

Newsletter Friday 13th November

Ambition Belonging Courage

Key dates for your diary:

November 2026

WB Monday 16th	Y6 Bikeability (Week 1)
Monday 16th	Odd socks day
Tues 17th	SLT Parent coffee 3.20-3.50pm
Wed 18th	Year 3 Village Walk
Wed 18th	Multi Skills KS1 1.30 - 3pm
Friday 20th November	Y5 Little Life Savers



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another week full of wonderful learning and experiences. A huge well done to our Year 5 children for their creativity and innovation during the 8 Billion Ideas project, and thank you to our EYFS parents who joined us for phonics this week.

In the newsletter this week, please take a moment to read the guidance about illness, absence and when to keep your children at home. Our attendance has recently dipped below the national average and we need to continue working together to improve this. Regular attendance is important not only for children's learning but also for their mental wellbeing and sense of belonging. Being in school helps children build friendships, establish routines and feel part of our community. The guidance included will help you make informed decisions about when your child should be in school and when they need to stay at home.

You will also find information about our upcoming parent support workshops. These free sessions cover a range of topics, including emotional wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, online safety, friendships and positive communication. We would really encourage families to take advantage of these opportunities.

We have also shared information about Christmas holiday clubs and activities, including free provision for eligible families.

I am delighted to confirm that our annual Christmas pantomime will be going ahead this year. This has only been possible thanks to the additional support and generous contribution from our wonderful BPA Bees, alongside donations from families. We are incredibly grateful. However, we will be reviewing both the timing of the contribution request and whether we are able to continue offering the pantomime in 2027.

Finally, we are continuing to develop our OPAL playtimes and would really appreciate your support with donations. There is a list of items we are looking for in this week's newsletter. If you have anything suitable at home, please bring it into school next week via your child's class teacher. These donations will make a real difference to the children's play experiences.

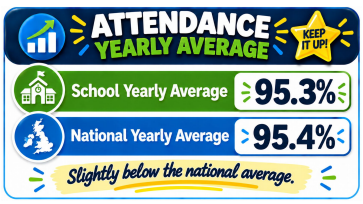
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend.

Ms Ley











Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in

A cough, cold or sore throat

Fine with a light cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.

Threadworms

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Should go in (let the school know)

Cold sores

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice & nits

You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Hand, foot & mouth disease

If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Slapped cheek syndrome

Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Seek treatment before returning to school

Impetigo

They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Chickenpox

Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Keep them off (at first)

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Measles

They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.

Vomiting & diarrhoea

Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

OPAL
Outdoor Play And Learning

Donations Needed!

We are continuing to roll out our OPAL initiative for playtimes, and we would love your support!

We are looking for donations of:


Pallets


Tyres


Safe wood


Buggies


Crutches


Suitcases


Material


Tarpaulin


Buckets


Spades


Pots and pans


Spray bottles


Car seats


Small instruments


Brushes and brooms


Pipes


Spoons/Whisks/Sieves/ Kitchen equipment


Wooden crates


Carpets/Rugs


Logs


Bamboo canes


Wire reels


Paint brushes/ rollers


Please do NOT include plastic toys or anything broken.

Please bring these donations in to us **next week** via your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your support!

EYFS Phonics

Thank you to our EYFS parents and carers for joining us in school on Monday. It was lovely to see so many of you in school, taking part in a phonics lesson alongside your children. We hope the session gave you a better understanding of how we teach phonics and what a typical phonics lesson looks like in the classroom.

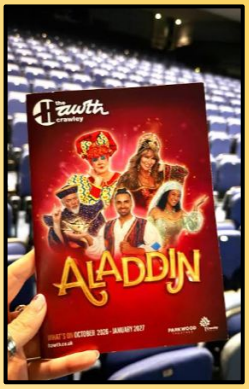
We hope this will also help you to feel more confident when supporting your child with reading at home, reinforcing the sounds they are learning and helping them to practise blending words. Regular opportunities to read together, celebrate their progress and enjoy books are so important in developing a love of reading from an early age.



Thank you again for taking the time to come into school and for your continued support. It was wonderful to share a little part of your children's learning with you!



Pantomime Update



We are delighted to confirm that our annual Christmas pantomime will be going ahead this year!

However, securing this year's visit has presented some significant challenges due to the lower-than-anticipated number of voluntary contributions received from families. We fully appreciate that November can be an expensive time of year as families begin preparing for Christmas, and we are grateful to everyone who has supported the visit.

Thanks to some additional donations from parents and a further generous contribution from our **BPA Bees**, we have now been able to confirm that the pantomime will go ahead as planned. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped make this possible.

Looking ahead, we will be reviewing the timing of when we launch the pantomime contribution next year, recognising the financial pressures families may face at this time of year. We will also take some time to consider whether the annual pantomime visit is something we are able to continue offering at BPA in future years.

For now, we are looking forward to giving the children the opportunity to enjoy this special Christmas experience. Thank you again for your support and to our wonderful BPA Bees for helping to make it happen!

BPA Bees

Year 5 - 8 Billion Ideas

At the end of September, Year 5 began an exciting project linked to the Billingshurst Lions. This was a UK-wide project that challenged children to identify a problem and develop an innovative solution.

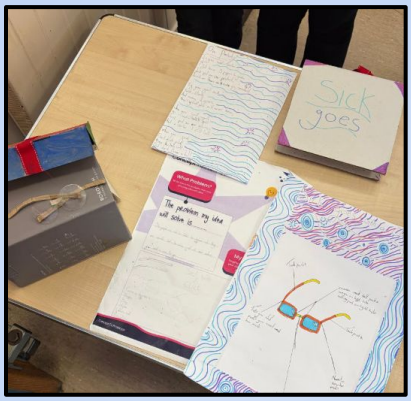
The children were tasked with designing inventions to solve real-life problems, such as glasses to support children with dyslexia and a robot to help with mobility. They used teamwork, collaborative thinking and recycled materials to bring their creative ideas to life.

The project also had a strong focus on oracy, with each child preparing and delivering a speech to present their invention.

The judges were blown away by the creativity, confidence and enthusiasm demonstrated by the Year 5 children. The school was incredibly proud of everything they achieved. A huge well done to everyone involved!

A massive thank you also went to all the parents who emptied their recycling bins to provide the children with materials for their creations. Their support was greatly appreciated!









8billionideas





LIONS INTERNATIONAL



Henry Adams
estate agents

Christmas Competition 2026

Henry Adams invites you to:

Make an Outdoor Christmas Decoration

from natural and reclaimed materials

Explore the outdoors and collect some natural materials, grab your recycling, your imagination, any other small materials you wish and start making.

When your design is complete, please bring it to our Henry Adams office (for a sweet treat!) or take it back to your school on

Thursday 26th November

Star Prizes: 2 children (infant & junior) from your school will win ….. LEGO sets to build with their families.

We'll be back at your school in December to see all your wonderful decorations and award the star prizes!

Please make sure you include this information on your decoration:

Name + Year Group + School



Examples from the internet









Upcoming Events

Lanes COUNSELLING
Guiding you to a better future

Parent Coffee Afternoon

Understanding School Anxiety, School Avoidance & Supporting Your Child

A welcoming and supportive session for parents and carers.



What we'll explore together:

- Understanding anxiety around school and school avoidance.
- Supporting neurodiverse children and understanding their individual needs.
- Managing challenging behaviours with compassion and understanding.
- Creating positive routines and encouraging school attendance.
- Helping you, as a parent, stay calm and regulated when things feel difficult.

Tuesday 08th December 2026 | 2:00pm – 2:45pm (45 minutes) | Billingshurst Primary Academy

07498568677 | info@lanescounselling.co.uk

www.lanescounselling.co.uk

Hosted by Lanes Counselling

Premier Education



WINTER HOLIDAY CLUBS

Loads of activities. Tonnes of fun.
For children aged 5-11.

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BEST START IN LIFE | FAMILY HUBS



Come and meet one of our Best Start Inclusion Practitioners

Parent/Carer Drop-in
for children aged 0-5 with emerging SEND needs
10th, 17th and 24th November
1st, 8th and 15th December
1pm-3pm
at
Horsham Best Start Family Hub

No appointment needed, everyone is welcome

No diagnosis or referral is needed, just come along and have a chat

Offering a friendly, supportive space for parents and carers to talk about any concerns they may have regarding their child's development or learning. Access advice, information, and guidance, find out about local support and services, and explore possible next steps.

If you would prefer a virtual drop-in via Teams or a call, please email: horshamhub.info@westsussex.gov.uk



west sussex county council | Children first

WS338900 03.26

FREE HAF CHRISTMAS CAMP

Woodland Wonders FOREST SCHOOL

FREE TO CHILDREN IN RECEIPT OF TARGETED FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Mon 21st Dec
Christmas Crafts & Campfires
Chichester

Tues 22nd Dec
A Woodland Christmas
Bognor Regis

Wed 23rd Dec
Christmas Crafts & Campfires
Billingshurst

Thurs 24th Dec
Christmas On The Farm
Chichester

BOOK YOUR FREE PLACES USING YOUR HAF CODE

west sussex county council

07786 368800 | woodlandwondersforestschool.co.uk | hello@woodlandwonders.co.uk

Parent Workshops

Support for you and your family

We are pleased to be able to offer a range of parent workshops in school to support our parents and carers.

Our Children's Services Early Help Link Worker will be delivering a series of **free**, friendly and informal sessions. These will provide practical advice, useful information and an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas with other parents and carers.

Monday 2nd November
2:00 – 3:00pm

Emotional health and wellbeing

Explore strategies to support your child's emotional wellbeing and build resilience.

Monday 9th November
2:00 – 3:00pm

Healthy eating, dental hygiene and sleep routine

Practical tips to support healthy habits for a happy and well-rested child.

Tuesday 17th November
2:00 – 3:00pm

My digital child

Guidance on keeping children safe and positive online, including an input on AI.

Monday 23rd November
2:00 – 3:00pm

Healthy relationships and friendships

Support your child to build positive relationships, develop social skills and manage challenges.

Monday 30th November
2:00 – 3:00pm

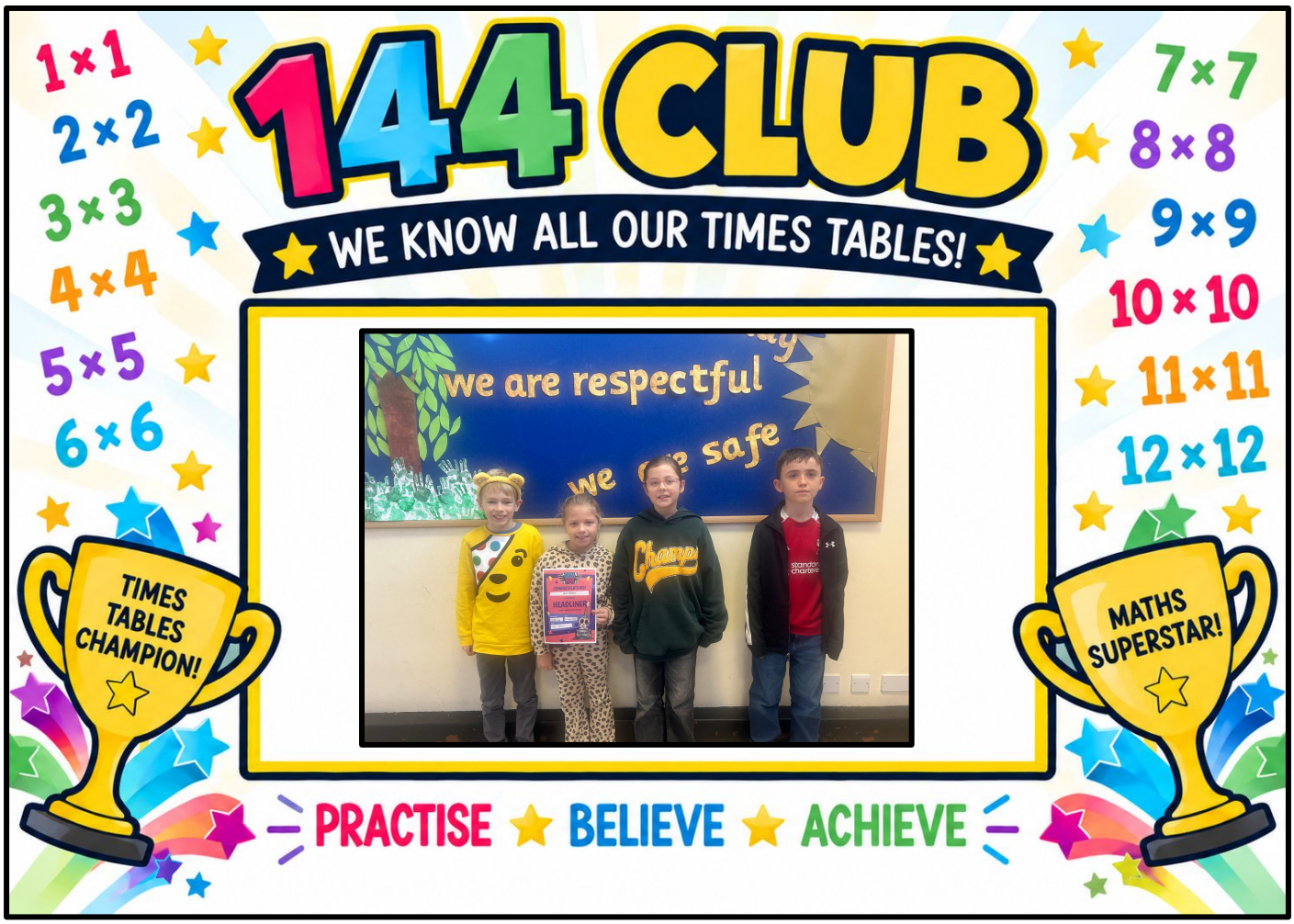
Positive communications

Explore ways to communicate effectively with your child and support positive behaviour at home.

All parents and carers are welcome.

A relaxed and friendly environment with time for questions and discussion.

Free to attend.
No need to book – just come along.





Family Magazine

Please click the magazine to the left to open a digital version of the West Sussex Family Grapevine magazine.

Have a read to find information on upcoming local events, Places to Go with your children, competitions and local clubs & societies.

family grapevine

Community Links

Supporting our local community in BILLINGSHURST

Local People Brighter Futures

Find the latest adverts, events and information from local businesses, clubs and organisations.

LOCAL BUSINESSES
CLUBS
EVENTS
ACTIVITIES

CLICK HERE

A stronger community together

BPA Bees Weekly Update

Small Fundraisers Make a Big Difference!

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL
ENRICH OUR CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES

BIKEABILITY

We are proud to be funding Bikeability for all of our **Year 6** children starting next week!



UNIFORM SALE



WE RAISED £89!

Thank you for your support!

CHRISTMAS TRUG RAFFLE

Raffle tickets will be coming out in book bags next week!



CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP



The Christmas card order shop will reopen from **20th – 30th November** for any last minute orders.

FOLLOW THE BPA BEES

@bpabees @bpa_bees

For more information, please contact us at:
BPABees@billinghurstprimary.org.uk

FOLLOW US!

Facebook & Instagram

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Follow us

SCAN ME!

LIKE & SHARE

Billingshurst Primary Academy

www.**facebook**.com/BillingshurstPrimary
Instagram - @billingshurstprimaryacademy
Website - www.billingshurstprimary.org.uk

SUSSEX LEARNING TRUST