



Newsletter Friday 17th July 2026

Ambition Belonging Courage

Key dates for your diary:

Tuesday 1st September	Inset day
Wednesday 2nd September	Inset day
Thursday 3rd September	Children return to school
Thursday 3rd September	EYFS to Y1 meeting for Y1 parents 3:30pm
Monday 7th September	SLT Coffee morning 9:00am
Monday 7th September	Y2 & Y5 meet the teacher
Tuesday 8th September	Y1 & Y6 meet the teacher
Wednesday 9th September	Y3 & Y4 meet the teacher

House Point Yearly Totals Winning House



Dear Parents/Carers,

As another fantastic school year comes to a close, I would like to thank our whole school community for making it such a memorable year.

Firstly, thank you to all of our wonderful children. It has been a pleasure to watch you learn, grow and flourish with **Ambition, Belonging and Courage** at the heart of everything you do. Seeing the progress you have made, both academically and personally, has been a real privilege. You continue to make us proud every day.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. By working together, we help every child thrive at Billingshurst Primary Academy, and we are incredibly grateful for the partnership we share.

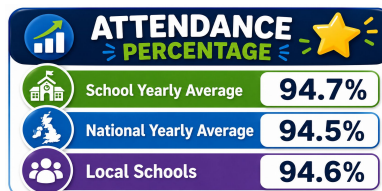
We have ended the year on a real high with an excellent set of Year 6 SATs results, and we are immensely proud of every single child. Their hard work, resilience and determination have been rewarded. Wednesday's Leavers' Festival was a fitting celebration of their time at BPA, with a presentation evening followed by a BBQ, bouncy castle, ice creams and a disco. We wish all of our Year 6 children every success as they move on to secondary school. Good luck, enjoy every opportunity and remember you will always be part of the BPA family, so please do come back and visit us!

As the school year draws to a close, we also say goodbye to a number of valued members of staff. We thank them all for their dedication and wish them every success in the future. A special mention must go to **Mrs Hatrick**, who leaves after eleven and a half years at BPA. She has made an incredible contribution to our school, and it was wonderful to celebrate everything she has achieved in a special assembly this week. We also congratulate **Mrs Footer**, who retires today after a fabulous teaching career. Thank you, Jane, for your years of commitment to children and education. We wish you a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

Finally, I would like to thank every member of staff, both in our classrooms and behind the scenes, for their unwavering dedication, care and hard work throughout the year. They go above and beyond every day to provide the very best for our children.

As we all head off for the summer holidays, I wish you all a safe, happy and restful break. Enjoy spending time with family and friends, make wonderful memories and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at Billingshurst Primary Academy.

Ms Ley





Local Governing Body Annual Report 2025-26

2025-26 has been another fantastic year at Billingshurst Primary Academy! Through this report, we hope to provide an insight into some of the Governing Body's work over the past year.



Thank you to our Governors for their time, commitment and dedication.

CLICK HERE →

to read our full
Annual Report 2025-26

*Rooted in values,
growing together,
reaching higher*



Ambition
We aim high
and never give up.

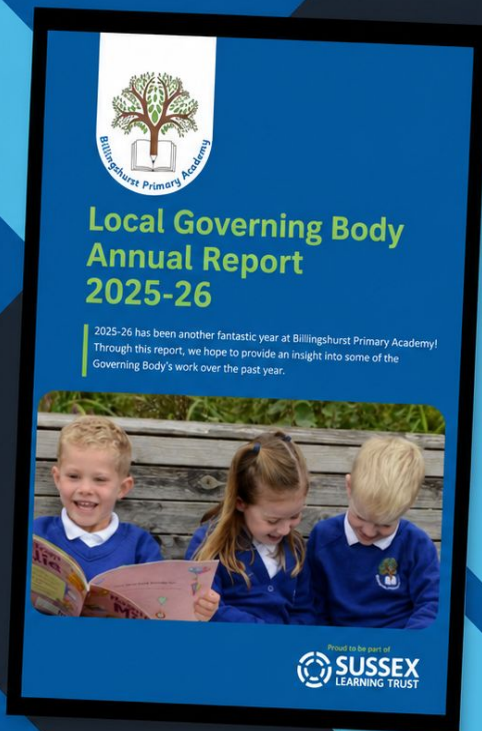


Belonging
We work together
and respect
our community.



Courage
We are brave,
resilient and
ready to learn.

Proud to be part of



PROUD TO PARTNER WITH
SUSSEX RESIDENTIAL



We're delighted to continue our partnership with **Sussex Residential**, an independent estate agency based right here in Billingshurst.



At the heart of this initiative is a simple idea: everyday life moments, such as moving home or letting a property, can also become an opportunity to **give something back**.



Each time a property transaction is successfully completed through Sussex Residential, a **donation will be made directly to the school**, helping to enrich the experiences, opportunities, and resources available to our children.



We're very **grateful** to Ben at Sussex Residential for his continued support of our school community.
TOGETHER, WE'RE CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR LOCAL FAMILIES.



AMBITION • BELONGING • COURAGE





From September, we are introducing three new online systems to make it easier for you to manage your child's information, communicate with school and make payments.



Arbor

Arbor Parent Portal & App

Our main communication platform



View your child's attendance.



Submit absence requests.



Update emergency contact, medical and dietary information.



Receive school communications and notifications.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

You will receive an email inviting you to activate your Arbor account. Follow the instructions to create your login before September.



Arbor has a free Parent App!

Download from:



SUSSEX LEARNING TRUST

Parent Payment Portal

For all school payments



School Trips and Residential



Payments for paid clubs and activities



Other payments as requested by school

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

You will receive an email containing your registration details.

If you already use the portal for Breakfast or After-School Club, no further action is required.



SwiftKitchen

Part of



SwiftKitchen

Ordering your child's school meals



Book your child's meals.



Pay for meals where applicable.



Manage meal choices online.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

You will receive information explaining how to register and start ordering meals before the new term begins.



SwiftKitchen has a free App!

Download from:



STIKINS® Name Labels

No sewing & no ironing needed - simply stick in!

Parents can label everything with Stikins®, saving time and money.



BUILT TO LAST
Millions of Stikins® washed every week in UK homes.



AVOID MIX-UPS
Every day in school, possessions are swapped or misplaced.



TRUSTED & RATED
Recommended by thousands of schools and PTAs.



SAVE TIME
Perfect name labels sent out same day.



578 Mumsnet users tried Stikins® name labels 98% would recommend

Our Fundraising Number

1910

Use this number when you order to earn 30% commission for our school.



Recommended by thousands of schools and PTAs.

Visit www.stikins.co.uk to learn more & to order.

CLICK HERE
to order now!



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

What's changing from September 2026

Important changes to free school meals (FSM) from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year.

FREE
SCHOOL
MEALS



1. WHAT IS CHANGING?

Expanded entitlement for families on Universal Credit

From September 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of earnings.

There will be two types of eligibility:



TARGETED FSM

For households on Universal Credit earning **£7,400 or less**

- ✓ Free school meals
- ✓ Additional support, including pupil premium



EXPANDED FSM

For households on Universal Credit earning **above £7,400**

- ✓ Free school meals only



Families with no recourse to public funds may also be eligible for Targeted FSM subject to meeting separate criteria.



All pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 will continue to receive free school meals under the universal infant free school meals policy.



REMEMBER

Other educational entitlements such as the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance will continue to be based on Targeted FSM.



2. END OF TRANSITIONAL PROTECTIONS

Since 2018, some children have continued to receive free school meals even if their family circumstances changed during the rollout of Universal Credit. This is referred to as transitional protections.

These protections will end at the end of the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

This means:



Some children may no longer be eligible from September 2026 if their family does not receive Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit.



Eligibility will now be based on current benefit status.



3. WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

If your child currently receives free school meals:

- ✓ In most cases, you do not need to reapply.
- ✓ Your child's school or the local authority will check your eligibility automatically and inform you of any changes.
- ✓ In some cases, you may be contacted to confirm your details.
- ✓ If your child is starting a new school in September, they will be in touch to confirm whether you need to confirm your details or reapply.
- ✓ If you are unsure, please contact your school or local authority for advice.

If your child does not currently receive free school meals:

- ✓ You may now be eligible under the expanded criteria.
- ✓ You will need to apply through your local authority / school.
- 📄 A registration form is attached for your convenience.



NOT
SURE?

If you are unsure whether you need to apply or if your circumstances have changed, please contact:



Your local
authority



Your child's
school

They will be able
to advise and
support you.



We're here
to help!

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Fun, Friends & New Adventures!

FREE

Holiday activities with a healthy meal included in every session!

**FREE SESSIONS FOR CHILDREN IN RECEIPT OF BENEFITS RELATED
FREE SCHOOL MEALS – UP TO 16 SESSIONS PER CHILD**

All bookings must be made via the HAF Booking Lab Portal.

CLICK HERE TO BOOK NOW!



FREE with healthy meal included



Make new friends & have fun!



Learn, explore & be active outdoors



Safe, inclusive & welcoming environments



V.I.M. Holiday Club Summer 2026

- Castlewood Primary School – Southwater
- Hillside Scout Camp – Henfield
- Shoreham Beach Primary School – Shoreham
- Warnham Primary School – Horsham



**Nature • Sport • Games • STEM
Arts & Crafts • And more!**

FarmEd @ the Field of Dreams HAF SUMMER 2026

- Wellbeing & Confidence
- Hands-On Farm Experiences
- Inclusive & Welcoming



A nature-based, inclusive holiday programme for children & young people aged 11–16.

Horsham Sport and Playscheme Summer Holiday Days

Horsham Sports Services



- ✓ For 5–12 year olds
- ✓ Holiday activities & food (HAF)
- ✓ Lots of sport, art & play activities
- ✓ At The Bridge Leisure Centre, Horsham

Days run 8.30am – 5.30pm



Premier Education Holiday Clubs



- ✓ For 5–12 year olds
- ✓ Dozens of activities
- ✓ Healthy food
- ✓ HAF places available at local schools!

Local clubs include:

- Billingshurst Primary Academy
- Bersted Green Primary School
- Our Lady of Sion School
- Goring Primary School
- Hilltop Primary School
- Seymour Primary School

Treat your friends to 20% off... and get 20% off too! *Ts&Cs apply.

Whizz Kids Children's Holiday Club

**4–12
year olds
09:00 – 15:00**

- ✓ Steyning Grammar School, Upper Beeding
- ✓ Leechpool Primary School, Horsham
- ✓ Shoreham College, Shoreham
- ✓ St Joseph's, Chichester

Free to children in receipt of benefits related free school meals

Book through the HAF portal!



Tech Holiday Camp Places **FOR FREE**

- Tech activities
- Fun physical games
- Free hot meal every day
- For 5–11 year olds



Dates & locations vary – check the booking portal for details!



To register families need to use their child's HAF code which can be found on their Free School Meal eligibility letter or by emailing HAF@westsussex.gov.uk



More information and FAQ's can be found on our website.

CLICK HERE



Join thousands of children taking part in the
Summer Reading Challenge
in all West Sussex Libraries from Saturday 4 July.
Watch our [Read to the Beat video](#) to find out more!

- Fill in the [online registration form](#) at [libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/src](#).
- Tell library staff the [secret code word](#).
- Pick up a book and start reading!
- **Collect rewards** for reading library books and completing 'Make the Challenge Your Own' goals!
- Read [any library books](#) you like - it's up to you!
- Look out for fun events and activities at your local library!



It's **FREE** to join the library and **FREE** to take part.
Let's get reading!



Illustrations © Harry Woodgate 2026. Read to the Beat © The Reading Agency 2026, registered charity number 1085443 England and Wales

Could you be a school governor?

We are seeking new governors to join **Billingshurst Primary Academy's Governing Body**.



Make a real difference to our school and children's futures.



Meetings held every half term.



No prior educational experience required.



To find out more, please email

clerk@billingshurstprimary.org.uk



We need you!



Ambition



Belonging



Courage

Summer Clear Out?

Think OPAL!

If you're having a summer clear out, we'd love to give your unwanted items a new lease of life in our **OPAL** play sessions.

We're looking for donations such as:



Pots and pans



Suitcases



Pallets



Buggies



Material



Tarpaulins



Other loose parts



Please note: we don't need plastic toys.



Simply hold onto any suitable items over the holidays, and we'll collect donations during the first week back.

Thank you



for helping us create amazing play opportunities!



Message from **Wakoos...**

Wakoos Centre4Children is expanding! ★

For the first time in several years, Wakoos will soon be able to welcome more children to our nursery and pre-school. Our exciting new room and dedicated outdoor area are currently being developed, allowing us to offer additional places for children aged 0-4 in the near future.



To help us understand local demand, we have created a short survey. If you are interested in a place for your child, we would be very grateful if you could complete it using the link below:

➤ **CLICK HERE** ➤

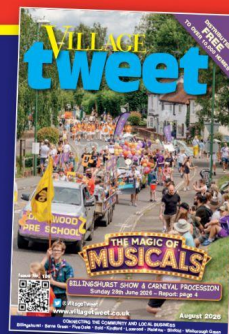


We are open
51 weeks a year,
from 7:30am to 6:00pm.



VILLAGE tweet

Bringing local business and the community together



For effective advertising in YOUR area...

Delivers by **Royal Mail** to over 10,000 local homes in:

Billingshurst ✓ Barns Green ✓ Five Oaks ✓ Ifold ✓ Kirdford ✓ Loxwood ✓ Plaistow ✓ Slinfold ✓ Wisborough Green ✓



CURRENT ISSUE

Tel: 07762 767084

or email: editor@villagetweet.co.uk

www.villagetweet.co.uk



RATE CARD

THANK YOU, BPA BEES!

MAKING A BIG IMPACT AT
BILLINGSHURST PRIMARY ACADEMY

BPA BEES' ORGANISED EVENTS



Quiz Nights



Christmas Cards



Christmas Trug Raffle



Bingo Night



Red Nose Day Fun Run



Uniform Sales



Summer Fun Day



Ice Cream Sales



WHAT BPA BEES HAVE GIVEN BACK



Ukulele lessons



Clockhouse garden refurbishment



OPAL toy / equipment storage



Young Voices registration



Year 6 Book Award books



Year 6 leavers' celebrations in July



Year 5 supplies for 8 Billion Ideas



Year 4 swimming lessons



Early Years Garden equipment and toys



Class trips and enrichment activities



Support for every child to attend year 4, 5, and 6 residentials



Year 6 SATs breakfasts



New library and book bags books



Christmas crackers for school Christmas lunch



Mulled wine and mince pies for year 6 lantern party



Sports day lollies



Author visits



Join the BPA Bees and help us help the school
BPABees@billinghurstprimary.org.uk



Find adverts
from local
community
groups/clubs on
our website!
[CLICK HERE!](#)



Have a listen to
our newsletter
podcasts!
These are
uploaded every
week and are
recorded by our
fabulous children!



BPA BEES

Don't forget!



UNIFORM DONATIONS

Having a summer holiday
clear out?



Uniform donations can be
dropped off at

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OFFICE

(behind the church, next to the vicarage)
between 9.30am and 11.30am
on weekday mornings.



QUIZ! NIGHT

Join us for an evening of fun
at our next Quiz Night!

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

6:45PM – 10PM

Teams of up to 6 people are £30
(plus booking fee).
Bring your own drinks and snacks.

BOOK YOUR TICKETS HERE: —

Fundraising Quiz Night Tickets,
Friday 25 September • 6:45 PM - 10 PM |
Eventbrite



FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Are you interested in
finding out more
about what we do and
how you can support us?



Come along to our
first meeting of the
new school year on

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

at 2pm in the staff room.

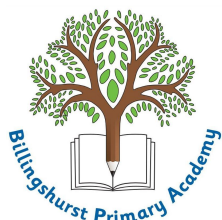
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Website - www.billingshurstprimary.org.uk