope that you find it a useful resource and will be adding further resources over the coming months.

Themed School Lunch: Superhero - 19th January



Parent Guide to Virtual Reality Headsets



There has been an increase in the number of children and young people who are using virtual reality headsets. To help keep children and young people safe when delving into these unregulated spaces, the NSPCC have published parental guidance with some simple steps to follow. The parents' guide to VR headsets covers straightforward advice for families on how to keep children safe when using virtual reality, including how to:

- make the headset a family activity, taking turns and playing with it together
- take some time to explore the headset before allowing a child to use it
- talk to children about how they use VR. Make sure they know that personal information should not be shared with people they don't know
- get to know the safety features the device offers. Make sure the location is set to private, use parental controls and check that privacy settings are switched on

- set healthy boundaries and manage your child's screen time.

[NSPCC Parent Guide to virtual reality headsets](#)

Staffing News



In the autumn term, we announced that Mrs Sands would be going on maternity leave from the summer term. We are pleased to inform you that Mrs Salters and Mrs Jones will be returning to Bottisham Primary School to cover Sycamore Class in her absence. Many of you will remember that Mrs Salters and Mrs Jones taught in Sycamore Class whilst Mrs Sands was on her previous maternity leave and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them back to our school.

We are also pleased to welcome Katie Winkup to the school who joins us this term as a trainee teacher in Willow Class. Katie has volunteered in the school prior to joining us for her training and so will be a familiar face to many of the children.

INSET Day training

Applying for Reception 2023 - CLOSING DATE 15.01.23



If your child was born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2022 then you are now able to apply for a school place for them in Reception from September 2023. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2023.

We are offering school tours for prospective parents and carers who would like come for a visit to see what our school has to offer. If you would like to visit, please contact the office on 01223 811235 and we will be very happy to arrange a date and time to meet with you.

[Apply for a primary school place](#)

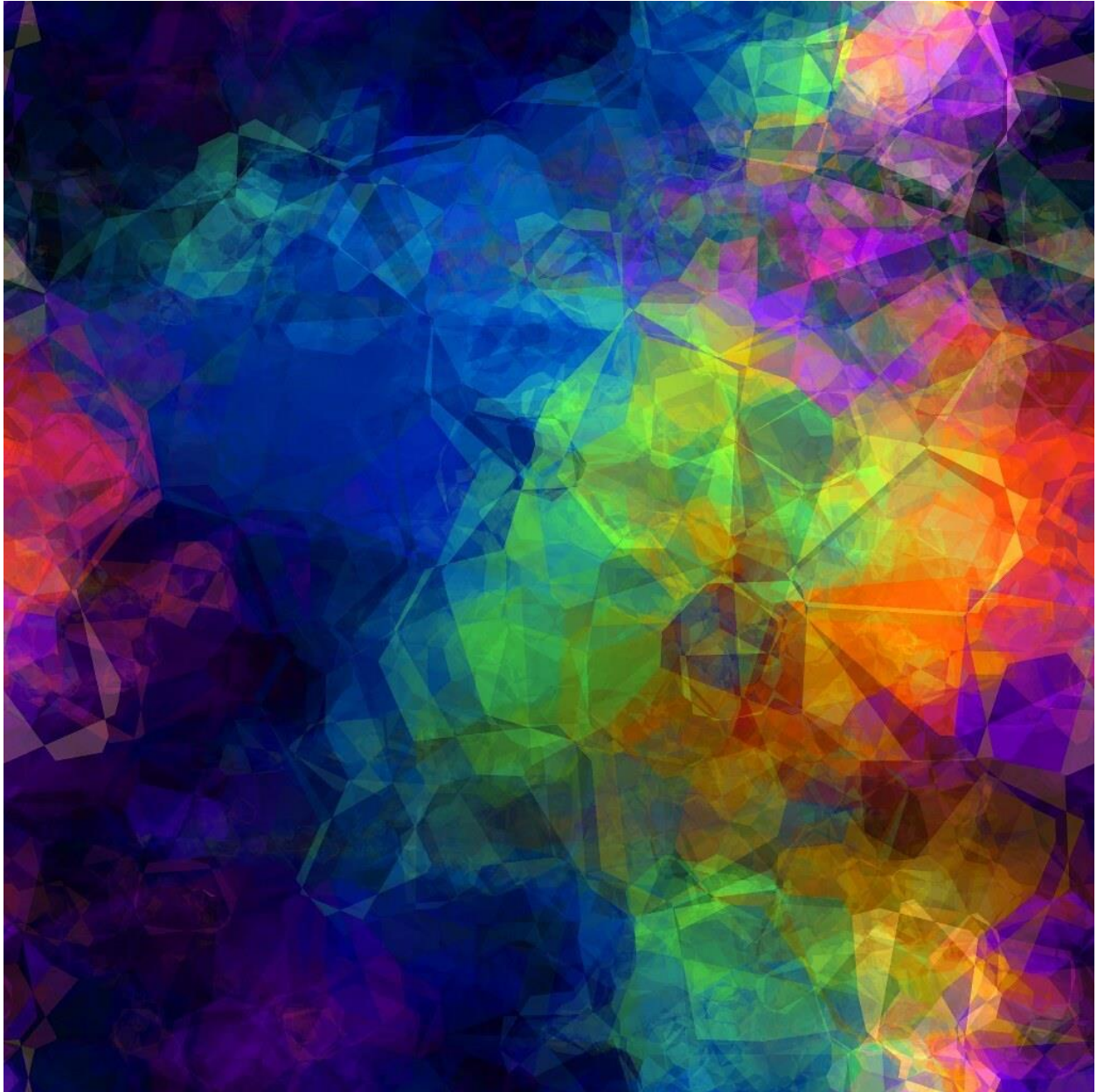
Are you worried about a child, family or friend?

Child Protection involves taking steps to safeguard children and young people at risk of, or suffering from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. It also means protecting children from witnessing Domestic Abuse and Violence as well as supporting families who are in financial or medical difficulties. It is vital that **everyone** takes personal responsibility to look after children, families and friends and report their concerns. If we all watch out for each other then we will ultimately support and protect the future lives of our children.



If you have a concern about the safety and welfare of a child at our school, you can email our confidential address on safeguardingconcerns@bottishamprimary.org.

Term Dates 2022-23



Autumn Term 2022

Thursday 1 September - Professional Day (school closed to pupils)

Friday 2 September - Professional Day (school closed to pupils)

Monday 5 September - Start of term

Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October - Half term

Wednesday 21st December - End of term

Spring Term 2023

Wednesday 4 January - Professional Day (school closed to pupils)

Thursday 5 January - Start of term

Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February - Half term

Friday 31 March - End of term

Summer term 2023

Monday 17 April - Professional Day (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 18 April - Start of term

Monday 1 May - May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June - Half term

Monday 5 June - Professional Day (school closed to pupils)

Wednesday 19 July - End of term

Contact Us



Please get in touch if you have any queries - our office team will be happy to help

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Visit us on the web at www.bottisham.cambs.sch.uk