

## Message from Mrs Butt

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to meet so many of you at our recent meet and greet event. I trust you found the evening useful and informative. I really enjoyed having the opportunity to speak to so many of you.

If you were unable to attend, I briefly outlined my experience as a teacher and school leader, the current priorities of the school and the vision I have for the remainder of this year and the future.

I gave attendees the option to submit some feedback to support my getting to know BEDs, and a link to this can be found via this QR code:

(I will also make paper copies available in the offices from next week)

It's been a busy fortnight at both sites and I have been fortunate enough to witness some fantastic phonics, creative writing, thoughtful maths and deep discussions around our curriculum. I also had the pleasure of sharing some of our children's writing with the other Hobbes Alliance headteachers, who were thoroughly impressed by the neat handwriting and structured composition!

In our collective worship this week, we discussed self-respect and being true to ourselves. We thought about the story 'Happy I'm a hippo' and what it means to be unique and not compare ourselves to others. We linked this to the ten commandments, and how they are still important rules for being a good person and living a joyful life, even today. You can read a child friendly version of the Ten commandments story here: <https://kidsbibleworld.com/the-ten-commandments/>

Wishing you all a restful weekend,  
Mrs Butt



3 Feb	Y6 SATs Info Eve	5 Feb	Online Safety
4 Feb	We The Curious	6 Feb	BEDSA Disco

**Believe to achieve!**

**'Roots will grow down into God's love to keep us strong.' – EPH 3:17**

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The following children have been recognised for their achievements in celebration assembly in the last two weeks. Well done everyone!



## STAR OF THE WEEK

Jaxon, Olivia, Ava, Sammie, Harry L, Noah, Ada S, Eva, Phoebe, Rue, Poppy D, Jack O, Jac, Seb, Darcie, Ollie P, Isla B, Rowan and Libby



## ATTENDANCE

Elm Class 98.75%  
Rowan Class 99.64%

Beech Class 98.75%  
Rowan Class 98.21%



## GOOD MANNERS

Katrina, Eliza, Alan, Elsie, Fifi, Olivia, Eli, Katrina, Ava, Louisa and Wynter.



## GREAT READING

25 Reads - Rue, Ollie T

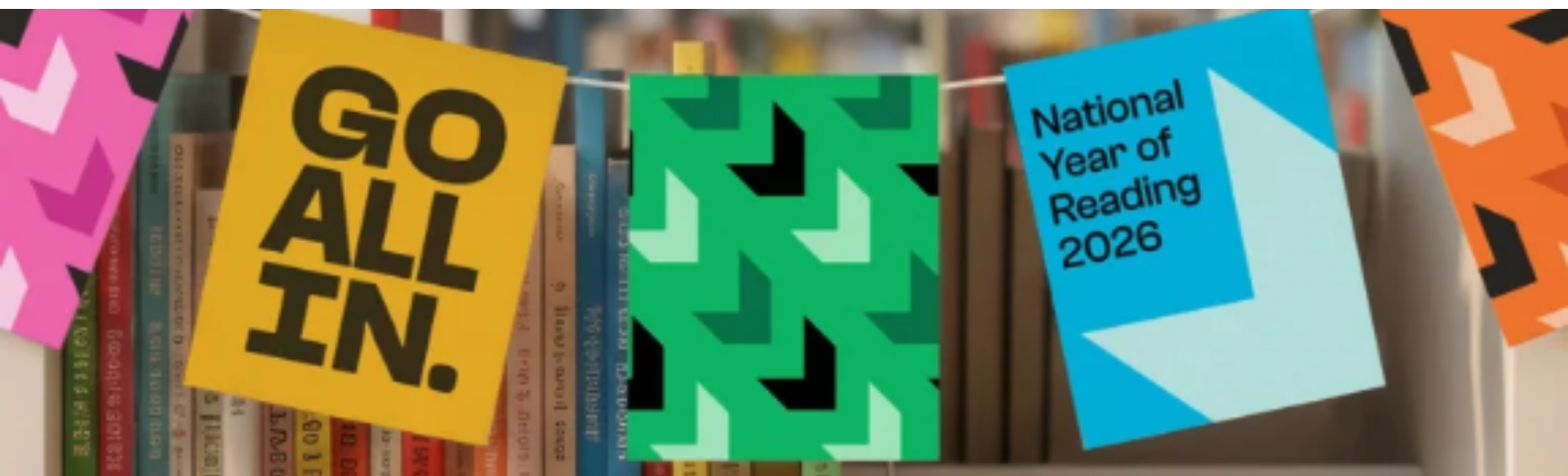
50 Reads - Jack, Elsie

75 Reads - Cybele

100 Reads - Hattie, Lily

125 Reads - Sidney, Lucian, Edward, Phoebe

Jaxon, Orson, Isla, Ava, Emily, Oscar, Eva, Lily, Milly, Teddy N, Teddy P, Bradley, George K, Ollie P, Lottie, Rowan, Sefton, Eliza, Lexi, Molly M, Aubrey and Keegan.



# SENDCO UPDATE

Hello,

This week we have been exploring dyslexia; what it is and how it affects people.

Dyslexia is one of the most prevalent learning disabilities, affecting the lives of around 15-20% of the world's population. The condition can present itself differently from one individual to the next, displaying a variety of symptoms with each having its own unique challenges. It is a neurological condition that affects a person's ability to read, write, and spell. It is a specific learning disability that has no relation to a person's intelligence or their level of overall cognitive abilities. Dyslexia is characterised by difficulties in processing and recognising written words, which can result in reading difficulties, slower reading speed, and problems with accurate spelling.

We have been sharing stories about people with dyslexia, talking about famous dyslexics, and thinking about how we can show kindness and encouragement to our friends who learn differently.

Our staff development meeting was training on dyslexia by Amy Lydiate and she also joined us for a Friday afternoon parent coffee catch-up.

Dyslexia is often tricky to spot but if you have any concerns please always share them with your child's class teacher or myself.

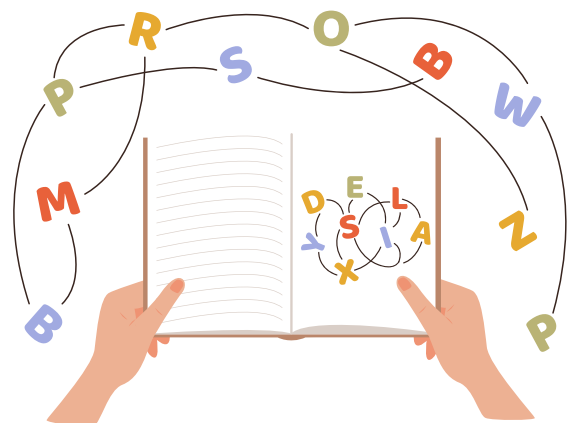
More Information can be found here:

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>

<https://dyslexiaida.org/dyslexia-basics/>

<https://www.dyslexia.uk.net/>

Have a lovely weekend,  
Mrs Pocock



# SPOTLIGHT ON

## TV SAFETY - STRANGER THINGS

Lots of our Upper Site children are discussing this TV programme. Whilst it is rated 12A and entirely for your parental judgement, here are some of the concerns noted on advisory sites:

- **Violence:** The show features frequent monster attacks, deaths and jump scares. Some scenes include blood and mild gore.
- **Language:** Strong language is used throughout, especially by teen and adult characters.
- **Sexual content:** There are a few kissing scenes and romantic subplots, but nothing explicit. Later seasons include brief innuendo.
- **Substance use:** Some teen drinking and smoking, along with adult references to drugs and alcohol.
- **Emotional intensity:** Scenes involving fear, grief and trauma can be distressing, particularly for sensitive viewers.

While these elements help build the story's emotional depth, they can be too much for younger kids. The tone is suspenseful and sometimes heartbreaking, which is why age really matters here.

### Ages 8–10: might be intense

For most kids under 11, *Stranger Things* is bit scary. The monsters are frightening, the tension builds quickly, and the show does not shy away from dark moments. Even the first season includes scenes that could easily cause nightmares or anxiety.

If your child is in this age group but interested in the supernatural genre, there are plenty of gentler alternatives. *The Last Kids on Earth*, *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* or the new *Goosebumps* series capture similar themes of adventure and friendship without the same level of intensity.

You can also explain that part of what makes *Stranger Things* special is that it grows up with its audience. There will be time to enjoy it later, when they are ready to handle the scarier parts.

### Ages 11–13: proceed with caution

This is the group most likely to want to watch *Stranger Things* because the main characters start out around their age. The friendships, bike rides and secret forts all feel familiar. But even though the story centers on kids, it was not made for kids.

Some tweens in this range can handle the suspense and fantasy violence, while others might find it overwhelming. The show's emotional moments, especially scenes involving loss or danger to children, can hit hard.

If your child is eager to watch, try previewing a few episodes together. Watching as a family lets you gauge their comfort level and talk through anything intense. You can use the story as a chance to discuss courage, friendship and what it means to face fear.

Also, be ready for questions about some mature topics. Older seasons include occasional references to romance and substance use, and co-viewing gives you the chance to put those moments in context.

## NEW BEECH CLASS TEACHER

We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in recruiting a new Class Teacher for our Reception and Year 1 children in Beech Class.

Mrs Oliva West is an experienced Key Stage 1 teacher who will be starting with us on a permanent full-time basis from 23 February 2025.

Mrs West is also doing some days to help with her transition to the class in the first two weeks of February. Please join us in welcoming Mrs West.

## NEW WILLOW CLASS TEACHER

We are also delighted to announce the appointment of Mr David Lucas, who will begin teaching alongside Mrs Seton next week. We have carefully planned a longer handover period specifically for our Year 6 cohort, with their SATs and secondary school transition in mind.

Mr Lucas is an experienced teacher and author who cannot wait to bring his creativity and expertise to our school. I'm sure he will be a wonderful addition to our school and I know that you will make him feel very welcome!

## PROJECT 5K

Our new running club, Project 5k got off to a very successful start with Upper Site children attending with enthusiasm and resilience against the cold.



The children are really focussed on building their stamina for running and enhancing their fitness. The children accomplished 1 min jog / 1 min walk x 6 and then finished with 2 x 2min jogs. Even though it was drizzly, we were soon warm and many had red cheeks at the end!

If your child is part of this, it is advised/encouraged that they run/walk this again before the next session on Wednesday.

And of course, it is not too late if your child would like to start next week.

Thank you to Mr Boscott for running the club and to Mrs Pocock and Mrs Chambers-Haigh for supervising. Mrs Butt is looking forward to bringing her trainers for next weeks' session. Hopefully we can all improve week on week!



Brinkworth Earl Danby's School Association



[bedsacontact@gmail.com](mailto:bedsacontact@gmail.com)

## FUNDRAISING



### EASY FUNDRAISING

Sign up, buy online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - and raise free money for BEDSA. And it won't cost you a penny!



### SCHOOL LOTTERY

Sign up to purchase weekly lottery tickets, boost school funds, win cash prizes. At least one winning ticket per school per week!



### STIKINS

Don't forget to order new name labels through Stikins using our code 35318

**BEDSA**  
Brinkworth Earl Danby's School Association

**DISCO**

**FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY**  
**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

**LOWERSITE**  
LOWER SITE CHILDREN 3:30 -4:30  
UPPER SITE CHILDREN 4:45-5:45

**£3.50 - PAYMENT VIA PARENT PAY OR CASH**

# DATES FOR THE YEAR

Updates in red. Install the School News app to receive news updates, details on our website [here](#).

<b>PE DAYS</b>	Beech - Reception	Mondays & Thursdays
	Beech - Year 1	Mondays & Wednesdays
	Elm	Tuesdays & Wednesdays
	Birch	Tuesdays & Thursdays
	Rowan	Thursdays (swimming) & Fridays
	Willow	Mondays & Thursdays

## TERM 3

Wed 21 Jan	Project 5k Training Starts	Upper Site	Weekly training sessions 3:30-4:15pm on the school grounds
Tue 3 Feb	Y6 SATs Info Eve	Upper Site	15:40 in Willow Classroom
Wed 4 Feb	We The Curious	Upper Site	Trip to Bristol
Thu 5 Feb	Online Safety		Facilitated by Stay Safe Initiative
Thu 5 Feb	Parent Online Safety	Zoom	Evening Session
Fri 6 Feb	BEDSA Disco		LS Hall 3:30-4:30 LS children 4:45-5:45 US children
Wed 11 Feb	Rowan Class Assembly	Upper Site	9:10am (was 26 Mar)
Fri 13 Feb	End of Term 3		

# DATES FOR THE YEAR

## TERM 4

Mon 23 Feb	Start of Term 4		
Tue 24 Feb	NSU for T3 House Point Winners		
Mon 2 Mar	Book Fair		
Thu 5 Mar	World Book Day		
Wed 18 Mar	Y4 Residential	Braeside	3 days, 2 nights
Thu 19 Mar	Parent Forum 4	Lower Site	
Fri 20 Mar	Red Nose Day		
Tue 24 Mar	Parents Eve	Upper Site	
Wed 25 Mar	Project 5k Final Event	Upper Site	3:30-4:15 on US grounds
Thu 26 Mar	Willow Class Assembly	Upper Site	9:10am (was 12 Feb)
Thu 26 Mar	Parents Eve	Upper Site	
Fri 27 Mar	Whole School - Easter	Upper Site	Includes church Easter service
Fri 27 Mar	End of Term 4		

## TERM 5

Mon 13 Apr	Start of Term 5		
Tue 14 Apr	NSU for T4 House Point Winners		
Thu 30 Apr	SEN Coffee Meetup	Lower Site	Focus - ASD
Mon 4 May	Bank Holiday		School Closed
Thu 7 May	Parent Forum 5	Lower Site	
Mon 11 May	Y6 SATs Start		4 days
Wed 20 May	Elm Class Assembly	Lower Site	9:10am (was 11 Feb)
Thu 21 May	Birch Class Assembly	Upper Site	9:10am
Fri 22 May	End of Term 5		

# DATES FOR THE YEAR

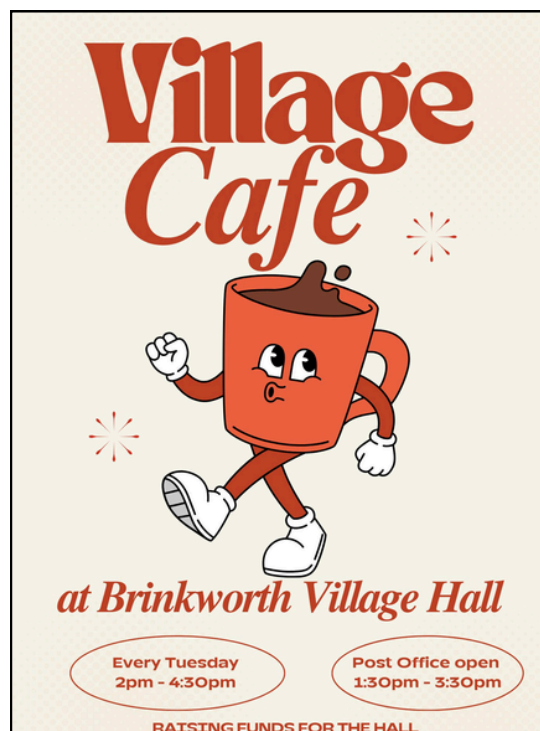
## TERM 6

Mon 1 Jun	TD Day		No children in school
Tue 2 Jun	Start of Term 6		
Tue 2 Jun	NSU for T5 House Point Winners		
Wed 3 Jun	Class School Photos		
Fri 5 Jun	Sports Day	Upper Site	1pm
Fri 12 Jun	Y6 Residential	Morfa Bay	4 days, 3 nights
Thu 18 Jun	Reception New Parents Info Eve		
Fri 19 Jun	Reserve Sports Day		
Thu 25 Jun	Parent Forum 6	Lower Site	
Wed 8 Jul	Beech Class Assembly	Lower Site	9:10am (was 20 May)
Thu 9 Jul	Shuffle Up/Transfer Day		
8 & 9 Jul	Malmesbury Year 6 Induction Day		
Mon 13 Jul	School Reports Out		
Mon 13 Jul	Y2 Second Transfer Day	Upper Site	
Wed 15 Jul	Willow Production	Lower Site	PM & Eve performances
Fri 17 Jul	Leavers' Party	Upper Site	After school
Tue 21 Jul	Whole School - Leavers' Service	Upper Site	AM church service, Y6 Parents
Tue 21 Jul	End of Term 6		
Wed 22 Jul	TD Day		No children in school



# COMMUNITY NEWS

click images for links



January Family Hub newsletter now available.



## Messy Church

- 🕒 Every First Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for 1 hour
- 📍 St Michael & All Angels, Brinkworth  
St Michael & All Angels, Brinkworth, School Hill Brinkworth, SN155AX, United Kingdom
- 📌 Bacon Rolls & Toast with Homemade Marmalade / Jam Activities & Crafts for Children.  
Act of worship with Action Songs, interactive talks, inclusive prayers.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

click images for links



**HISTORY CLUB**

**FREE** INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN  
AGED 4 – 11 YEAR OLDS

**MOVING PICTURES**



JOIN US IN THE RAUSING BUILDING  
SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY  
1:30 – 3:30 pm

(All children must be accompanied by an adult)  
Donations Welcome



**February Half Term Football Camp**

**5 Day Football Camp**  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

School years: Reception - Yr11  
9.30am - 2.30pm (Drop off from 8.30am)  
Only £19 per day! Discounts for siblings & WFA JPL Club Members

- ⚽ Challenges
- ⚽ Daily Tournaments
- ⚽ Skills
- ⚽ Fun



ACCREDITED



Gerard Buxton Sports Complex (3G)  
Brinkworth Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 8DS

## PH Camps - February half term Stanton St Quintin Holiday Camp



This fantastic venue has great facilities, including indoor classrooms, a large hall, a large playground, and a large field area. Children can try a wide range of sports, arts & crafts, and extreme and adventurous activities throughout the school holidays.

- Our camps are for kids aged 4-14.
- We're fully Ofsted registered.
- Operating hours are between 8:00 am and 5:30 pm, Tuesday 17 – Thursday 19 February.
- We accept tax-free childcare and are childcare voucher registered.

**Book now to receive 10% discount – but hurry, the offer ends SUNDAY 1 Feb at midnight!**



# COMMUNITY NEWS

click images for links

FOR YEAR 4

## CHORISTER for the day

Saturday 28 February 2026



*"Being a chorister is full-on, but worth it for the experience and the memories."*

*Sam, chorister, age 12*

*"I love being a chorister and it really feels like a part of me! I can't wait to leave for choir every Monday."*

*Liam, probationer, age 10*

*"It makes me feel happy to be part of something so big and historic."*

*Chloe, probationer, age 11*

For more information or to book a place contact  
Tim Popple, Music & Liturgy Officer, or scan the QR code  
[tim.popple@bristol-cathedral.co.uk](mailto:tim.popple@bristol-cathedral.co.uk) | 0117 946 8173

*"I would recommend it because the singing makes me feel really happy."*  
*Toby, chorister, age 12*

### Be a Chorister for the Day...

Does your child

- enjoy singing?
- show potential?

We invite budding musicians in Year 4 and their families to join us for a day of singing fun, activities, and Choral Evensong.

- meet the music staff
- meet the choristers
- try on robes
- enjoy a singing workshop
- meet chorister parents over coffee
- learn about Evensong and chorister life

### ...become a Chorister for Life

- Choristers receive an **exceptional musical education**
- they learn to **work in teams**
- **sing with adults as equals**
- sing on **national TV and radio** and for dignitaries
- tour foreign countries
- receive **funding for instrumental lessons**
- receive **free singing lessons**
- and are educated at **Bristol Cathedral Choir School**





# COMMUNITY NEWS

click images for links

*WYM*  
 Wiltshire Young Musicians  
*Helping young people make music since 1990*  
**Calling all youngsters under 19 years**

*No experience necessary  
Learn from scratch!*

**Pick up and play!**

*Instrument hire included*

*Highly qualified and inspirational tutors*

Brass on Thursdays

Woodwind on Thursdays

Strings on Tuesdays



[www.wiltshireyoungmusicians.org.uk](http://www.wiltshireyoungmusicians.org.uk) | [info@wiltshireyoungmusicians.org.uk](mailto:info@wiltshireyoungmusicians.org.uk)

WILTSHIRE YOUNG MUSICIANS  
*presents*  
**MAGICAL CLASSICAL!**  
 WORKSHOP & CONCERT  
 for Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass players  
 from beginner to Grade 2

**SUNDAY MARCH 22** **£12**  
 WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE

**15.30 WORKSHOP**  
**COME AND LEARN FANTASTIC MUSIC WITH FRIENDLY TUTORS!**  
 (PACKED TEA BEFORE THE FINAL PERFORMANCE)

**17:00 CONCERT ALONGSIDE WILTSHIRE YOUNG MUSICIANS JUNIOR STRING ENSEMBLES!**

TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:  
[INFO@WILTSHIREYOUNGMUSICIANS.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@WILTSHIREYOUNGMUSICIANS.ORG.UK)

**POP & ROCK**  
**WORKSHOP AND CONCERT**  
 FOR BEGINNER - GRADE 2 WOODWIND, BRASS & PERCUSSION PLAYERS

**SUNDAY MARCH 22** **£12**  
 WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE

**11.30 WORKSHOP**  
**COME AND LEARN ROCK & POP MUSIC WITH FRIENDLY TUTORS!**  
 (PACKED LUNCH BEFORE THE FINAL PERFORMANCE)

**13:00 CONCERT ALONGSIDE WILTSHIRE YOUNG MUSICIANS JUNIOR WIND BANDS!**

CONCERT TICKETS £10/£6 U-18S

TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:  
[INFO@WILTSHIREYOUNGMUSICIANS.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@WILTSHIREYOUNGMUSICIANS.ORG.UK)  
[www.wiltshireyoungmusicians.org.uk](http://www.wiltshireyoungmusicians.org.uk)