



Bottisham Primary School

Newsletter

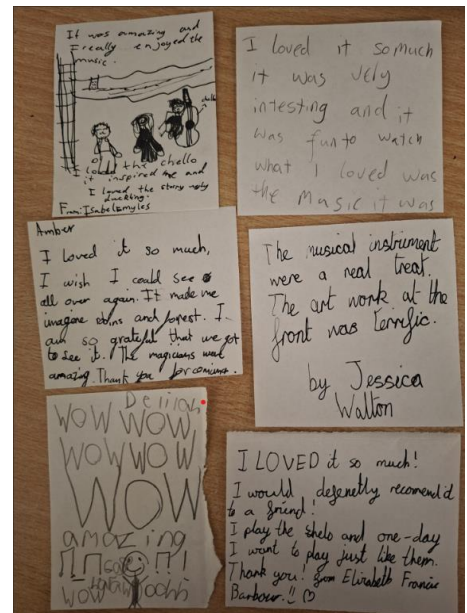
Friday 9th October 2026

*courage curiosity compassion
commitment respect*

We can't quite believe we are already in October and that half-term is fast approaching. The change of the weather this week has definitely made us all feel that Autumn is here. Now that temperatures have dropped, please make sure that children bring a (named) coat into school.

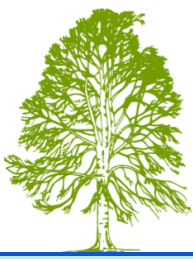
In school this week, as well as all the usual learning in class, there have been many special opportunities through performances and assemblies: children from Key Stage 1 and 2 were mesmerized by the Tiny Concerts production about the life of Hans Christian Andersen. The production company transformed the school hall into our very own theatre with beautiful staging, live music, storytelling, puppets and props! Below are some "post-it note reviews" by Elm Class. On Wednesday Rev Max Osborne led the Key Stage 1 assembly all about Harvest Festival, and children across the school also watched the Black History Month Assembly about Honouring our Communities.

Finally, on Thursday, Willow Class performed the first Class Assembly of the year. They wowed their parents and carers with a wealth of information about Victorian inventions, their incredible writing, poetry and even a science experiment.



Willow Class also enjoyed taking part in the 'Go all In' reading event on Thursday. We joined a zoom with schools from across the globe and heard from author Frank Cottrell-Boyce. He shared with us his tips for story writing and enthused us with snippets from his new book. We then spent 10 minutes reading at exactly the same time with other schools. We can't wait to hear if we've been successful at achieving the world record for people reading online at the same time!





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National Poetry Day

Thursday 1st October was National Poetry Day. This year's theme was 'Wonder'. Here are two more **wonderful** poems written by pupils.

I Don't Know

Do I go right or do I go left?
Do I go forward or do I go backward?
I don't know, I don't know.
Do I have to brush my teeth
Or do I have to eat?
I don't know.
What do I have to do now?
I don't know. I don't know.
By Azka in Cherry Class.

I Wonder

I sit in the garden and look at the sky,
I wonder why the sun looks like a pie.
I wonder why I can't fly.
I wonder why the sky is blue
And where my dog hid my shoe.
I wonder why Christmas is so far away.
I wish it would happen today.
I wonder, I wonder.

By Anabel in Cherry class.

SEND Parent Whatsapp Group

One of our parents, Clare Hayes, has set up a whatsapp group for parents of pupils with SEND:

A group for the families and friends of children at Bottisham Primary who have additional needs. Kind, inclusive and supportive. We deserve a community too!

Here is the QR code if you would like to join the group.



SEND Parent Group

Rebecca Brierley and Emily Cridland would like to set up a SEND parent group – the aim of this group would be for parents of pupils with SEND to meet each other to strengthen networks. We would also like to work closely with parents who have pupils with SEND at the school to strengthen our SEND provision further. The date for the first meeting is Monday 12th October at 9am. Please let the office know if you intend to join.

Tuesday 13th October is school photographs day! Don't forget to come in looking smart! If your child has PE on this day, please send them in uniform with their PE kit in their bag instead for this week.

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This week in Maple Class...

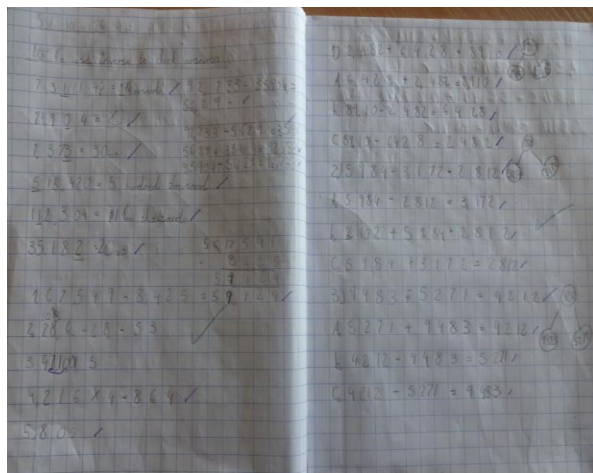
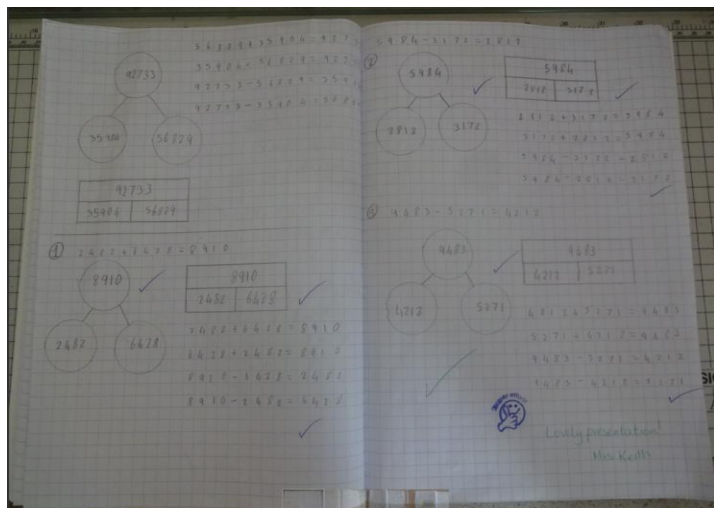
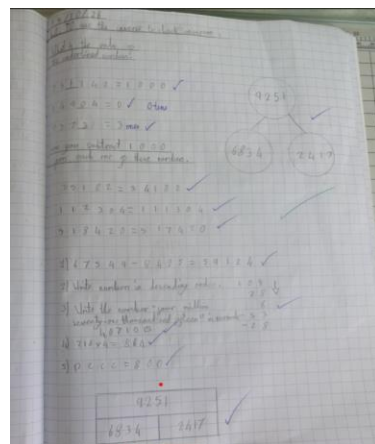
English

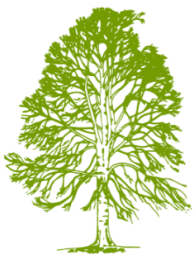
In English, we have started our new unit looking at explanation texts. To introduce the topic, we watched an informative video about the life cycle of a pumpkin, following its journey from a tiny seed through to arriving on supermarket shelves. The children worked brilliantly to recall and sequence the key stages, discussing the changes a pumpkin goes through as it grows. They then used their notes and memories from the video to order the events correctly, helping them to develop their understanding of chronological explanations. I was particularly impressed by the excellent recall, discussion skills and presentation shown by Eloise R (Y6), Carys T (Y6) and Nicholas O (Y6) in their work.



Maths

This week in Maple Class, we have been focusing on inverse operations. The children used fact families, bar models and part-whole models to deepen their understanding of the link between addition and subtraction. They discovered how these operations are connected and how using one can help them solve calculations involving the other. See some of our beautifully laid-out books. The children have worked incredibly hard and taken great pride in the presentation of their work. Here are just a couple of examples of that by Sophia B and Maria G.





ATTENDANCE

Please read this important information regarding requests for time out of school during term time.

The Government department in charge of education (the DfE) issued new statutory guidance that came into effect on 19 August 2024. This was called 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance'

The guidance means that **Headteachers have a statutory duty to refer to the Local Authority any pupil who has been absent from school for 10 consecutive sessions (5 days) where a G code has been used.** 'G' means the pupil has taken unauthorised term-time leave. The old 'H' code (holiday) has been removed because Headteachers are no longer able to or allowed to authorise term-time leave for holidays.

Authorised term time leave is strictly for exceptional circumstances, which is defined as immediate and unavoidable. This code should be used sparingly as few requests for term time leave fit this definition. **Headteachers may only authorise absence for exceptional circumstances.** Headteachers must submit attendance data to the DfE, where they can be scrutinised for the overuse of this code.

Please note that registers are taken at 9am every day.

However, our gates open at 8:45am, and doors to classrooms at 8:50am. This important 10 minutes allows pupils to enter calmly and settle into the school day with their peers and teachers. We encourage you to get to school by 8:50am, so your children can make the most of this valuable time.

Types of absence – every half day must be classified



Authorised absence

- Illness
- Interviews
- Study leave
- Religious observance
- Temporary timetable
- Exceptional circumstances



Unauthorised absence

- Term time holidays
- Minor illness and injury that does not impact on ability to be in school
- Tiredness/ late night
- Birthday celebrations
- Day trips
- Pupils who arrive after the close of the register

As we move into the colder months, many children will experience mild coughs and colds.

We kindly ask parents to send children to school if they are generally well enough to participate in normal school activities.

A mild cough, runny nose, sore throat or feeling a little under the weather does not usually require a child to stay at home.

Regular attendance is important for learning, friendships and wellbeing, and children often feel better when they can maintain their normal routines.



Key Dates for the Autumn Term

Tuesday 13th October: School photographer in – individual photographs

Friday 16th October, 9am-10am: Meet the Headteacher session for parents.

Wednesday 21st October, 5-6pm: KS2 Autumn Disco

Monday 26th – Friday 30th October: Half-term

Monday 2nd November: Staff training day – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS.

Wednesday 4th November, 3:30-4:30pm: KS1 Storytime session.

Friday 27th November: Flu vaccinations take place in school.

Friday 4th December, 4:30-6:30pm: Christmas Fair.

W/B Monday 7th December: Elfridges

Tuesday 8th December at and Wednesday 9th December at 2:15: Year 1 & 2 Nativity

Tuesday 8th December: Rocksteady concert (for parents of pupils in Rocksteady)

Thursday 10th December: Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 10th December: Christmas Craft Afternoon – Oak Class

Thursday 10th December, 6-7pm, Holy Trinity Church: School Carol Service.

Friday 18th December: Break up for Christmas holidays

Monday 4th January: School opens to pupils for Spring Term.

New event added.

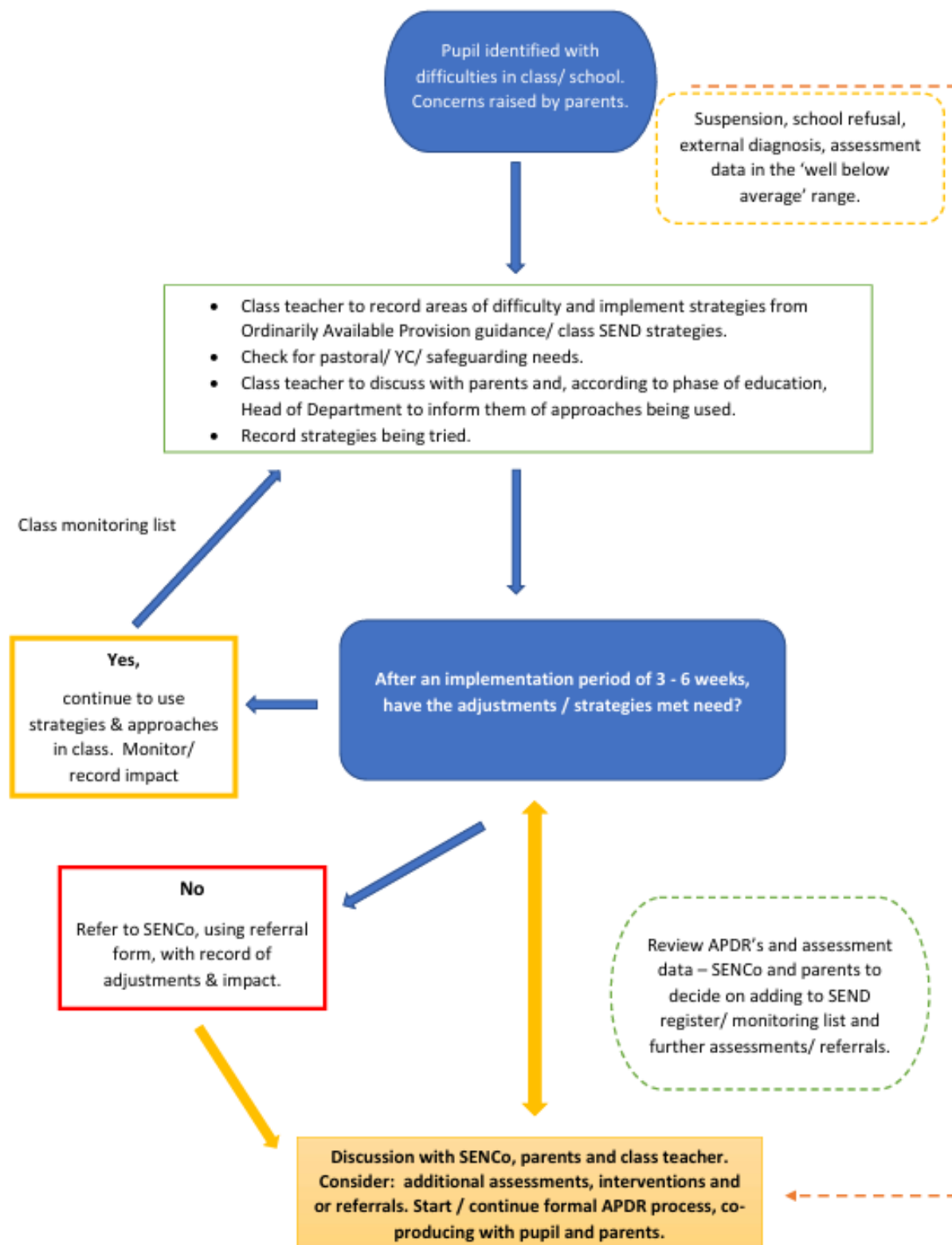
Photo Consent Forms

If you have not yet returned your photo consent form to the school office, please can you do. We are still missing 36!

Letters sent out this week

- Family Hub Parenting Offer
- Harvest Festival Donations
- Maple Class Assembly Reminder

SEND support pathway 2026/2027





Bottisham Music Centre

@ Bottisham Village College

Lode Road, Bottisham
Cambridge CB25 9DL
Tel: 01223 811250
BMC@Bottishamvc.org
Bottisham Music Centre

EA/mlc

Oct2026

Dear Parent/Carer

October Half Term Music Workshop

Summary of Actions	Deadline
October Half Term Music Workshop: 10am to 4pm, Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 October Online sign-up and further information https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/yRMRbADnDh	 Closing dates for applications: Wednesday 21 Oct 2026

In September 2024 we launched the brand new Bottisham Music Centre (BMC) based at Bottisham Village College. BMC is open to all budding musicians currently in school years 3-7. Our holiday workshops cater for all abilities, from complete beginners to experienced musicians, and we are pleased to announce that booking is now available for our October half-term course (Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 October).

This is a 2-day course in which students will take part in workshop sessions that will develop a wide range of music making skills and provide opportunities to learn and perform with other young musicians. Many of our groups cater for complete beginners, whilst others require some experience. Our balanced programme ensures that we are able to cater for everyone. The workshop will culminate in a performance to family and friends to showcase our work at the end of the second day.

The following sessions are available. Choose one activity from each group:

Group A

- **Rock School** (Keyboard, Guitar/Ukulele, Bass, Drums): Work on playing a popular song to perform alongside Rock choir
- **Rock Choir**: Sing as a group with our Rock School band

Group B

- **Improver Bass**: For those with experience or tried previous bass tasters – 3 spaces
- **Tuned Percussion**: Learn to play melodic parts using a range of tuned percussion instruments eg Glockenspiels, Chime bars or Boomwhackers
- **Rhythm Bounce**: Making rhythm patterns using bouncing balls – 12 spaces
- **Bucket Drumming**: Learning drumming patterns using upturned buckets
- **Solo Singing**: Sing a solo line or two in a group song – 9 spaces

Group C

- **Beginner Bass**: For those new to bass guitar – 4 spaces
- **Beginner Keyboards**: For complete beginners or recently started – 12 spaces
- **Orchestra**: For players of brass, strings, woodwind or percussion.
- **Samba Drumming**: Rhythmic patterns and movement using drums and percussion
- **Harmony Choir**: Learn to sing in parts or learn simple harmonies





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@ Bottisham Village College

Lode Road, Bottisham
Cambridge CB25 9DL
Tel: 01223 811250
BMC@bottishamvc.org
Bottisham Music Centre



Group D

- **Improver Bass:** For those with experience or tried previous bass tasters – 3 spaces
- **Improver Keyboards:** Group keyboard session. Min 6 months experience required
- **Djembe Drumming:** Group African drumming patterns
- **Body Percussion:** Body beats and movement patterns
- **Beginner Recorder:** Instruments will be provided
- **Musical Theatre Choir:** Sing songs from your favourite musicals

Please note that some of our groups have a limited capacity and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. All groups are subject to change depending on numbers.

Important information:

When: Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th October 2026

Time: 10.00am-4.00pm (with Parent concert at 3.15pm on Tuesday 27th October)

Where: Music Department, Bottisham Village College, Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL

Who: All aspiring & experienced musicians, currently in Years 3-7



How to sign up: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/yRMRbADnDh>

Total cost for 2-day workshop: £70 per child, Sibling discount: £120 for 2 children from the same family

Online Payment:

Account Name: Anglian learning t/a Bottisham village college
Account Number: 43596184
Sort Code: 201768
Reference: BVCMS, followed by Child's First Initial & Child's Surname

For further information or questions, please contact Mrs Emma Andrews
BMC@bottishamvc.org

Yours sincerely,
Mrs E Andrews
Centre Manager
Bottisham Music Centre





1st Bottisham Cubs

Be
Part of
Something
Great!

Adventure • Friends • Skills for Life



Monday Nights
6:30pm – 8:00pm



Children need to be
8 – 10 years old
to join



**At Bottisham
Scout Hut**

All are Welcome!

We do lots of exciting activities, including...



Learning
new skills



Hikes



Developing
leadership and
team work skills



Working
towards
badges



Camping at weekends
or holidays



External activities
and local visits, like
Clip 'n Climb!



For more information, contact

cubs@1stbottishamscouts.org.uk





A group of five diverse children are smiling and posing together outdoors. They are all wearing teal Premier Education vests over their regular clothes. The background is a grassy field with some trees in the distance. The entire image is set against a dark blue background with yellow and white geometric shapes, including a large white 'X' and several yellow diagonal lines.

**AFTER
SCHOOL**

AUTUMN TERM CLUBS

Bottisham Primary Community School

AUT 1: Starts w/c 7th September, Finishes w/c 19th October

AUT 2: Starts w/c 2nd November, Finishes w/c 14th December



EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS AT YOUR SCHOOL...

Day:	Activity:	Year(s):	Time:	Price
Monday	Gymnastics	Y1 - 6	08:00 - 08:45	£6 per session
Monday	Dodgeball	Y3 - 6	15:30 - 16:30	£6 per session
Thursday	Performing Arts	Y1 - 6	08:00 - 08:45	£6 per session
Thursday	Cricket	Y1 - 6	15:30 - 16:30	£6 per session
Friday	Nerf	Y1 - 4	15:30 - 16:30	£6 per session



We are pleased to inform you that we will be running the above listed clubs at your school this term for boys and girls of all abilities. Full details are available on our website.

To book, please follow these simple steps:

1. visit www.premier-education.com
2. search your postcode in 'book a course'
3. select your school and click **BOOK NOW**
4. complete your details and receive email confirmation of your booking.

Please note booking remains open throughout the duration of the course, the price will adjust on the payment page! If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, the payment can be paid for by the school. If your family circumstances have changed since being awarded the Pupil Premium grant and you feel you could make a contribution or pay the full payment, it would be very much appreciated.

Any questions email info@premier-education.com

CLICK HERE TO BOOK

<https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/297/>

Premier Education is the UK's No. 1 provider of sport and physical activity to primary schools, improving children's health and wellbeing through active learning every day!



Based on over 20,000 reviews

Apply now

for a Reception school place for September 2027

If your child
will be aged 4
by **31st August**

You need to
apply **NOW**
for a School
place



SCAN ME

**Apply by
15th January
2027**

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

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

The EIFA team would like to invite parents/carers to our workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues for **September – October 2026**.

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	Tuesday 29/09/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting your child with angry feelings - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Managing behaviours that challenge	Thursday 01/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Managing Behaviours that Challenge - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Supporting your child with sleep	Monday 05/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting your child with sleep - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Managing sibling rivalry	Wednesday 07/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Managing sibling rivalry - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Digital safety/internet safety	Tuesday 13/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Digital safety/internet safety - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Supporting your child with feelings of worry	Thursday 15/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting your child with feelings of worry - EIFA core offer workshop or	
Supporting your child with angry feelings	Tuesday 20/10/2026 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Supporting your child with angry feelings - EIFA core offer workshop or	

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