



Newsletter Friday 12th September 2025

Ambition Belonging Courage

Key dates for your diary:

Meet the teacher meetings:

Tuesday 16th September, 3.20pm – Years 3 & 4

Wednesday 17th September, 3.20pm – Years 5 & 6

Thursday 18th September, 3.15pm – Years 1 & 2

Wed 15th & Thurs 16th Oct – Parents' Evening

Mon 27th – Fri 31st Oct – Half Term Holiday

Fri 28th INSET Day

Fri 19th Dec – Last day of term

House Point Results Winning House Petworth

Cowdray
414

Parham
445

Goodwood
447

Petworth
531

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fantastic first full week back at school and are especially delighted to welcome our new Reception children. They have settled in brilliantly and are already showing our school value of **courage** — we are very proud of them!


To all our new Reception parents, a very warm welcome to the **Billingshurst family**. This is an exciting and important start to your child's school journey, and we are here to ensure it goes as smoothly as possible. Please don't hesitate to ask if there is anything you're unsure about — we are always happy to help.

As with last week, children have been entering their classrooms calmly and ready to learn each morning. This has enabled teachers to begin lessons promptly, and we'd like to thank you for supporting our new drop-off arrangements — they are already making a real difference.

Finally, we were unable to say a proper goodbye to Katie White, our school receptionist, at the end of last term as she was unwell. Katie will be coming into school next Friday at the end of the day for anyone who would like the chance to see her.

Have a great weekend

Ms Ley




IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Mr Matthews

Mr Matthews is our Safeguarding Lead and now works across Sussex Learning Trust too. As an ex Senior Police Officer, he has a wealth of experience in many aspects of safeguarding. Mr Matthews is also a keen chess player and runs our school chess club. Mr Matthews is known by staff as always being the first on the dance floor at the Christmas do!

Fun Facts:
Mr Matthews has a cat called Marty. He is named after a character from Mr Matthews favourite film, Marty McFly - Back to the future.

Hobbies:
Skiing, walking, gardening, motorhoming, spending time with family.




Welcome to EYFS

Big smiles, little footsteps... a very warm welcome to our new Reception children! It was such a joy to see so many bright smiles as they began their very first week at school. They wasted no time exploring, making friends, and settling in with their teachers. What a fantastic first day – we can't wait to see all the adventures this year brings!



Year 2 - Time Capsule

Year 2 had a very exciting discovery this week. They found a time capsule from 1932 and were fascinated by what they uncovered. Inside, they explored a satchel, ink pens, old learning books, and even read a letter from Tom, sharing what school life was like nearly 100 years ago. Year 2 loved comparing these treasures to the things they use in school today - it sparked lots of wonderful discussion!



Year 1 - What's that smell?

Year 1 have been exploring their senses in Science! This week, they focused on their sense of smell. They sang songs, played games, and learned which parts of their bodies help them to use each sense. Then came the fun part – sniffing lots of different scents! Vanilla and ginger smelt fresh and sweet, while lemon and vinegar were sharp, bitter, and sour. A wonderful start to their senses journey – lots of curious noses at work!



Congratulations

We are delighted to share that Mrs Steer and her husband welcomed baby Leo into the world at the end of July. They are all doing well and we wish them all the best from everyone at Billingshurst!



Do you have...


We are looking donations of useable outdoor brushes, shovels and buckets. This is for our new pupil Grounds Team to use around the school site. If you think have something to donate, please contact Mr Hampson. Thank you!




Governors Wanted

Join Our Governing Body – Billingshurst Primary Academy

We're looking for volunteers to help shape the future of our school. No experience in education is needed – just enthusiasm, good communication skills, and a desire to make a difference for our children.

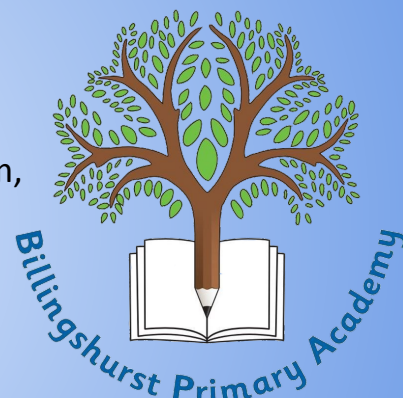
 Meetings: once every half term

 School visits: one per term

 Training provided

Interested? Contact Nicola Waters, Chair of Governors:

nwaters@billingshurstprimary.org.uk



SEND

**Struggling with
your child's
behaviour and
feeling like nothing
is working?**

Connective Family have created a 2-part online introductory course to give you real tools, backed by a trauma-informed, neurodivergent-friendly approaches, that you can use straight away. If you are interested, please scan the QR code to sign up.



Introduction to

Connective Parenting NVR

**Struggling with your child's behaviour and
feeling like nothing is working?**

You're not alone and we understand just how exhausting and disheartening it can be when things don't change, no matter how hard you try.

That's exactly why we created our 2-part online introductory course - to give you real tools, backed by a trauma-informed, neurodivergent-friendly approach, that you can use straight away. We'll walk with you step-by-step to help you create the calmer, more connected home life you're longing for.

"Thank you so much for these very informative sessions. I wish I'd found you sooner. I had some really tough moments with my children, but this gave me a fresh start. Sometimes it's not about perfect"

On this course, you'll learn how to:

- De-escalate meltdowns by using regulation and connection, not control.
- Build emotional presence to strengthen your bond with your child.
- Reduce overwhelm by prioritising behaviours that matter most.
- Hold space for your child's emotional development and identity.
- Care for yourself, because your regulation matters too.
- And most importantly, adapt all of this to your child's unique needs.

Course details

- £29 per person
- 9.30-11.30am
- Online via Zoom
- **September:** Wednesday 10th & 17th
- **November:** Thursday 20th & 27th

Book your place

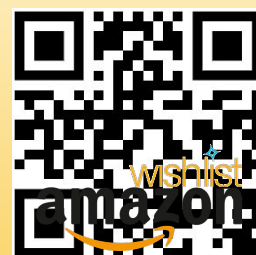


Connective Parenting NVR is grounded in relationships, not rewards and consequences. It works because it honours who your child is, especially if they're neurodivergent or have experienced trauma.

www.connectivefamily.com
training@connectivefamily.com

Amazon Wish List Books

A huge thank you to all of the families who have gifted a book from our Book Wish List, which we launched on World Book Day! Your contribution means so much to the children here at Billingshurst Primary Academy. If you'd like to participate, simply visit our Amazon Wish List (<https://amzn.eu/eHq3KxB>), where you can choose a book to donate and will have the option to add a personal message during check out.



Reading Volunteers

Each year, we have a fantastic group of volunteers who come into school to read with our children. If you would like to be a volunteer this year, please contact Mrs Cobden, gcobden@billingshurstprimary.org.uk with your availability. If you volunteered last year, please do email her to share your interest again. Many thanks.



Car park

A polite reminder that the staff car park is not to be used as a drop off or pick up point. If there is a valid reason for you using the car park, this will need to be confirmed with SLT before parking.

BPA Bees

We hope you have all had a good start to the new school year. To find out more about what we do and how you can support us, please come along to our next meeting on Friday 3rd October at 2pm in the school staff room.

There's still time to book your table at our **Quiz Night** on Friday **26th September**. £30 for teams of up to 6 people. [Fundraising Quiz Night Tickets, Fri 26 Sep 2025 at 18:45 | Eventbrite](#). We are also looking for raffle prizes for this event. Donations can be left in our trug outside the school office.

Please remember to follow us on social media for regular updates:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/bpabees>

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/bpa_bees.

Or you can contact us via email:

bpabees@billingshurstprimary.org.uk



BPA



Bees



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