



## UPDATE FROM MR ASKEW

Dear All,

I wanted to start by saying how proud we all are with our Year 6 pupils as to how well they managed during their SATs week. They all demonstrated great courage and resilience to navigate the week. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Year 6 staff team for their ongoing dedication to support these pupils to be ready to undertake these tests and do their best.

It has been lovely to see the great weather recently, and this may have contributed to the high number of bicycles and scooters that I counted in the bike shed recently. 30 in total! Thank you for your support with our sustainable travel drive.

You may have read the letter we recently shared with you from Jon Culpin, CEO of Anglian Learning, who was explaining how schools in our Trust, and nationally, are facing some challenges regarding funding. We are also affected by this at Bottisham Primary too. In addition to the ongoing poor school funding, we must also make some changes due to the falling birth rates. With the ongoing trend of reduced number of pupils starting in Reception, our proposal is to reduce the number of classes by one from September. Sadly, this will mean that there will be a reduction in the number of staff working in the school from September.

It is a difficult time for schools, but I wanted to reassure you that we will be working as hard as ever to provide the best provision we can for our community.

Kind regards

Mr Askew

**COURAGE, CURIOSITY, COMPASSION, COMMITMENT  
& RESPECT**

**FRIDAY 23RD MAY 2025**

# BOTTISHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Year 6 Play Leaders helping some of the younger children play snakes and ladders at lunchtime.

### In this issue:

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# Our Maths Team

**A big congratulations to our amazing team of Year 5 students who competed in the Cambridgeshire County Maths Competition! They worked incredibly hard, showing excellent teamwork and determination. After a challenging competition, they finished 5th out of 12 teams. We are so proud of their effort and achievement!**





# Bottisham's Marathon man



**A Huge Thank You!**

As many of you know, I completed the London Marathon MyWay on Sunday, 27th April! I'm incredibly grateful for all the support and encouragement I received during my training and on the day itself. The kindness and warm welcome truly meant the world to me.

Thanks to your generosity, we've raised an amazing £4,316.94 for our wonderful PTA! A heartfelt thank you as well to the PTA and those who support PTA events for the fantastic new playground resurfacing and markings. It's been a real joy to see the children enjoying the space both during the school day and beyond. Thank you once again for being such a supportive community.

Warm wishes,  
Mr Green



# VE Day Celebrations

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, the school came together to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. The children made bunting to decorate the school hall, and there was a display that captured stories about the children's relatives who served in world war two.



Mr Askew shared extracts from the school log books from the beginning and the end of the war. The children then sang songs from world war two, before Mrs Palmer and Mrs Smith got the whole school performing the Lambeth Walk dance.





Sep. 3<sup>rd</sup>. I assisted the billeting officer (Mr. H. Howlett) in receiving about 24 mothers and children evacuated from London under the government scheme. They were received in the Hall of the Village College.

Sep. 5<sup>th</sup>. Owing to the outbreak of war, school did not open. Miss Clark and I reported for duty and spent the week making A.R.P. plans for school. These included the gas-proofing of the waiting room for the Nursery Children (it will be very difficult for 1 teacher to keep gas masks on about 15 children) and the pasting <sup>of paper</sup> ~~over~~ of windows to prevent splintering.

7.5.45 } School closed in celebration of Allied Victory in  
8.5.45 } Europe.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday: V. Day) the children attended special Thanksgiving Service at the Church.

During the week they have made a special collection of eggs and cigarettes for repatriated prisoners of war.

11.5.45. No. on roll. 64. boys. 32. evancess. 4  
Juniors 29 2  
61 6.

# West Stow Educational Visit

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, Year 3 and 4 embarked on a trip back to Anglo Saxon Britain at West Stow. Pupils were immersed in replica Anglo Saxon huts throughout the ages. They learnt how communities lived, worked and farmed. Moreover, children studied original artefacts to delve into the skills and culture of Anglo Saxon Britain. We were fortunate to have an expert who answered many of the children's thought-provoking questions. The trip helped to bring our topic to life and provide a practical experience. We were lucky to have good weather on the day and many fantastic parent volunteers. Thanks to Mrs Palmer for organising this amazing trip.









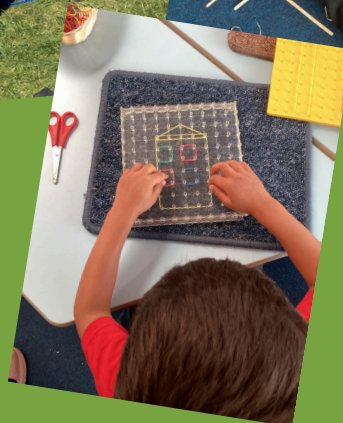
# Acorns Pre-school

The children in Acorns Preschool Class have really enjoyed our 'Homes and Houses' topic and have made some wonderful buildings and structures from the different building bricks. They have used a variety of resources including elastic bands and wooden rods, to make their own house pictures.



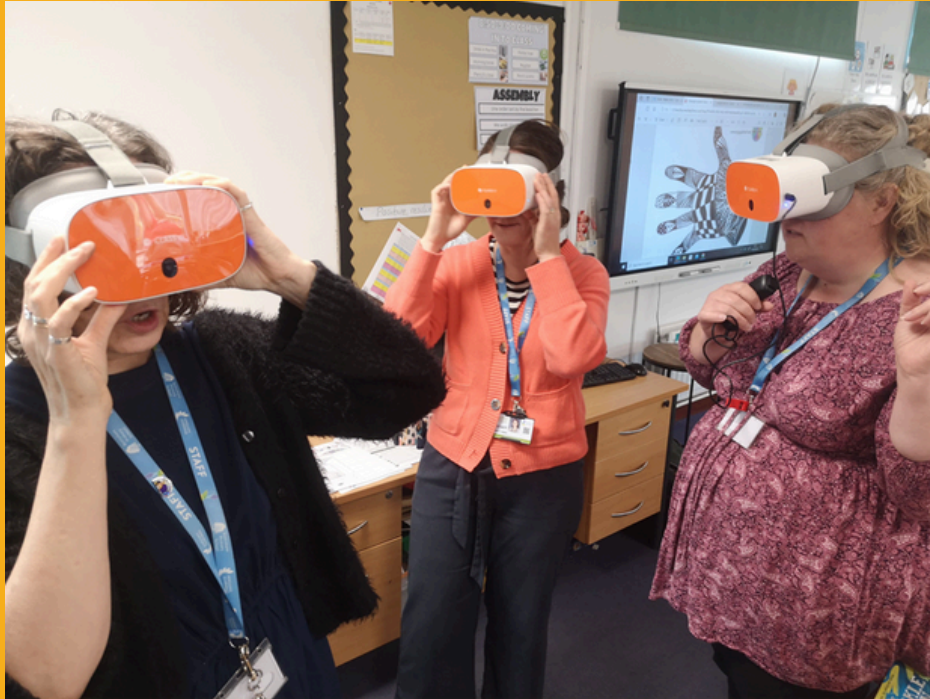
Following the story of the 3 Little Pigs, the children investigated building houses from straw, sticks and bricks for our small world pigs, testing the materials themselves to see what worked best.

Finally, in craft activities the children have made flat 2d houses and solid 3d houses and created a fabulous display for our classroom.





# VR Headsets



On Thursday 15th May, KS2 enjoyed exploring topics with some Class VR headsets; loaned curtesy of The Netherhall School. Children walked around an Anglo Saxon village, travelled through the digestive system, experienced the Blitz and even swam with sharks. We're investigating ways in which we can utilize this resource to inspire learning and support pupils. While the pupils got the hang of it very quickly the staff took a bit of practise but also became adept with this new technology.





# Year 3 & 4 History



## Beowulf

Birch and Elm class have been studying the gruesome Anglo Saxon myth, Beowulf. We kicked off the unit with an experience lesson, where we gathered in a darkened hall and sat in groups around a 'camp fire' (fake tealights) and took it in turns to read a page of the heroic feats of Beowulf. The children were gripped by the ancient myth and enjoyed retelling the story in dramatic fashion to their peers.



Here's a BBC Bitesize link with 3 videos telling the story:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zfymxyc>



# New Playground

A collection of photographs showing the new playground taking shape:









## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ZEPETO

FOR SALE

AGE RESTRICTION  
14+

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

Although ZEPETO is intended for users aged 14 and up, it lacks built-in parental controls or age verification, instead relying on safety features on the device it's played on. This lack of a parental controls feature raises concerns about whom children may be interacting with on the platform.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As a mix between a virtual world and a social media platform, ZEPETO features a wide range of user-generated content. Some areas may reference mature themes, such as TV series aimed at adults, or include inappropriate material created by other users – all of which children may stumble across without warning.

#### STRANGER DANGER

By default, users can message and interact with anyone else. This open communication creates an environment where predatory individuals can pose as peers to gain trust, potentially leading to grooming, scams, and exploitation, such as blackmail.

Hi there...

#### CYBERBULLYING RISKS

As with many social platforms, children can be targeted for bullying, harassment or exclusion by both strangers and their peers. Unfiltered chat and avatar-based interaction can allow bullying and other forms of harassment to continue, impacting children's wellbeing and mental health.

#### ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY

Daily log-in rewards, such as coins, and in-game incentives can encourage compulsive behaviour, with some users feeling pressure to check in constantly to avoid missing out. This can lead to excessive screen time and conflict with schoolwork or offline hobbies or commitments.

#### SPENDING REAL MONEY

While the game is free to play, ZEPETO includes a store offering virtual clothing and accessories for avatars. These items are bought with 'ZEMs' – a paid currency – and the appeal of exclusive items or branded collaborations can make it easy for children to overspend.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### ENABLE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Visit the child's profile settings to restrict who can send messages – options include Everyone, Followers Only, or No-one. Encourage children to avoid sharing any personal information on their profile, as this is visible even on private accounts.

#### LIMIT IN-APP TIME

Use parental controls on Android (Google Family Link) or iOS (Screen Time) to restrict app usage by setting hours or daily limits. Encouraging breaks can help children develop healthier habits and reduce app dependency.

#### CONTROL SPENDING

To prevent accidental purchases, set up purchase approval systems such as Apple's Ask to Buy or Google's Purchase Approvals. Alternatively, consider removing payment methods or using pre-paid cards with set budgets.

#### HAVE REGULAR CONVERSATIONS

Talk openly with children about whom they interact with online and the kinds of things they see or experience. Encourage them to speak up if someone makes them uncomfortable or if they come across inappropriate content. Teach them how to recognise red-flag behaviours such as asking for secrets, giving gifts, or requesting personal information.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake\_up\_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

ig @wake.up.wednesday

yt @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.04.2025

## Parental controls guides

Activate parental controls to manage children's devices, apps and platforms, to give them safer online experiences.

 FIND A GUIDE

SEE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Activate



The link below will take you to a brilliant website. Parental controls can be used to manage screen time, block inappropriate content, prevent accidental spending, and keep strangers away. Research shows they improve digital wellbeing when used alongside regular conversations about online activities.

### Parental controls and privacy settings guides | Internet Matters



#### Parental controls & privacy settings guides

Learn how to set up parental controls and privacy settings on devices, apps, and platforms to help keep your child safe online.

 Internet Matters





DATE	EVENT
Friday 25th April	Sponsored Fun Run
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 7th May	Year 3/4 West Stow Trip
Wednesday 7th May	Pine Class Library Visit
Thursday 8th May	VE Day Celebrations
Wednesday 18th June - AM	Birch/Elm Library Visit
Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May	SATS Week
Wednesday 14th May - 2.45-3.15 pm	Elm Class Assembly
Wednesday 14th May - AM	Beech Class Library Visit
Wednesday 14th May - 14.45	Elm Class Assembly
Thursday 15th May	Western Themed lunch
Wednesday 21st May - AM	Hazel Library Visit
Wednesday 21st May - 14.45	Birch Class Assembly
Thursday 22nd May - 9.30am	Pine Class Assembly
Thursday 22nd May	Y2 Rackets Festival @ BVC
Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May	Half Term
Friday 6th June	Y 5/6 Duxford Museum
Wednesday 11th June - 2.30pm	Beech Class Assembly
Friday 13th June - 2.30pm	Hazel Class Assembly
Friday 13th June	Oak South Angle Farm Visit
Thursday 19th June - 6pm	Summer music concert
Wednesday 25th June	Year 1/2 History off the page
Tuesday 8th July - 9.30am	Rocksteady concert
Monday 30th June	BVC Transition Day
Tuesday 1st July	BVC Transition Day
Wednesday 9th July 9.30-11.30	KS1 Sports day
Friday 11th July 9.30-12.00	KS2 Sports day
Wednesday 23rd July	Themed Seaside Lunch
Wednesday 23rd July	Leavers Assembly
Wednesday 23rd July	Last day of school

# PTA Events



Event	Date	Time/Location
Silver Smarties (Acorns to Y4)	Throughout Feb/Mar	Deadline 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Young Apprentices (Y5 & Y6)	Throughout Feb/Mar	Showcase Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 Deadline 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Mother's Day	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	9 am
Easter crafternoon and cakes	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	3:30 - 5:30 in the hall
Mr Green Marathon event fancy dress run to coincide	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	TBD
Lolly Fridays	From 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	After school on field
Film night	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	After school in the hall
Father's Day	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	9 am
Summer fair/Circus**	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Field 5 – 7:30 pm
End of year disco and leavers party	Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025 (Term ends 23 <sup>rd</sup> July)	5 – 8 pm School hall





# Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

The EIFA team would like to present our newly updated workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues for the month of **June**.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, 3 June 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or	
Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviours	Tuesday, 10 June 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or	
Sleep	Tuesday, 17 June 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or	
Digital Safety	Thursday, 19 June 2025, 12:00-13:00	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or	
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Anger	Tuesday, 24 June 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or	
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Thursday, 26 June 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: <a href="#">Microsoft Virtual Events</a> Powered by Teams or	

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact [earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



## Free Healthy Relationship courses for parents

All relationships have their ups and downs, but if parents are regularly arguing in front of their children, it can have negative and lasting consequences. Help is available for parents who want to communicate in a healthier way. Family Hubs are running courses to support parents who would like to improve the relationship with their partner or ex-partner. Courses bookable directly via the QR code.

2025 workshop booking form



**\*\*JUNE/JULY 2025\*\***

**SUMMER TERM ONLINE:** Improve the communication with your partner to support your children (Arguing Better). Online Via Teams Monday 2nd June and Wednesday 4th June- Midday - 1pm

**SUMMER TERM ONLINE:** Improve the communication with your ex-partner to support your children (Getting it Right for Children). Online Via Teams, Monday 16th June and Wednesday 18th June -Midday to 1pm

**SUMMER TERM ONLINE:** Improve the communication with your partner to support your children (Arguing Better). Online Via Teams Wednesday 26th June and Wednesday 2nd July, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

**SUMMER TERM ONLINE:** Improve the communication with your ex-partner to support your children (Getting it Right for Children). Online Via Teams Wednesday 9th July and Wednesday 16th July, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Although the Arguing Better course is most beneficial when attending as a couple, there's no requirement to both attend.

**\*\*Please note these courses are not suitable if there has been any historic or current domestic abuse. If this is your situation and you would like help on where to find domestic abuse support, please contact [rplead@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:rplead@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) \*\***



# Attendance

This year we have set an ambitious target of 96% for our overall school attendance. The national benchmark for an academic year is 95%, and last year our attendance was 94% We would appreciate all of your help to achieve our target. **Our current overall attendance is 95.87%**

Current attendance in each Year Group:



Reception - 94.2 (up)

Year 1 - 95.6 (same)

Year 2 - 95.4 (down)

Year 3 - 95.9 (same)

Year 4 - 97.4 (up)

Year 5 - 95.3 (down)

Year 6 - 96.7 (same)

Can we politely remind parents and carers to inform the school office if your child is unwell. Where possible try to avoid being late as this can be disruptive for the rest of the class and unsettling for your child too. The doors open at 08:50am.

# Data Protection

Thank you to parents for completing the data collection sheets regards use of photographs. We will be reminding parents who have not yet completed these forms to do so over the next few weeks. Can we also remind you that you can opt out at any time for your child's photograph to be used by any third party

# Safeguarding



We take the Safeguarding of the pupils at Bottisham Community Primary School as our upmost priority. If you have any worries about a young person, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak to a member of our designated safeguarding team. Alternatively you can email [head@bottishamprimary.org](mailto:head@bottishamprimary.org)<sup>1</sup>