



UPDATE FROM MR ASKEW

Dear All

This is the first newsletter of the new academic year. We will endeavour to publish newsletters monthly this year. We hope that you will continue to enjoy reading them. A big warm welcome to anyone new to our community. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer, either in school, supporting the PTA or becoming a school governor. I would like to welcome Mrs Gopal, who is our new TA. She started as a volunteer during the last academic year and when a job came up, she was keen to apply and was successful in her application. Please don't hesitate to get in touch, if you are interested in volunteering.

As always, your feedback is welcome as we navigate the school year. We always endeavour to do our best, so please be kind with your feedback. We do listen, and are always looking to improve.

Hopefully you have already received the class news and topic webs from teachers and therefore now is a good time to receive this school one.

During the last week of term in the summer we learnt that Mrs Goodall (office administrator) was successful in applying for an internal post in the HR team at Anglian Learning. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Goodall, and wish her all the best in her new role. However, I am pleased to announce following our recruitment process, that we have appointed a replacement who will be starting next week.

It has been a very positive start to the new school year. Pupils are settled, and are working very hard and getting used to our new core values and habits. All the careful planning and careful transition work in the summer term has appeared to have contributed towards a smooth start.

Kind regards

Mr Askew

SEPTEMBER ISSUE 2025

BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY PRIM. SCH. NEWSLETTER

COURAGE, CURIOSITY, COMPASSION, COMMITMENT & RESPECT



Year 6 recent visit to Grafham Water

In this issue:

- New values and habits
- New three year vision
- World Poetry Day
- Reading for Pleasure
- House Captains
- Football Champions
- Harvest and food bank collection
- Apply for a place in reception 2026
- Parenting guides and information
- E-Safety Parent guides
- School and PTA events
- Attendance



Hopefully by now you will have heard about our new school values and the habits that go with each one. We believe these values reflect what is great about our school community already, but with your help last year, and many staff discussions later we have developed them further. The aim is to create a common language, expectation and feeling of belonging to our school community. We would like to encourage parents/carers to support us with reinforcing these to enable pupils to become great learners and rounded individuals ready for secondary school and beyond.



Our new 3-Year Strategy

This three Year vision for Bottisham Community Primary School is designed to further strengthen our overall school provision. It is a response to our ongoing self-evaluation process and recognises that effective schools are built on a values culture which supports pupils' sense of belonging, high quality teaching and effective leadership.

Our overall intentions are to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment where children can achieve their fullest potential.

Therefore, these are our aims for all pupils:

- To become effective and enthusiastic learners
- To be able to foster a respectful and caring attitude to others
- To be equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding for the next stage in their school journey
- To feel secure and live a healthy and safe life

To support pupils, achieve these aims, we have created a set of values and habits to support pupils' learning behaviours and personal development.

This is a summary of our three main areas of focus, and an acknowledgement that there are always additional areas to consider each year.



Embed a strong values culture across the school

A shared positive and ambitious vision, ethos and culture, based upon the highest expectations of all members of the Bottisham's community.



High quality teaching and learning

Highly effective teaching and learning which enables successful outcomes for all learners
Teaching is inclusive, reflecting high expectations for all pupils, regardless of need or background.



Inclusion – Sense of belonging

An increase in academic engagement and achievement. Pupils have improved self-esteem and better mental health, as well as increased attendance rates for all cohorts.



Additional Areas of Focus

In addition to our 3 main strategic priority areas, we recognise that there are always other areas of school development that require some focus on a **yearly basis**.



World Poetry Day

I DON'T LIKE POETRY

I don't like similes.
Every time I try to think of one
my brain feels like a vast, empty desert;
my eyes feel like raisins floating in an ocean;
my fingers feel like sweaty sausages.

I don't like metaphors.
Whenever I attempt them
a hammer starts beating in my chest;
lava starts running through my veins;
zombies have a fight in my stomach.

I don't like alliteration.
We learnt about it in school
but it's seriously, stupendously silly;
definitely drastically difficult;
terribly, troublingly tricky.

I don't like onomatopoeia.
I wish I could blow it up
with a ZAP! and a BANG! and a CRASH!;
a BOOM! and a CLANG! and a POW!;
a CLASH! and a BAM! and a THUD!

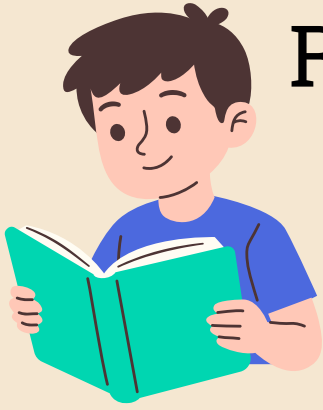
And I don't like repetition
I don't like repetition
I don't like repetition...

Joshua Seigal

Check out these amazing resources on poetry.

English KS2: Talking Poetry - BBC Teach





Reading For Pleasure

We have received some feedback about why we have changed from using Accelerated Reader and what are we replacing it with.

- **We are following on from the book bands to ease transition from ks1- ks2. With our SEND children using the rocket phonics scheme of books.**
- **For children who have reached a good level of fluency, they have a free choice of reading book (without a level).**
- **We are listening to the children read more regularly to assess their fluency and have a replacement assessment in KS2.**
- **We felt the benefits of AR (particularly the quizzes) didn't match it's high cost. It also didn't encourage reading for pleasure. To support our decision making, a piece of research over 5 years involving 200 schools by the Education Endowment Fund (EEF), which is an established and respected organisation, discovered that pupils make 0 months additional progress using Accelerated Reader.**

Mrs Walker - English Lead



House Captains

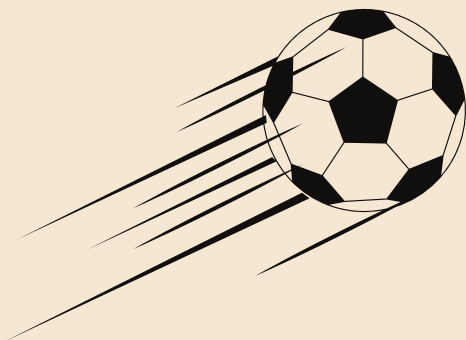
We are really pleased to announce our brand new House Captains for this academic year. Being a house captain comes with a lot of responsibility. They must act as role models at all times, as well as being ambassadors for their house ,but also the school when we have visitors. They collate house points weekly and also get to present certificates in whole school assemblies.



Football Champions

On a sunny afternoon last week at Marleigh Academy, the Year 5/6 boys took part in the first sporting event of the academic year. This turned out to be the first ever event of the new Anglian Learning Sports Alliance which has just been formed.

The pupils played in a mini league with 4 other schools finishing top with 4 wins out of 4. The most pleasing part of the day was receiving recognition from the organisers about how respectful and sporting the pupils from Bottisham were. They were particularly impressed with the gratitude shown at the end of the event.



Final League Table:

Champions: Bottisham 12 Points
Second: Icknield 10 Points
Third: Stapleford 8 Points
Fourth: Marleigh 6 Points
Fifth: Fen Ditton 4 Points

Collection for Cambridge Food Bank



We just wanted to remind everyone that next week we are collecting for the Cambridge Food Bank. We will be having a harvest assembly to give thanks to all the people who grow our food and help to put it on our table. If you are able to donate some food (see poster) we will ensure it reaches the food bank later in the week. Many thanks.

www.cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/donate-food

Cambridge City Food Bank

 [Donate food](#) [Get emergency food](#) [Donate](#)

[About us](#) [Support us](#) [Help and advice](#)

Donate food
Support us by donating food and other essentials.



Items we need
As of 04/08/2025

✓ Instant coffee	✓ Noodles
✓ Porridge oats	✓ Rice
✓ Snacks (e.g. crisps, cereal bars, etc)	✓ Tinned fish
✓ Tinned meat	✓ Tinned rice pudding
✓ Tinned soup	✓ Tinned spaghetti

Items we don't need
As of 04/08/2025

✗ Baked beans	✗ Boxes of tissues
✗ Cooking sauce in packets	✗ Incontinence products
✗ Pasta	✗ Powdered milk

Acorn Pre-school



The children have all settled so wonderfully well in Acorn Pre-school class this year. The team would just like to remind parents about applying for a place in reception. Mrs Swift, our Early Years Leader, is able to provide a tour of the school on either the 3rd October or the 17th October at 11:00am. Please contact the school office if you would like to join one of these tours.



Apply now

for a Reception school place for September 2026

If your child will be aged 4 by 31st August



You need to apply NOW for a School place



Apply by 15th January 2026

For further information please visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions or contact your local School

Contact the Admissions Team by telephone 0345 045 1370

School Admissions ALC2605, PO Box 761, Huntingdon, PE29 9 QR or email admissions@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

****OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2025****

Improve the communication with your partner to support your children

Face to Face Cambridge: The Green Room, The Fields Cambridge City Child and Family Centre, 9 Galfrid Rd, Cambridge CB5 8ND. Thursday 16th October, 9:30 – 11:30am

Face to Face Peterborough: The Sandalwood Room, Gladstone Park Community Centre, 927 Bourges Blvd, Peterborough PE1 2AN, Wednesday 22nd October, 9:30 – 11:30am

ONLINE: Online via Teams: Wednesday 19th & Wednesday 26th November, 12:00 – 1 pm

Improve the communication with your ex-partner to support your children

Face to Face Cambridge: The Green Room, The Fields Cambridge City Child and Family Centre, 9 Galfrid Rd, Cambridge CB5 8ND. Thursday 16th October, 12:45 – 14:45pm

Face to Face Peterborough: The Sandalwood Room, Gladstone Park Community Centre, 927 Bourges Blvd, Peterborough PE1 2AN, Wednesday 22nd October, 12:45 – 14:45 pm

ONLINE: Online via Teams: Tuesday 18th & Tuesday 25th November, 12:00 – 1 pm



Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter October 2025



EIFAs offer advice and strategies to parents and carers with a primary school aged child that may be experiencing some challenges such as routines, sleep, sibling rivalry, behaviour, worries or self-esteem. If you'd like a chance to chat about any of these topics, please contact us through scanning the code or clicking on the link, or email us:

earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

<https://forms.office.com/e/4tV6234P68>



and a member of the team will get in touch with you.

Top Tips

Parenting Top Tip

October brings half term and Halloween fun, which can bring its own challenges for us as parents due to the change in routine, and expectations from children!

Things to try and remember:

- Try to remain calm and step away from the situation when it is safe to do so.
- Before you begin the activity or before going out, clearly explain the behaviour expectations and possible consequences for your child/ren if those behaviours are not followed. For example: 'I can't wait to go trick or treating with you, just remember it will feel really exciting, but I want you to stay with me to be safe'.
- If your child struggles with those boundaries in place, remember to gently remind and follow through with any consequences that you have previously explained.

Remember consistency is key!



(Incredible Years programme-click the book for more)

Activity Idea

Autumn is finally here, and amongst the fallen leaves are plenty of opportunities for crafting and having fun with nature.

Try out this spooky fun idea for Halloween or any other time!

1. On your next autumn walk, have a look around for fallen leaves.
2. Place the leaves under a heavy item for a couple of days to flatten them out.
(This makes it easier to paint them)
3. Paint the leaves white and let them dry.
4. Draw funny faces on them.
5. You could even stick them on your windows to scare the neighbours!

Check out these other incredible Halloween nature craft activities with the Woodland Trust:

[13 Halloween Nature Activities and Crafts - Woodland Trust](#)

Another Resource

We know that parenting during the holidays can be stressful on the parents. Try to remember to find time to relax and breathe to try and stay calm. Here is a video from Place2Be that explains why it is important to stay calm when children push your buttons.

[My child pushes my buttons | Place2Be's Parenting Smart](#)

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? **Pinpoint** (www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk) have lots of information, advice and tips. For **Cambridgeshire's Local Offer** go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer

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



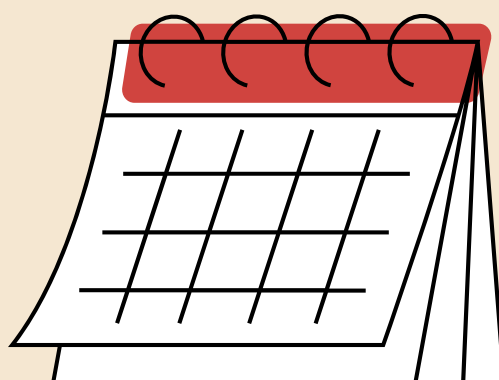
Parental controls & privacy settings guides

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

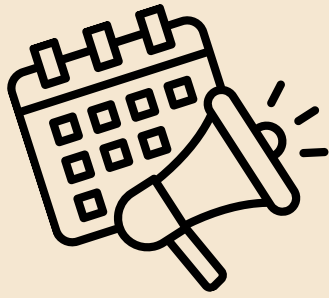
 Internet Matters

Autumn Term 2025

Autumn Term 2025	
Date	Event
1 st October	Sycamore and Willow classes to visit Ely Cathedral
W/B 6 th October	Harvest – Food donation
7 th October	Parents' Evening
8 th October	Year 1 and 2 visit to Hunstanton
8 th October	Y4 and Y5 (Maple) to visit Stapleford Granary Art Centre
9 th October	Parents' Evening
14 th October	Individual pupil photographs
23 rd October	Last day of term
24 th October	Teacher INSET day (school closed)
3 rd November	School opens
4 th November	Early Years Light and Dark Evening
5 th November	Willow Class Assembly
W/B 10 th November	Sycamore Class Assembly (Date TBC)
11 th November	Flu vaccinations
28 th November	Teacher INSET day (school closed)
9 th and 10 th December	KS1 Nativity
11 th December	Christmas jumper day & church carol concert in the evening
16 th December	Rocksteady concert
19 th December	Last Day of term



PTA Events



Details coming soon...

Attendance

Last year we managed to hit our ambitious target of 96% for our overall school attendance. We wanted to thank you for your support. This meant that our school was in the top 15% of all schools nationally. We would again appreciate your support to maintain these levels as there is a direct link with pupils achieving excellent outcomes and good attendance.



Current Attendance League Table

Year Group	Attendance %
5	98.0%
R	97.7%
2	97.8%
3	97.5%
6	96.2%
4	96.1%
1	93.9%

Overall attendance is 96.8%

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 very disruptive for the rest of the class and unsettling for your child too. The doors open at 8:50am. Register is taken at 9:00 am

Data Protection

If you have changed address or telephone number or you need us to amend our records please speak to the school office. 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.org¹