



# Newsletter Friday 6th March 2026

Ambition Belonging Courage

## Key dates for your diary:

w/c 9th	<i>Science Week</i>
Mon 9th	Yr 5 & 6 Athletics <b>3.30-5.30pm</b>
Tues 10th	Yr 6 SATs and Tile Barn meeting <b>3.30pm</b>
9th & 10th	Yr 4 residential trip - Lodge Hill
Mon 16th	Gymnastic Festival Yrs 4,5,6 (Weald) <b>1.30-3.00pm</b>
Wed 18th	7 Aside Football (Weald) <b>3.30-5.00pm</b>
18th & 19th	EYFS & Yr 6 Parents' Eve
Fri 20th	Rocksteady Concert
	PM bands <b>10.00 -10.45am</b> PM bands <b>2.00 -2.45pm</b>
Fri 20th	BPA Bees Fun Run Fundraiser - <i>Comic Relief</i>

## House Point Results Winning House Petworth

Cowdray 333 Parham 493

Goodwood 323 Petworth 509

Dear Families,

It has been an incredibly busy and inspiring week here at Billingshurst Primary Academy and our children have produced some amazing learning both in and out of the classroom.

First and foremost, what an absolutely brilliant time we had celebrating World Book Day! The classrooms were buzzing with exciting reading activities and I want to say a huge thank you to our entire school community for the spectacular effort put into the costumes. It was wonderful to see your creativity bring our favourite stories to life. Continuing with this theme, I am thrilled to announce that our newly reorganised School Library is back open following a fantastic revamp by the West Sussex School Library Service. We are also incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils for their fantastic success at the Weald Book Awards, demonstrating true ambition and bringing home the winning trailer award for 'A Ship in the Dark'!

Beyond reading, we have seen excellent learning outside the classroom. Earlier this week, 36 children from Years 3-6 took part in the amazing Downscape Project, showing fantastic teamwork as they hiked the South Downs Way. They had the magical experience of working with a poet and a composer to capture the stunning landscape through art and their very own songs.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting Science Week starting on Monday as well as the Year 4 residential trip to Lodge Hill. Please also look out for the sponsorship forms coming home for our BPA Bees Red Nose Fun Run on Friday 20th March.

Finally, a big well done to everyone for our fantastic attendance this week!



Wishing you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

Ms Ley

Attendance has been great this week! Well done everyone!	95.5%	Today
	94.8%	This year
	94.6%	National Average YTD

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.



# World Book Day 2026!

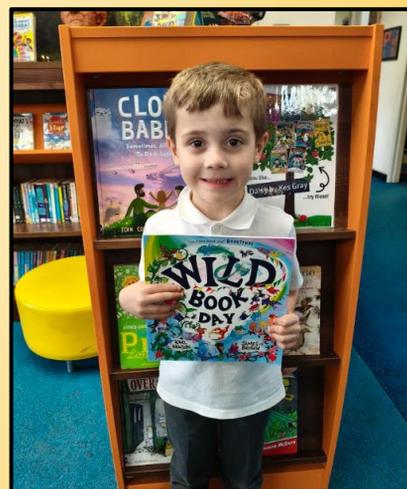
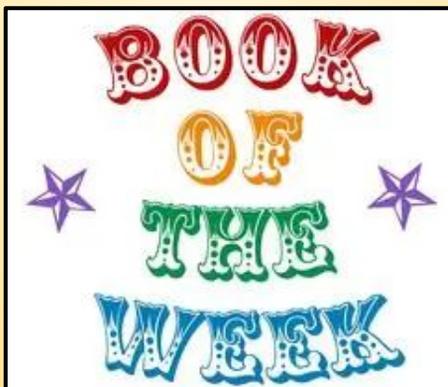
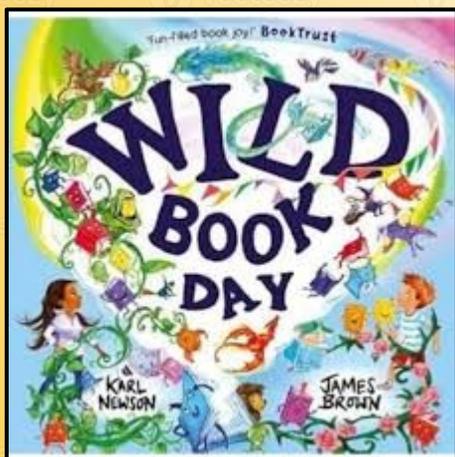
What an absolutely brilliant day we had celebrating a love of reading across the whole school! Our classrooms were buzzing with lots of exciting book-related activities and each key stage had a wonderful assembly where the children confidently shared their top book recommendations with everyone. We also want to say a huge thank you to our entire school community for the spectacular effort put into today's excellent costumes - your creativity truly brought our favorite stories to life! Thank you for helping us champion reading for pleasure today and every day.



# Book of the Week!

Tommy from Year 1 recommends **Wild Book Day!** by Karl Newson and James Brown.

*"In this story all of the pictures in the books come to life and escape! I like this book because I love the colourful pictures and it's really funny to see what the characters from the books do!"*



## Library - Update

Our School Library is Back Open! A huge thank you to the team from the West Sussex School Library Service, who visited just before half term to give our library a fantastic revamp! Our newly reorganised and refreshed library now makes it easier than ever for the children to explore our wonderful range of books and enjoy their reading time. We are so excited to see our children's love for reading grow as they dive into this improved library experience!



# Family Reading Pack

Discover stories that spark adventure and fun!

**Did you know that 2026 is the National Year of Reading?**

This year, our Trust will be promoting simple, practical ways to encourage reading at home with **FREE Family Reading Packs** every term.  
**Get yours now!**



SCAN ME

CLICK HERE

# The Weald Book Awards

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils for their fantastic success at the Weald Book Awards evening! Demonstrating ambition and a true love of reading, our talented children won multiple awards across several categories, from book trailer creation to letter writing. The children represented our school with confidence and enthusiasm throughout this wonderful celebration of books and reading for pleasure, making it a truly fantastic achievement for everyone involved!



Congratulations to Billingshurst Academy with 'A Ship in the dark' for their winning trailer, a close second was William Penn with 'Safe' closely followed by Ella from Loxwood with the 'Sun Stealer'.

## Learning Gear of the Week!

Our **Thinking and Questioning** Learning Gear helps children become curious, creative and confident thinkers. In school, children are encouraged to understand that their brain grows stronger through learning and challenge. They ask lots of different types of questions, from exploring new ideas to probing deeper into topics. Through talk and discussion, children develop their thinking, share viewpoints and learn from one another. They are supported to form thoughtful opinions, justify their ideas and respond positively to others, even revising their views when needed. This helps children become active, critical learners who enjoy discovering more about the world.

### At home you could:

**Celebrate curiosity:** Encourage children to ask lots of questions about the world around them.

**Talk about growing brains:** Remind children that their brain gets stronger every time they learn something new.

**Use different types of questions:** Ask exploratory questions like *What might happen if...?* or probing ones like *Why do you think that is?*

**Develop ideas together:** Let children share thoughts and help them build on them through discussion.

**Encourage talk and debate:** Chat about books, news or everyday events and explore different viewpoints.

**Support critical thinking:** Ask children to explain their opinions and give reasons for what they think.

**Model listening and adapting:** Show that it's okay to change your mind when you hear a good idea from someone else.



# Downscape Project

On Tuesday, after taking the train to Amberley, 36 children from Years 3–6 showed fantastic teamwork, courage and ambition as they hiked along the South Downs Way on a beautiful day. Once they reached the top, they worked with poet Antosh Wojcik and Mrs Hatrick to capture the stunning landscape through sketches and words, before heading back to school for an inspiring poetry workshop.

On Wednesday, the groups then worked with children's composer, Emily Barden, to turn their inspiration into music by writing their very own songs. It was a magical experience and the creativity, enthusiasm, teamwork and joy were incredible to see. The songs the children wrote are amazing and we cannot wait to share them with the rest of the school during our singing assemblies. A huge thank you to The Arts Society for making this wonderful project possible!





# Community Links

As a school we are approached on a regular basis by local community groups/clubs and businesses to share their upcoming opportunities with our school family. To avoid sending all this information out by email, we have a dedicated page on our website. Please click the link to the left to access this page!

## BPA Bees

**Red Nose Fun Run - Friday 20th March** - This year, for Red Nose Day, we'll be holding our 10th annual Fun Run (formally know as Welly Walk!). Keep an eye out for a letter and sponsorship form coming home in book bags from today. Donations can also be made online here: [BPA Bees is fundraising for Billingshurst Primary Academy Bees](#). The money raised this year will be split equally between the BPA Bees and Comic Relief.

**Bingo Night - Friday 24th April** - Tickets are £5 per person (plus booking fee) for 5 games. There will also be a raffle and mini games, with some great prizes to be won. Bring your own drinks and snacks. For more details and to book, please go to: [Fundraising Bingo Night Tickets, Friday, Apr 24, 2026 from 7 pm to 10 pm | Eventbrite](#). Please note you must be 18+ to attend.

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

Instagram - [https://www.instagram.com/bpa\\_bees](https://www.instagram.com/bpa_bees)

Or you can contact us via email:

[bpabees@billingshurstprimary.org.uk](mailto:bpabees@billingshurstprimary.org.uk)



### FOLLOW US!



Facebook Instagram



[www.facebook.com/BillingshurstPrimary](http://www.facebook.com/BillingshurstPrimary)

Instagram - [@billingshurstprimaryacademy](https://www.instagram.com/billingshurstprimaryacademy)

Website - [www.billingshurstprimary.org.uk](http://www.billingshurstprimary.org.uk)





## **GOLD**

- Full page advert in programme
- Stall at the Summer Fun Day
  - 3 X Newsletter mentions
  - 3 X social media mentions
- Banner on Station Road for 3 months

£500

## **SILVER**

- Full page advert in programme
- Sponsor a table
  - 2X Newsletter mentions
  - 2 X social media mentions
- Banner on Station Road for 2 months

£350

## **BRONZE**

- Half page advert in programme
  - Sponsor a stall
- A Newsletter mention
- A social media mention
- Banner on Station Road for 1 month

£200

DONATE  
A RAFFLE  
PRIZE

BOOK A STALL  
£50

BANNER ON  
STATION ROAD  
£80 (PER MONTH)

PROGRAMME ADVERTISING

OUTSIDE BACK COVER £150  
INSIDE COVER £125  
FULL PAGE £100  
HALF PAGE £75

A5 - FULL COLOUR

Your business' name and logo in the school's parent newsletter and on social media - £30

