

BANDON HILL BULLETIN



Issue 93

Friday 25th September 2026

Headteacher update



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Friday! On a personal note, I have absolutely loved handing out so many certificates in our Friday celebration assemblies. A huge well done to all of the children who have received one so far—it is always a true highlight of my week to celebrate their hard work and positive attitudes.

Please find a few important reminders and updates for the coming weeks below:

Parents' Evening: Dates and times for Parents' Evening will be circulated next week. We will be using the same format as normal years, so please keep an eye out for that information coming home shortly.

Individual & Sibling Photos: A reminder that individual and sibling school photos will be taken on Friday 2nd October. Please ensure children come to school in full school uniform on the day.

As many of you know, Mr Reader will be leaving our school after an incredible 28 years of fantastic service. To mark his dedication to our school community, a GoFundMe page has been set up if you would like to contribute toward a farewell gift. Please scan the QR code at the bottom of this page to donate.

School Communication:

- If you need to contact your child's teacher or a specific member of staff, please email the main school office, and the team will forward your message directly to them.
- Please also remember that children's communication books are checked by staff every morning, making them the best place for quick daily updates or notes.

We would love to welcome some new faces to our PSA team! The PSA does fantastic work supporting our school community and raising funds for the children. If you are able to lend a hand or support in any way—big or small—please email bandonhillschoolpsa@gmail.com to let us know!

As we continue working closely together to support our children, I am reminded of this wonderful thought:

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing partnership and for everything you do to support our school community. I hope you all have a fantastic and restful weekend!

Warm regards,

Mr Hopkins

Don't forget to check out our Instagram account if you have not done so already:
[bandonhillprimary](https://www.instagram.com/bandonhillprimary)





PSA Updates

Bandonhillschoolpsa@gmail.com

Instagram @bandonhillschool_psa



Bandon Hill PSA

WE NEED YOU!

We're looking for volunteers to help make a difference at Bandon Hill.

The PSA (Parent Staff Association) supports our school through events, fundraising and community.

CHAIR

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

TREASURER

- * Support managing funds

COMMITTEE MEMBER

- * Support events and decisions

Small amount of time...
Big impact!

Join our team and help keep Bandon Hill thriving!

Bandon Hill

PSA AGM Meeting

FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER

2:15PM

AT THE SCHOOL

**COMING
UP
NEXT**

PENNY WARS

**RUNNING
MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER
TO
FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER**

**WHO COLLECTS THE MOST
PENNIES WINS A PRIZE!**

**ALL FUNDS GO TO THE
PSA PLAYGROUND
FUNDRAISING**

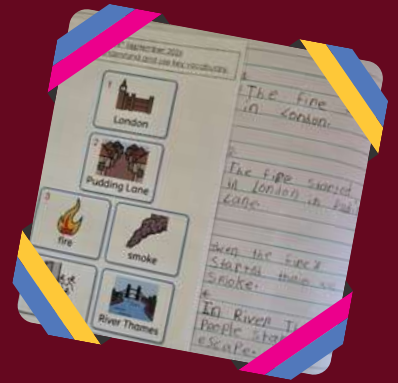
Friday 23rd October

FAVOURITES FRIDAY

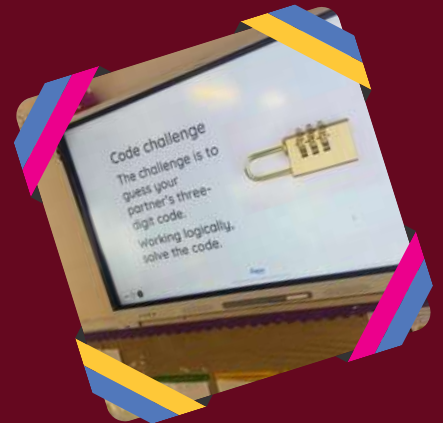
3 ITEMS £1 **EACH EXTRA 50P**

Favourite clothes	Temporary tattoos
Favourite shoes	Nail polish
Yummy snack (no nuts!)	Favourite hairstyle
Squash in your bottle	

**DONATIONS COLLECTED ON GATE
OR VIA MCAS**



Around our school
this week



House Points

Mason House

Shanahan
House

Weir House

Widdowson
House

262

302

298

352

Curriculum

Update - EYFS

Nursery have really had a fantastic week, we are so proud of them all. They have settled so well, it's like they've been in Nursery for months rather than weeks!

We have introduced our 'Wiggle' sessions this week which is a programme designed to develop the gross motor skills the children need before they can learn the fine motor skills required to write. These movements are carried out to music and are lots of fun. Once the children have got used to this, we will introduce 'Squiggle' which involves both the gross and fine motor skills.

Thank you to the families that have donated £3 to the Nursery fund this week. If you'd like to contribute, the money can be handed to the Nursery staff. Thank you in advance.

Happy weekend!



RWe have had another fantastic week in Reception learning all about people who help us. The children have really enjoyed looking at who helps us in our community and what the different roles do. Next week, we will be focusing on looking at ourselves and our likes/dislikes and how we are all different. Thank you for sending in the baby photos we are excited to look at these as a class next week!

We have also started our Phonics and Maths learning this week. The children have learnt the sounds: s a t p. In maths, we have focused on sorting and sets.

Polite request: Please could we have some boxes of tissues for our classrooms as we are now heading into the colder months. Thank you 😊

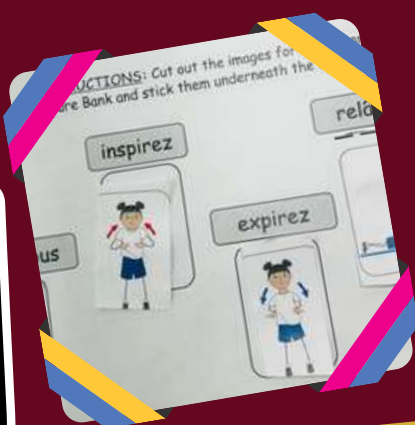
Have a great weekend!



Curriculum Update KS1

2

1



Year 1 have really enjoyed their wide range of learning across the curriculum. We have started our computing learning, linked to online safety, first by making our own poster about how to keep safe online.

In maths, we have been exploring 1 less and 1 more than a given number. We are starting to use different manipulatives such as numicon, number lines, counters in a ten frame base and unifix.

The children have very much enjoyed story time this week. We are currently exploring the concept of inference; learning to explain our answers with reasoning.

Trip: St Micheal's Church.

We are looking forward to our trip to the Church on Thursday 8th October for the morning. Please can you return the permission slip if you haven't already or give consent by writing a message in your child's contact book. We are also asking for parent helpers (which is necessary for the trip to go ahead). If you can volunteer for the morning that would be much appreciated, just let us know! Thank you. Due to phonics assessment the coming week, we will not be sending phonics homework this week.

Library days

Goodall - Fridays
Attenborough - Tuesdays

The children have been really engaged with our history topic, The Great Fire of London and we're using the details that we have learnt to inspire our English work.

We will be imagining what it was like to have been there and write this as a diary entry. We've been gathering some key vocabulary to help describe what happened and what we may have seen.

In Maths, we will be revising number bonds before moving on to fact families to help the children see how addition and subtraction link (e.g. if $15 + 5 = 20$, then $20 - 15 = 5$).

A friendly reminder also about our exciting trip coming up this half term to Whitehall, Cheam.

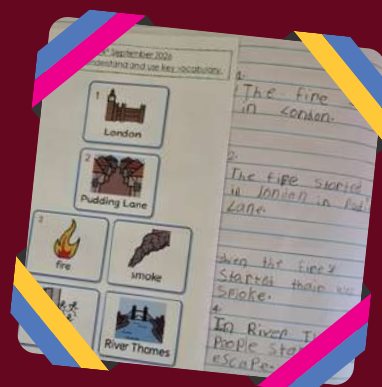
- Owen's Class: visiting on 9th October
- Ali's Class: visiting on 16th October

Please sign and return the permission slip by Tuesday 29th October. There's also a box on the form to tick if you're free to come along and help out on the day.

As always, thanks so much for all your support!

Library Day

Ali = Tuesday
Owens = Thursday



Attendance and Punctuality this week...



KS1

Attendance: Ali 100%
Punctuality: All



KS2

Attendance: Kahlo & Frank

Punctuality: Hawking, Curie, Keller, Gandhi, Hadid & Kahlo

Fantastic Effort!



Curriculum Update KS2

3

A lot of fantastic learning going on this week in Year 3! Maths has had us delving into comparing numbers up to 1000 using the greater than, less than and equal to symbols ($>$ $<$ $=$). We are continuing our investigation of rocks in Science, finding out how rocks are changed over time through weathering and erosion. We have also started looking at character descriptions in our English lessons, based upon the book "Stone Age Boy" and this week we have discovered the features and compared two different characters from the book.

Next week in maths, we are going to start looking at adding and subtraction of hundreds, tens and ones and in English we will be planning and writing our own character description of one of the main characters in "Stone Age Boy" including appearance and personality.

Reminders:

PE days - Monday and Wednesday (both classes)

Spellings, homework and home reading books will (normally) be given out on Fridays and spelling test is on a Friday too.

Have a wonderful weekend!



Year 4 have had a great week this week! We started off by creating some lovely seascapes in Art, taking inspiration from L.S Lowry and the colours he used in his landscapes.

In English, the children wrote some lovely 'Lost' posters based on the main character of the book we are reading, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. The children got creative, thinking of some interesting similes and expanded noun phrases to help describe the china rabbit. In maths, we have been busy ordering and rounding numbers, as well as learning about Roman Numerals. Well done to all the children who completed the maths home learning last week. Keep it up! We will shortly be letting you know what times tables your child could be practising at home on Times Tables Rockstars to help with their times tables fluency.

Elsewhere, the children have been learning about which animals are invertebrates and vertebrates in science and more about Northern France in geography, including the River Seine.

Upcoming Event: Anglo-Saxon Workshop - 25/11/26 (more information to follow soon)

Reminder: PE Days - Mondays & Wednesday



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

for further information. and terms and conditions



Curriculum Update KS2

5

6

'Like a man made wish, the aeroplane began to rise'. From the very first line we are already hooked on our new ext The Explorer by Katherine Rundell. This week we have heard the first four chapters and our writing will be all about continuing the story in our own way. To help make our narratives interesting we have started to look at including dialogue between characters and how to write an interesting setting description - can you guess where our narrative will be set?

In maths, we continue to look at larger numbers and how to round them. To help us remember we learnt the rhyme '5-9 climb the vine 0-4 slide to the floor'. We have also looked at using a number line to look at the two numbers it could be before deciding which our number was closest to.

Even further than the Amazon Rainforest, in science we have looked at the moon and in particular its movement around the earth. We found out that there are various phases including full and half moon phases.

Did you know that we only ever see the same side of the moon as it is slightly tilted.

We have also enjoyed learning how to use lino cutting tools this week in art. We have experiment with short lines and waves in preparation for creating our patterns ready for printing.

It's been another busy, action-packed week in Year 6!

In English, the children have wrapped up their brilliant diary entries based on our class reading book, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. We've now started looking at persuasive letters, getting familiar with all the key features so we're ready to write our own over the coming weeks.

Over in Maths, we've been sharpening our core arithmetic skills using column addition, subtraction, and multiplication, including working with decimals.

In History, we've been exploring the rapid advancements in World War One warfare technology and how these changes impacted the front line.

Meanwhile in Computing, we've taken a look at cybersecurity and 'brute force hacking', discussing why strong passwords really matter and how to stay safe online.

Looking ahead, next week the children will be completing their first round of practice mock SATs assessments. Please rest assured that we keep the atmosphere very relaxed, low-pressure, and supportive—these practice papers are simply a helpful way for us to see where the children are doing well and where we can give them extra help.

Have a lovely weekend 😊



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.



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 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

come little said
there love when



Year 2

wild, climb, most,
only, both



Year 3

Group 1 and 2: symbol, gym, myth,
synonym, Egypt, lyrics, pyramid, system,
myseter, gymnastics

Group 3: be, big, but, by, called



Year 4

Group 1: illegal, illegible, immature,
immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect,
irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible

Group 2: Those highlighted in red

Group 3: be, big, but, by, called



Year 5

Grp 1: artificial, beneficial, crucial, especially,
facial, glacial, judicial, multiracial, official, special

Grp 2: illegal, illegible, immature, immortal,
impossible, impatient, imperfect, irregular,
irrelavent, irresponsible

Grp 3: be, big, but, by, called



Year 6

Group 1: according, awkward, conscious,
dictionary, familiar, individual, neighbour,
profession, sacrifice, system

Group 2: symbol, gym, myth, synonym, Egypt,
lyrics, pyramid, system, mystery, gymnastics

Group 3: him, his, house, I, I'm



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

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.

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**