



## UPDATE FROM MR ASKEW

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for the conversations and support over the past few weeks following the announcement of my departure from the Bottisham school community at the end of this academic year.

Making the decision to leave has been incredibly challenging. It has been an absolute privilege to serve as the Headteacher of Bottisham. We are blessed with amazing pupils, a dedicated and talented staff, and a supportive parent community. After spending seven years as an electrician before transitioning into education, and with thirty years in the educational sector, ten of which have been as a headteacher, I believe it is the right time to step into semi-retirement. I plan to keep myself engaged with part-time work in the future, but I am eagerly looking forward to spending more time with my two children and extended family.

The Anglian Learning Trust has begun the process of appointing a new headteacher, and I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition by supporting the school and the Trust throughout this period.

I am incredibly proud of what our team has accomplished over the past three years, and I am confident that we have laid out a strong and ambitious plan for the continued progress of the school in the coming years.

Thank you for your continued support of the wonderful staff at Bottisham.

Kind regards,

Mr. Askew

**FEBRUARY AND MARCH  
ISSUE 2026**

# BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY PRIM. SCH. NEWSLETTER

COURAGE, CURIOSITY, COMPASSION, COMMITMENT & RESPECT



Gangster Granny up to no good on World Book Day

### In this issue:

- Reading for Pleasure
- Places of Worship Visit
- Acorns Pre-school
- Wider Curriculum Experiences
- Swimming Gala
- Football Competition
- Library visits
- Values and school priorities
- E-Safety Parent guide
- School and PTA events
- Attendance

# Reading for Pleasure

A note from Mrs Walker about the reading for pleasure opportunities over the past 2 weeks:

We continue to raise the profile of reading across school and I have been delighted to see the ongoing and hard work our staff have put into reading with our pupils. Our library is well looked after by our year 6 librarians and children are recommending books to one another. Our author visit was a highlight last week. Here's what the pupils said:



'i really liked our visit from Joshua Seigal because he is really clever and teaches young writers that you don't have to look far for inspiration.' Edin, Yr6

'We really enjoyed Joshua's visit. I particularly liked the poem, 'I Don't Like Poetry' - it was fantastic. he taught us a poem about things we don't like (like the 'ahh' after a sip of coffee from grown ups!). Lexy, Yr5.





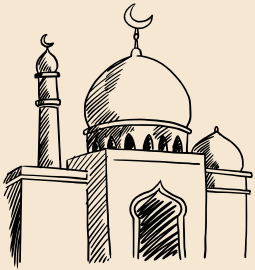
**Mrs. Walker  
delivering the  
assembly on World  
Book Day**



**Tara, and the lovely  
kitchen staff, baking an  
enormous cake for World  
Book Day**



On World Book Day, we thoroughly enjoy setting aside everything to dive into reading – particularly our favourite books. – Oliver S, Year 5 & Kristers, Year 6



# Places of Worship Visit



**Last month, pupils from Years 3 and 4 gained a valuable religious experience by visiting a church and a mosque on the same day. The pupils discovered many similarities and differences between the two religions and the architecture of the two buildings.**



**"I learnt all about the patterns that Muslims use in their Mosque - the patterns were absolutely incredible!" Freya**

**"I was amazed by the patterns on the floor - we saw octagons and eight-pointed stars." Sophia G and Emily**

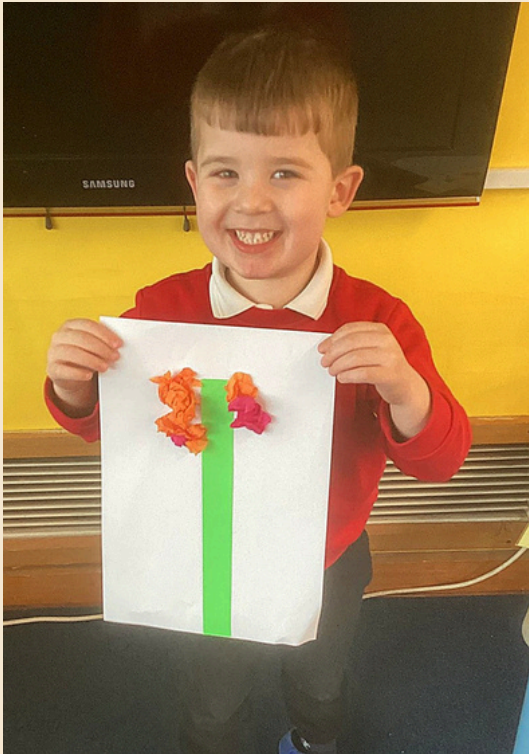
**"I found out that Muslims have to pray at 6:30am in the morning - and that really surprised me" Kitty**

**"I was amazed by the golden dome on the Mosque!" Erin**

**"The C3 church wasn't like our church in Bottisham. It had a pool for Baptisms, it had a drum kit, it had a stage, it had a disco ball, a cafe and a recording studio!"**



# Acorn Pre-school



In Acorns Preschool Class, the children have been learning about the life cycle of plants and flowers. We have completed observational paintings of hyacinths, investigated sticky buds, created sunflower life-cycle fold-up pictures and designed our own flowers using collage materials. In the preschool playground, the children have planted potatoes. They will be looking after them by watering them regularly and we are looking forward to (hopefully) harvesting our potato crop in June.



# Wider Curriculum Experiences



**M&M Theatre Productions performing Alice in Wonderland. A big thank you to the PTA for funding this experience for our pupils. The actors were struck by the respectful behaviours displayed by our pupils throughout their performance.**

Mrs Walker took some of our pupils to visit the Oakland's Care Home and read stories to the residents.





# Swimming Gala Champions



## **Mr Parker, Anglian Learning Sports Alliance, presenting the winning trophy**

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March we entered the first ever Anglian Learning Swimming Gala. There were two pupil representative's from each school in the freestyle, breaststroke and backstroke competitions, with 4 pupils in the relay, raft race and treasure hunt. There were points on offer for every place finished in these races, and as they performed consistently well throughout the afternoon, it saw them crowned champions overall. The pupils demonstrated our school values impeccably throughout the event leaving Miss Fletcher and Mr Askew feeling very proud of how they conducted themselves.

# **Years 3 and 4 Mixed boys and girls Football Runners Up**



**On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, we entered a Year 3 & 4 team of 6 boys and 6 girls from Bottisham for a football competition organised by Forest Heath Sports Partnership.**

**The mixed competition saw the girls play the first half of the matches, and the boys the second half . Our pupils finished top of their group winning two games and drawing one game before successfully winning their semi-final to progress to the final.**

**They went up against a strong Isleham school team in the final, and despite beating them in the group stage, they unfortunately lost in the final. However, the pupils gained a silver medal for their amazing efforts.**

**The most pleasing aspect of the afternoon, was the pupils supportive attitude they displayed towards each other throughout the tournament.**

**Thank you to all the supporters who came to cheer on our pupils in the latter stages of the competition.**



# Bottisham Community Library

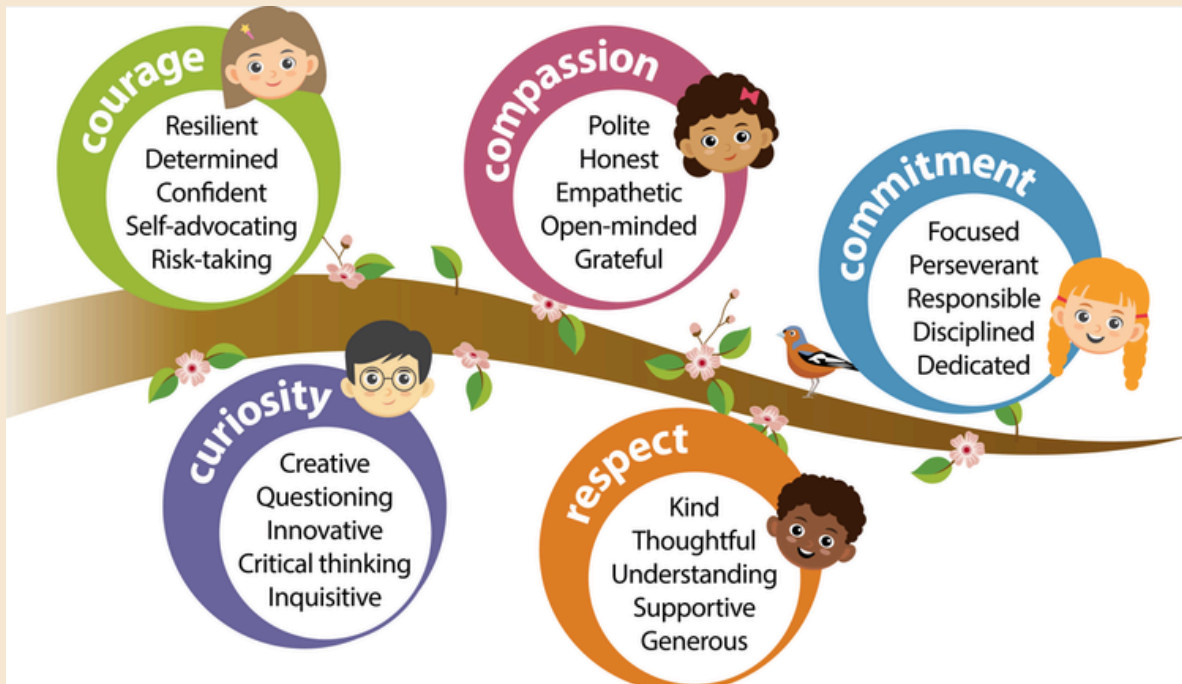


**Next term, classes will be visiting the local library. If the children bring their library card on the day they will be able to borrow a book when they visit. If you haven't already, you can register your child for a library card before their visit to avoid them being disappointed when they visit with their class.**

**COMMUNITY LIBRARY – Bottisham Village College**



# 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

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 15th April	Burwell House Information talk for parents
Friday 17th April	Year 1/2 Multi Skills Festival at BVC
Tuesday 28th April	Year 5 Cross County Maths challenge 4-5:30pm
Wednesday 29th April	Beech Class Assembly 2:30 - 3pm
Monday 11th - 14th May	SATS
Wednesday 13th May	KS2 Netball Comp at BVC
Wednesday 13th May	Red2Green SEN Art Project 1-3pm
Wednesday 20th - 21st May	Year 4 Burwell House Trip
Friday 22nd May	School Closed to Pupils – Teacher Training Day
25th-29th May	Half Term Week
Friday 5th June	Year 3/4 Festival
Thursday 11th June	Year 5/6 Bottisham Cup BVC
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 3:30pm	Art Exhibition
Thursday 25th June	Year 3/4 Trip to Botanical Gardens
Monday 29th - Tuesday 30th June	BVC Transition Days
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception and KS1 Sports Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Sports Day
Thursday 16th July	End of Year Disco and Year 6 Leavers Party
Friday 17th July	Leavers Assembly 2:30pm
Friday 17th July	Last day of Term



# PTA Events

Event	Date	Time/Location
PTA AGM	22 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	4:30 – 6:30 in school hall
Movie night	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	4:30 – 6:30 in school hall
Easter trail, crafternoon and cakes	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	3:30 - 5:30 in school hall and school field
Lolly Fridays	From 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	After school on field
Break the rules day	1st May 2026	During school day
Summer fair/Circus**	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2026	Field 3.45 – 7 pm
End of year disco and leavers party	16 <sup>th</sup> 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.



Year Group	Attendance %
R	96
1	91.7
2	96.5
3	94.8
4	94.9
5	96.7
6	96

**Overall attendance is 95.3%**

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.org](mailto:head@bottishamprimary.org)<sup>1</sup>