

# BANDON HILL BULLETIN



Issue 91  
Friday 11th September 2026

Headteacher update



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a brand-new academic year at Bandon Hill. I hope you all had a wonderful, restful summer break. It has been fantastic seeing the school gates open again and feeling the vibrant energy back in our corridors.

A special welcome goes out to all our new families joining us this term, particularly our newest Reception and Nursery children. They are currently mid-way through their staggered start, and we are looking forward to having them with us full-time very soon. They are already making themselves right at home, and I know our whole school community will make them feel warmly supported as they settle in.

Across all year groups, the children have settled back into school life brilliantly. They arrived looking incredibly smart, so I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of you for your efforts with the school uniform - the children look amazing, and it sets such a positive tone for our learning environment.

Thank you also to everyone who attended our Information Afternoons over the past week. It was wonderful to see so many of you meeting the teaching teams and hearing about what the year ahead holds. Strong communication between home and school is vital, and these sessions were a way to kick off that partnership for the year.

On the topic of parent partnership, we will be sharing dates for our upcoming Parents' Evenings next week. This term, we are trialling a new approach for select year groups, with appointments running from 1:00 pm straight through to 7:00 pm. If your child's class is part of this pilot, we would really appreciate your feedback on whether this extended timeframe works better for your family schedule.

Looking ahead, our pupils are busy taking on leadership roles across the school. We are currently in the process of selecting our new Prefects, School Councillors, and Eco Councillors for the year. I always love seeing the passion and ideas the children bring to these roles, and I look forward to working alongside our new pupil leaders very soon.

A couple of quick but important safety and policy reminders for the term ahead:

- **Nut-Free School:** Please remember that we are a strictly nut-free school. We have children with severe allergies, so please ensure no products containing nuts are brought in lunchboxes or snacks.
- **Birthday Sweets & Treats:** Due to recent updates under Benedict's Law, children are no longer permitted to bring in sweets, cakes, or food items to share on their birthdays. I know this is a shift from traditional celebrations, but safety and compliance are paramount. A separate letter detailing these changes and how we will mark birthdays in school will follow shortly.

I also want to thank you for your ongoing commitment to getting your children into school on time every day. Good attendance is so crucial - not just for academic progress, but for building friendships, confidence, and routine. Every single day in the classroom counts towards your child's success, and we appreciate your support in making regular attendance a priority.

Finally, please remember that we are always here to help. You will find at least one member of the senior leadership team on the school gates every morning and afternoon. If you ever have a question, a concern, or just want to say hello, please come up and speak to us. If you would like to get more involved in school life, we would also love for you to join our Parent School Association (PSA); please contact the school office if you would like more information on how to join.

It promises to be a fantastic year ahead, filled with learning, growth, and exciting opportunities for all our children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

*Mr Hopkins*

Don't forget to check out our Instagram account if you have not done so already:  
[bandonhillprimary](#)





# PSA Updates

Bandonhillschoolpsa@gmail.com

Instagram @bandonhillschool\_psa



We are looking for a new chair and treasurer to take over in the PSA.

The PSA plays a fundamental role in supporting the school to raise funds for additional experiences through out the year. This includes community party, Christmas crackers, sports day ice poles and Sats breakfast. Whilst also putting on mufti days , discos, fetes and mothers/Father's Day events

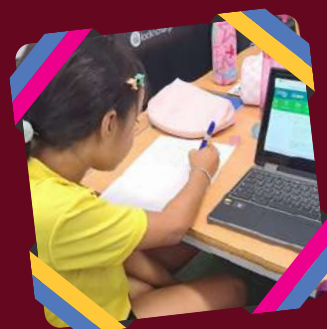
## Chairs Role -

- leads meetings
- Works with the team to plan events
- Represents the PTA and keeps things moving forward

## treasurer Role -

Is to Managea PSA Funds and help keeps budgets and financial records

if anyone is interested please contact us by email to discuss any questions you have



Around our school  
this week



## House Points

Mason House

Shanahan  
House

Weir House

Widdowson  
House

58

24

47

39

# Curriculum

## Update - EYFS

Welcome to the beginning of your child's Nursery journey!

It has been lovely meeting you and your children this week and welcoming them to Nursery. They have all been amazing and we are so proud of how well they have coped with their first week.

Reminders:

- Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle with them every day.
- Please name all uniform, water bottles and bags.
- Our school Instagram page is called @bandonhillprimary, please give us a follow!

We look forward to getting to know your children over the next few weeks!  
Have a lovely weekend!



Welcome to Reception!

What an exciting first week we have had! The children have done so well settling into Reception, getting to know their new friends, exploring the classroom and becoming familiar with our routines. We are so proud of how confidently they have started their Reception journey!

A big thank you to all of our families for welcoming us into to your homes over the past week. It has been so lovely to meet you and your children in their own environments and begin getting to know them before starting school.

Reminders:

- All uniform, water bottles and book bags named please.
- Please send a water bottle every day.
- Check and sign your child's contact book every day.
- PE will be on a Monday. Please send your child to school wearing the PE top.

Have a great weekend.



# Curriculum Update KS1

# 2

# 1



Year 1 have had a fantastic week, adjusting to new routines and structures. They enjoyed short bursts of lessons alongside some choosing time. We are proud of their resilience to the changes the face in Year 1!

We looked at representing numbers to 10 and used counters and a ten frame to show an amount to 10. In phonics, we have been recapping sounds from Reception as well as reading longer words. We have also been practising our handwriting to help us improve our letter formation.

Next week, for our History topic, we will be looking at our own life history so far. It would be lovely for some of us to look at and share some of our journeys so if you would like to email or send a photo of your child as a baby that would be much appreciated. Thank you.

In Art, we will start to look at Kandinsky and his artwork. You can show your child some of his work to prepare for these lessons.

PE lessons - children wear their PE kits to school

Goodall - Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Attenborough - Mondays and Fridays

Library days

Goodall - Fridays  
Attenborough - Tuesdays

## Welcome Back!

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and they have settled in brilliantly.

Thank you for all the wonderful Tudor houses made over the summer. The children loved watching our reenactment of the Great Fire of London and were fascinated by how the fire spread through the city. This has provided us with lots of ideas for our English work. We will be writing a recount of our own 'London Fire', using what we have learned about recount writing (e.g. past tense, time adverbials).

In maths, we have been counting in 10s and partitioning numbers, while in science we have started exploring different materials and their properties.

It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we are looking forward to all the exciting learning ahead!

PE Days (wear PE kit to school)

Owens = Monday and Wednesday

Ali = Tuesday and Thursday

Library Day

Ali = Tuesday

Owens = Thursday



# Attendance and Punctuality this week...



KS1

Attendance: Attenborough & Ali 99%

Punctuality: Goodall & Ali

KS2 Attendance: Frank 100%

Punctuality: Kahlo, Keller & Curie



Fantastic Effort!



# Curriculum Update KS2

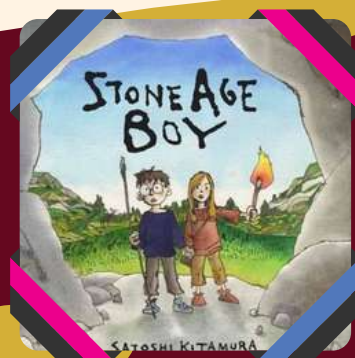
# 3

Hello all, and welcome to Year 3 (and Key Stage 2!). We've had a wonderful start to our year and the children have settled so well into their new routines. Our PE days for both Hadid and Kahlo class are Mondays and Wednesdays this term.

Spellings and homework will be sent home on Fridays and spelling tests will take place on Fridays too so please remind children to make sure their spelling books are in school on this day.

We have begun our first topic for Year 3 which is all about the Stone Age and this will be the focus of our history lessons for the next few weeks. We have begun reading a new book in our English lessons which is called "Stone Age Boy". The children have been working towards writing a diary entry based on this story.

Our Science focus is "Rocks" and the children used their observation skills this week to examine different types of rock and identify their properties.  
Have a wonderful weekend!



Welcome to Year 4!  
We've had a great first week back, settling into daily routines and finding out more about our new curriculum topics.

We dived into our new English reading book this term, 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane' by Kate DiCamillo. We learnt who Edward Tulane is and the children wrote some wonderful character descriptions of him using lots of detail.

Elsewhere in science, the children really enjoyed sharing what they already knew about plants and animals and what they both have in common. We then explored how we could group different animals into a Venn diagrams, for example if they have legs, can lay eggs or can fly.

Yesterday, music teacher, Mr. Bert got the children moving, clapping and singing; some children were brave enough to have a go at the song on their own - Well done!  
Today, the children should have brought home their home learning for this week, including their spellings. Our first spelling test will be next Friday.

We hope you have a lovely weekend



# 4



# Wrap around care



Wrap around care at Bandon Hill provides pupils with:

- ✓ Child Led Nurturing Activities
- ✓ Homework and Reading Support with experienced and qualified TA's
- ✓ Opportunities to Socialise and Learn Social Skills
- ✓ A start and/or end of day reflection to motivate and encourage
- ✓ Snacks and Drinks



For pricing and to book, please contact the main office.



Our wrap around care offer ensures that we are supporting not just our own pupils, but their whole family to..

*Dare to Dream*



Telephone: 020 8647 5377

or

E-mail: [office@bandonhillprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@bandonhillprimary.co.uk)

for further information. and terms and conditions



# Curriculum Update KS2

# 5

# 6

Hello and a warm welcome to Year 5. We have really enjoyed welcoming the children in. They are doing really well, settling down to routines, getting to know their teachers and catching up with their friends.

We have started off the year by looking at the Amazon Rainforest in geography looking the climate and some of the species of animals that live there. We will be using our research to write our very first piece of English this year - a non-chronological report.

In music we have wandered across to Egypt as we learn 'Egyptians Song' working on our singing together as a group.

In science, we have looked at previous models of the solar system suggested by scientists including Ptolemy and why most people believe that the Earth is not flat.

The children have started their Art topic by creating fact file on Jamaal Barber - we will be creating some of our own art work based on his themes in the coming weeks.

We will be sending out spellings and home learning this week. Although home learning is optional we will always encourage them to complete it. Spelling tests will take place each Friday. Please remind children to bring in their books each week.  
Have a lovely weekend.

What a fantastic start to year 6!  
We have had a wonderful few days with Gandhi and Luther-King classes.

We've kicked off the year by beginning to read *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Rauf in English. We will be focusing on the two main characters and writing a diary about the events of the beginning.

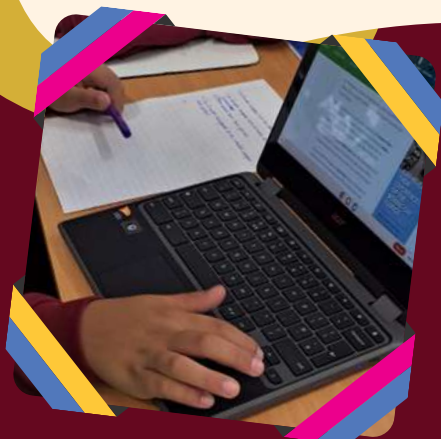
In maths, we have been revisiting place value, looking at numbers with up to 6 digits and focusing on rounding up and down, as well as negative numbers. Next week we will begin using our place value knowledge with different operations.

In reading lessons, we read an extract of *The Stornkeeper's Island* by Catherine Doyle, revisiting our retrieval, inference and exploration skills.

The topic of WWI is our history focus for this half term, and this week we learnt about the events that led to WWI.

## Reminders

- Weekly spellings will be stuck into contact books each week. Spellings will be tested every Friday.
- Home learning folders will be handed out this week. Home learning is due every Friday. Each piece of completed home learning will be awarded 3 house points!
- Please ensure that homework folders and spelling books are brought in every Friday.
- P.E days are as follows:
  - Gandhi: Tuesdays and Fridays
  - Luther-King: Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Library days are as follows:
  - Gandhi: Wednesdays
  - Luther-King: Fridays



# MCAS Updates



If you are not receiving notifications, try deleting the app and reinstalling it. Log in again and ensure notifications are turned on.

## 1. What do I need to use the MCAS App?

To use the MCAS App you will need access to a Smart Phone, Tablet, iPad or PC.

## 2. Where can I get the MCAS App?

You can find this on the App Store on an Apple device or Play Store on an Android device. If accessing on a PC you need to search [www.mychildatschool.com](http://www.mychildatschool.com).



## 3. I'm inputting a new password but MCAS won't accept it?

Passwords need to be a minimum of eight characters long and must contain a Capital letter, a number and a special character (i.e. !, ?, £).

## 4. My child at another school uses MCAS so I already have an account. Do I need to set up a new account?

No, you don't need to set up a new account. Parents with siblings already registered with MCAS just need to add their child on at login.

## 5. I am not receiving pop-up notifications?

Depending on what device you are using you would need to go Settings, Notifications, and activate for the MCAS App.



## 6. I am unable to change my personal details?

The only details which you are able to change on MCAS are: Address, Telephone Number and email. Any other details which you require to be changed (i.e. name) will need to be requested via the school office.

## 7. What do the colours mean on the Academic Calendar?

- Green – normal school day
- Yellow – school holiday
- Red – school event

## 8. Can I send a message directly to my child's class teacher from the MCAS App?

No. If you send a message from the MCAS App this will be sent automatically to [parents@stbedeacademy.org](mailto:parents@stbedeacademy.org) and will be forwarded to your child's class teacher.

## 9. What can I pay for using the MCAS App?

At the moment we can only receive payments for dinner money via the MCAS App. We need to do further work setting up the system to receive payments for other things, such as snack money and trip money, which need to continue being paid for by cash or cheque in the meantime.

## 10. Since I have signed up to MCAS I no longer receive emails from school, should I still be receiving emails?

No. When you sign up to MCAS, all communications sent from school are sent through Bromcom, which means you will receive the notification via the MCAS App. Please ensure that you have set your phone to receive notifications (see Question 5).

## 11. I don't want to use the MCAS App, how will I receive communications from school if I don't sign up?

Although we encourage as many parents as possible to use MCAS, if you would really prefer not to you will continue to receive communications via email. We also have other communication channels such as Twitter, Facebook and our school website.





# SPELLINGS

## Year 1



balloon, spoons,  
floats, appear

## Year 2



door, floor, poor,  
children, because

## Year 3



Group 1 and 2: mouth, sprout, around,  
sound, spout, ouch, hound trout, found,  
proud

Group 3: A, about, all, an, and

## Year 4



Group 1: accept, except, knot, not, peace,  
piece, plain, plan, weather, whether

Group 2: Those highlighted in red

Group 3: a, about, all, an, and

## Year 5



Grp 1: ambitious, amphibious, curious, devious,  
fictitious, infectious, notorious, nutritious,  
repetitious, obvious

Grp 2: accept, except, knot, not, peace, piece, plain,  
plane, weather, whether

Grp 3: A, about, all, an, and



## Year 6



Group 1: accommodate, available, competition,  
determined, existence, identity, muscle,  
prejudice, rhyme, suggest

Group 2: eight, eighth, eighty, weight,  
neighbour, vein, veil, beige, sleigh, freight

Group 3: from, get, go, got, had



### Our Little Free Cupboard

"Give what you can,  
take what you need."



We are very grateful to Neighbourly and Lidl for the 'Go Give a Fridge' grant last year. This allowed us to purchase a large freezer to store our food donations from Marks and Spencer, Sutton.

If you wish to access this frozen food, please ask in the office or a member of staff on the gate.

Additionally, if you are struggling at this time and need any particular food/household items, please contact Mrs Stirrat.

[istirrat@bandonhillprimary.co.uk](mailto:istirrat@bandonhillprimary.co.uk)

Here is a little reminder of our community larder guidelines:

- This larder is for the Bandon Hill community.
- Help yourself to anything you need, but don't hoard!
- Please add to the cupboard if you have food at home you won't eat or can afford a few extra items in your weekly shop.
- Do not add food which has been opened or is past its 'use-by' date.
- Adults only! Do not let your children take food.
- It is your responsibility to check food is fit to eat.
- **Do not eat any unpackaged items if you have allergies.**
- Please keep the cupboard tidy and put any stale items in the bin.
- Feel free to contact Bell Stirrat with any feedback/questions/comments.

# Autumn Term Lunch Menu

## Week 1

|                  |                                                            |                                              |                                           |                                                   |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | Tomato & Beef<br>Wholegrain Pasta<br>Bake<br>2<br>Cheese 4 | Cheesy Wholegrain<br>Pasta Bake<br>2, 4 ✓    | Sweetcorn & Salad<br>Bar<br>A/F           | Strawberry & Vanilla<br>Mousse & Fruit Bar<br>4 ✓ |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | BBQ Chicken<br>Breast Burger<br>Wholegrain Bun<br>2        | Quorn Fillet Burger<br>Wholegrain Bun<br>2 ✓ | Oven Baked Wedges<br>Country Beans<br>A/F | Mandarin Jelly<br>A/F ✓                           |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | Roast Chicken<br>Dinner<br>A/F                             | Cauliflower &<br>Broccoli Bake<br>4 ✓        | Peas & Carrots Oven<br>Baked New<br>A/F   | Apple Crumble &<br>Custard<br>2, 4 ✓              |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | Beef Bolognaise<br>2                                       | Vegetarian Eat<br>Curious Bolognaise<br>2 ✓  | Salad Bar<br>A/F                          | Toffee & Banana<br>Sponge<br>2, 3, 4 ✓            |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | Fish Fingers or<br>Salmon Fish Fingers<br>2, 4             | Veget Fingers<br>2 ✓                         | Oven Baked Chips<br>Peas or Beans<br>A/F  | Selection of Puddings<br>✓                        |

Wholemeal bread, fresh produce, a variety of seasonal fresh fruit, vegetables & protein portions. Please note that all our dishes can be adapted to suit the majority of dietary requirements.

little bites for every future

## Week 2

|                  |                                        |                                       |                                               |                                                |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | Cheese & Tomato<br>Pasta Pizza<br>2, 4 | Vegetable Pizza Pizza<br>2, 4 ✓       | Oven Baked Wedges<br>& Salad<br>A/F           | Chocolate Brownie & Fruit<br>Bar<br>2, 3       |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | Lasagne<br>2, 4                        | Eat Curious Lasagne<br>2, 4 ✓         | Peas & Sweetcorn<br>A/F                       | Spiced Cake &<br>Fruit Bar<br>2, 3             |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | Roast Chicken<br>Dinner<br>A/F         | Vegetable & Bean<br>Pancak<br>2 ✓     | Green Beans, Carrots<br>Oven Baked New<br>A/F | Fruit Salad & Yoghurt<br>4                     |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | Creamy Chicken<br>Curry<br>A/F         | Creamy Sweet Potato<br>Curry<br>A/F ✓ | Wholegrain Rice<br>A/F                        | Blueberry Traybake<br>2, 3                     |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | Fish Fingers<br>2, 4                   | Quorn Nuggets<br>2 ✓                  | Oven Baked Chips<br>Peas or Beans<br>A/F      | Chocolate & Vanilla Mousse<br>& Fruit Bar<br>4 |

Wholemeal bread, fresh produce, a variety of seasonal fresh fruit, vegetables & protein portions and drinking water. Please note that all our dishes can be adapted to suit the majority of dietary requirements.

little bites for every future

# Parent Support

## Primary Family Support Group



Support  
Share  
Learn  
Grow



**Empowering parents to build healthy relationships with their children**



**When:**

Wednesdays at  
12.30 – 1.45pm



**Venue:**

Limes College,  
Sutton West Site,  
Robin Hood Lane,  
Sutton, SM1 2SD



**Entrance:**

The group will take place at the top of the site, in the old Youth Centre building on the main road (Robin Hood Lane) via a green gate and a purple door.



**Dates:**

- 07/10/26: Introductions, parenting styles
- 14/10/2026: Parental mental health and wellbeing
- 21/10/2026: Promoting positivity in children
- 28/10/2026: No session, half term
- 04/11/2026: Behaviour, expectations and boundary setting
- 11/11/2026: E safety
- 18/11/2026: Promoting resilience, children's mental health, well-being and self-esteem
- 25/11/2026: Pulling it all together, evaluation

**All welcome!**

Whatever challenges you are facing –  
you are welcome to come along  
for support!

### What to expect

- A safe, friendly and non-judgemental space
- Useful information and practical strategies
- Opportunities to share experiences
- Support from other parents
- A chance to build confidence and feel less alone



Together  
we can  
make a  
difference



Whilst we know that some parents may not be able to attend every session, we do encourage parents to attend as many sessions as possible. As the group develops with each session, trust and relationships will build and parents will hopefully feel more supported by each other and grow in confidence.

### For more information

and to register your interest and to discuss any queries please email either:

**Nibby Withers:**



[Nibby.Withers@cognus.org.uk](mailto:Nibby.Withers@cognus.org.uk)

**Jodie Desai:**



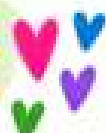
[jdesai@thelimescollege.org](mailto:jdesai@thelimescollege.org)



Please  
get in touch  
we'd love  
to hear  
from you!



**Please make sure you register and don't just turn up**  
as sometimes we have to cancel the session and you may have a wasted journey if we don't know you were coming along!



## Parent/Carer Webinars

### Primary Schedule 26/27

Scan the QR code to sign up to any of these  
free local NHS webinars for Primary parents & carers

We also provide free 1:1 early support for parents  
of primary aged children to support their child's  
common worries and anxieties, or support  
children's everyday challenging behaviours.  
Speak to your school to find out more.



Through the school gates - overcoming daily challenges getting into school

Understanding and supporting your child's sleep

Supporting big emotions at home and school - the zones of regulation

Understanding and managing screen time for primary school children

Encouraging healthy habits in children with Autism

Supporting common child anxieties and worries including around exams

## Parent/Carer Webinars

### Early Years Schedule 26/27

Scan the QR code to sign up to any of these  
free local NHS webinars for Early Years parents & carers

We also provide free 1:1 early support for parents  
of primary aged children to support their child's  
common worries and anxieties, or support  
children's everyday challenging behaviours.  
Speak to your school to find out more.



**Toilet Time Basics: Supporting your pre-school child  
with potty/toilet training**

**Feeding and its difficulties in the early years**

**Building Strong Bonds: How to build healthy and secure  
attachment/relationships with children**

**Understanding and supporting your child's sleep**

**Managing big feelings in small people; tantrums, aggression  
& how to respond**

**Finding your feet - supporting your child's emotional  
wellbeing when starting school**

# Anxiety, Exhaustion, and Masking: Raising Emotionally Secure Autistic Girls

- She's doing well at school, but comes home completely exhausted...
- She tries so hard to fit in, but it never seems easy...
- She is chatty with you, but goes quiet around other people...

Is she coping or masking how hard she is working to keep up? Many neurodivergent girls learn to hide their struggles by copying others and pushing through their discomfort. While this helps them fit in, it can take a toll on their sense of self, confidence and well-being.

We will explore:

- How girls learn to mask
- Why unmasking isn't the whole answer
- What helps girls feel safe and confident to be themselves

When: Monday, 14 September, 7.00–8.00 pm

***Please scan the QR code*** to register



This workshop is not about sharing generic, one-size-fits-all advice. Una will be guiding you through a process to help you better understand your daughter, her needs and how you can support her. For more information visit [www.helpyourchildthrive.co.uk](http://www.helpyourchildthrive.co.uk)