



UPDATE FROM MR ASKEW

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter February, we mark Candlemas (Feb 2nd) which is the official end of the Christmas season in the Christian calendar. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break and have managed to navigate the wet and dark month of January. Candlemas gives people a chance to reflect on themes of light, hope and new beginnings, which links well with the move from winter towards spring.

We have several exciting events coming up over the next few weeks. Some pupils will be taking part in cycle training, which is a great opportunity for them to build confidence and learn important road safety skills. We are also looking forward to some classes visiting a mosque and church as part of our learning in RE. These visits are always valuable experiences, helping children to develop understanding, respect and curiosity about different faiths and cultures. As always, we will ensure pupils are well prepared beforehand and supervised throughout.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind families about the importance of internet safety with Safer Internet Day coming up on February 10th. With many children spending more time online, whether for learning or leisure, and regular conversations at home about staying safe, being kind, and speaking up if something doesn't feel right can make a real difference. Please continue to monitor online activity and privacy settings where possible.

In school, our current art project is linked to the theme of "Belonging". The children have been exploring what belonging means to them and expressing this through a range of creative work. We are proud of the thought and care they are putting into this project.

During my assemblies, I have been reminding the children about our House names and linking the values of these figures to our own school values. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

JANUARY ISSUE 2026

BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY PRIM. SCH. NEWSLETTER

COURAGE, CURIOUSITY, COMPASSION, COMMITMENT & RESPECT



School choir rehearsing for the O2

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Acorn Class

Space Topic



Acorns class have had a very busy and exciting half term learning all about space. The children have initiated their own astronaut games in our 'space station' role play area, created space pictures and designed, described and named their own "puffy paint planets". In our P.E lessons the children have flown in their rockets and imagined what it would be like to walk on the moon. through construction activities, we have combined shapes and explored different resources to build 2D and 3D rockets. The children have also explored counting backwards for our rocket launch and acted out the story "whatever next!" by Jill Murphy!





Willow Class making Mexican food



Willow class have been making Mexican wraps to link their history topic of the Mayans with cooking skills in DT. Mrs Walker was very impressed with how they kneaded their dough, selected and prepped their ingredients (a lot of chilli was involved) and finally how they devoured their wraps!



Year 3/4 Science



In Year 3/4 science, pupils have been exploring different types of rocks and their properties. This week, the children carried out a practical investigation to test the permeability of rocks and discover which allow water to pass through.

they began by making thoughtful predictions, before carefully carrying out the experiment. Pupils worked scientifically by observing what happened and recording their findings in a data table. This hands-on investigation helped develop their enquiry skills and encouraged them to think like scientists while deepening their understanding of rock properties.

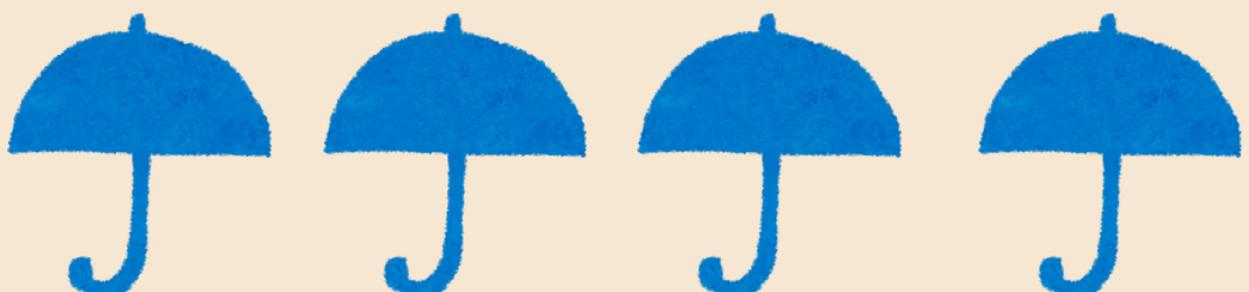




The Blue Umbrella



In English this half term, Birch class have been exploring the short animated film The Blue Umbrella as a stimulus for imaginative writing. Pupils delved into the story's characters, setting and emotions before bringing the film to life by re-enacting key scenes using their own umbrellas. This hands-on approach helped the children to deepen their understanding of the narrative and think carefully about how to describe action, atmosphere and feelings in their writing. The room was full of creativity, energy and enthusiasm, and we can't wait to read the wonderfully imaginative stories they produce next week.



Sir David Attenborough



David is in the middle with his two brothers. He was curious about nature from a young age.



One of David Attenborough's biggest strengths is curiosity. That means he loves asking questions like:

- Why do animals behave this way?**
- How do plants grow?**
- What happens if nature changes?**

David Attenborough believes every living thing matters – big or small. He shows animals carefully and kindly, not to scare them or harm them. Respect means treating people, animals, and nature with care.



•David Attenborough teaches us that Earth is our home, and we are responsible for looking after it.

- He talks about:**
- Recycling**
- Saving energy**
- Protecting animals and habitats**





Sometimes, David Attenborough talks about difficult problems, like climate change.

He is brave because he speaks up, even when it's hard, to protect the future.

Courage doesn't mean being loud – it means doing the right thing.

- Standing up for others
- Making kind choices
- Telling the truth

David Attenborough shows us that we can all make a difference

- Be curious
- Show respect
- Have courage



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 February.

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

Supporting Your Child with Angry Feelings – Evening session	Monday, 2 February 2026, 18:00-19:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry – Evening session	Thursday, 5 February 2026, 18:00-19:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
An Introduction to Family Wellbeing	Tuesday, 10 February 2026, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to launch Primary Platform 26, a new Anglian Learning exhibition, celebrating the creativity of every primary pupil across our 14 primary schools.

Building on the success of the secondary Platform events, which have been running since 2019, this is our first dedicated primary exhibition. From Reception to Year 6, pupils explore the theme of 'Belonging' - a powerful concept that every child deserves to explore and express. This supports Anglian Learning's Belonging by Design strategy by creating meaningful opportunities for pupils to explore how they feel included, valued, and connected within their school communities. Research shows that when children experience a strong sense of belonging, their confidence, wellbeing, and engagement all increase. We aim to ensure Primary Platform 26 becomes a vibrant celebration that reflects the work taking place in our primary classrooms.

The project began with an official launch at Kettle's Yard, where Art Leads from all primary schools worked alongside Dr Harold Offeh and the Kettle's Yard team. Each school will contribute a selection of artwork to the final exhibition.

As part of this celebration of the arts, the final exhibition will also feature a special video presentation of the Inspire25 event. This project saw over 500 pupils join forces with the Stapleford Granary Arts Centre for an immersive creative experience inspired by The Tin Forest. Seeing this video will be a wonderful opportunity to witness the power of collaboration across our Trust schools.

Save the Date: Primary Platform 26 Exhibition

Venue: The Marven Centre, Sawston Village College **Exhibition: 6–8 March 2026**

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Private View by invitation 6 March, 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm

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Open to the public 7 and 8 March, 10 am – 3 pm

Thank you to Teaching Personnel and Vision for generously sponsoring this event.

We look forward to celebrating our pupils' unique perspectives on belonging and hope you will be able to join us in March to enjoy sharing in their work.

Kind regards,

Laura Rawlings Deputy Director of Primary Education



ANGLIAN LEARNING

Presents

Primary Platform Exhibition 26

an exhibition of artwork from Anglian Learning
Primary Schools

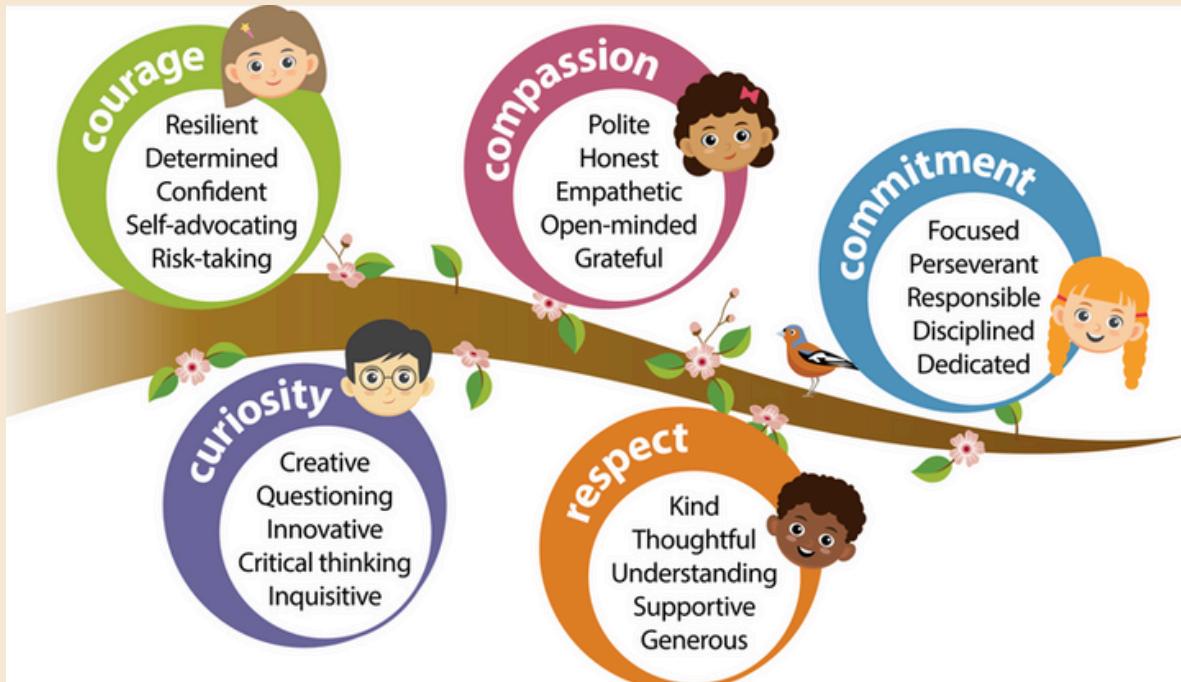
**7 & 8 March 2026
10 am to 3 pm**

The Marven Centre, New
Road, Sawston Village College

All welcome



Our Values and Priorities



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**.

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

School Events

SPRING TERM EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 8th January	Vision Screening - Reception only
Tuesday 3rd February	Dental Survey Team - 5yr old's only
Monday 9th-12th February	Bikeability Year 5 only
Monday 16th February	Half Term Week
Wednesday 11th March	Alice in Wonderland - M&M Theatrical company
Thursday 26th March	Bentley Photography - Leavers/Class Photo's
Monday 30th March	Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April	Start of Summer Term

PTA Events



Event	Date	Time/Location
PTA AGM	22 nd September 2025	7 pm online
Autumn disco	22nd October 2025	5 pm School Hall
Christmas fair	5th December 2025	4:30 – 7 pm in School Hall
Elfridges	15th December 2025	9 am in ???
Disney singalong	4 th February 2026	4:30 – 6:30 in school hall
Movie night	4 th March 2026	4:30 – 6:30 in school hall
Easter trail, crafternoon and cakes	20 th March 2026	3:30 - 5:30 in school hall and school field
Lolly Fridays	From 17 th April 2026	After school on field
Break the rules day	1st May 2026	During school day
Summer fair/Circus**	3 rd July 2026	Field 3.45 – 7 pm
End of year disco and leavers party	16 th July 2026	5 – 8 pm School Hall

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 %
R	96.5
1	93.9
2	96.6
3	95.3
4	95.9
5	96.9
6	95.6

Overall attendance is 95.8%

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