

BANDON HILL BULLETIN



Issue 95
Friday 9th October 2026

Headteacher update



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we said goodbye to our long-standing caretaker, Mr. Reader, who is leaving us after 28 dedicated years of service at Bandon Hill.

For nearly three decades, Mr. Reader has kept our school safe, warm, running smoothly, and looking its best day in and day out. His warmth, hard work, and presence across the school grounds mean that he will very much be missed by staff, pupils, and families alike. Quite simply, he can never be replaced.

We want to express our gratitude for everything he has given to our school community over the past 28 years and wish him all the very best for his future.



A reminder that our Parents' Evenings are taking place next week. These meetings are a key part of our home-school partnership, offering a valuable opportunity to:

- Discuss your child's academic progress and social development.
 - Gain insight into their daily learning and classroom achievements.
 - Work closely with class teachers to support your child's growth and well-being.
- Thank you in advance for taking the time to join us - we look forward to seeing you all.

Year 1 have had a busy and exciting week! The children visited the local church, learning about its role in the community and today, they immersed themselves in an African Workshop, based on the Anansi tales. It was full of music and role playing; the children had so much fun. Well done to Year 1 for their wonderful enthusiasm!



We are delighted to announce our new student leaders. Congratulations to our newly selected:

- House Captains
- Prefects
- Eco Team

These pupils were chosen for their leadership, responsibility, and commitment to our school values. They will officially receive their badges in assembly next week, and we know they will wear them with pride.

Mark your calendars for the final day of term, Friday 23rd October, for our PSA 'Favourite Friday'!

Pupils can choose up to 3 things to wear/ bring in for £1, with all proceeds going towards the new climbing frame the PSA are raising funds to build. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting these projects for our children.

Clear, open communication between home and school is vital. If you ever have questions, updates, or queries regarding your child, please feel free to reach out through any of the following channels:

1. Contact Books: Write a quick note directly to your child's class teacher.
2. School Office Email: Send an email to the main office, and it will be promptly forwarded to the relevant teacher or staff member.
3. At the end of the day: Class teachers are always on the playground after school finishes. Please take the time to approach them directly if you have any quick questions or need a quick word.

Thank you to our whole school community for another wonderful week. Have a restful, pleasant weekend!

Mr. Hopkins

Parents and carers: Please update your MCAS App from home



Log in to the MCAS app

Use your registered email address and password. If you've forgotten your password, use the "Reset Password" link on the login screen.

Navigate to "My Child"



Once logged in, you should see a "My Child" dashboard.

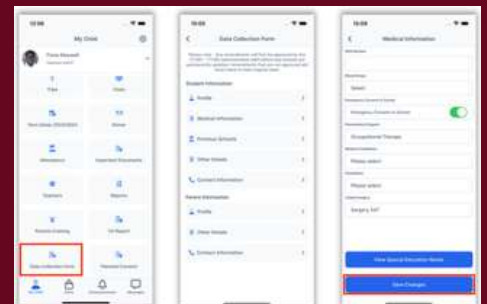


Find "Data Collection Form": Scroll down on the "My Child" dashboard to find the "Data Collection Form" module. Click on it.

Making Amendments:

Within the Data Collection Form, you can edit, delete, and add selected details for both your children and your own personal information. This typically includes:

Addresses
Email Addresses
Mobile Numbers
Medical Information
Other contact details



After making all your changes, make sure to click "Save Changes."



Ensure you have the latest version of the MCAS app installed on your device, or have auto-updates enabled. The app has recently undergone a new UI (User Interface) update.

If you experience any issues logging in, have forgotten your registered email address, or have questions about updating specific information, it's best to contact the school office directly at office@bandonhillprimary.co.uk.

By following these steps, you should be able to update your parent information on the MCAS app for Bandon Hill Primary School.



PSA Updates

Bandonhillschoolpsa@gmail.com

Instagram @bandonhillschool_psa



Search the sofa, pockets and draws! We need your pennies!

Each class has a penny jar to collect the pennies.

A class from KS1 and KS2 with the most pennies will win a class treat.

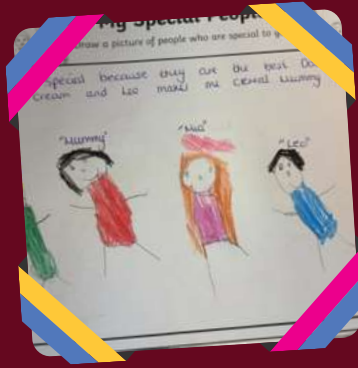
All funds go to the PSA fund raising for new playground equipment.



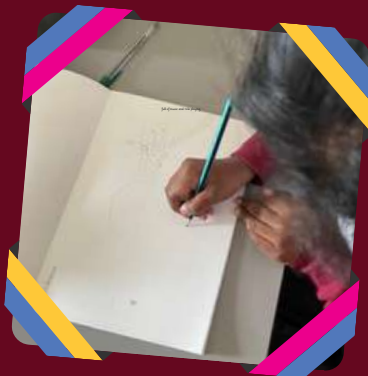
Friday 23rd October

Wear your favourite clothes, bring your favourite snack or some squash.

£1 on MCAS or bucket at the gate



Around our school
this week



House Points

Mason House

Shanahan
House

Weir House

Widdowson
House

575

503

610

636

Curriculum

Update - EYFS

N We've been very busy this week! We started our Dough Disco sessions which the children really enjoyed. These sessions are designed to develop the children's finger strength to prepare them for writing.

All parents should have received an email asking them to activate their Tapestry accounts. If you have not seen this email, please check your spam folder or contact Miss McIntyre. We have already started to share photos on Tapestry of your child's time in Nursery. We would love for you to also add some photos of things you may be doing at home with your children for them to share with us.

Thank you to everyone who has donated £3 to the Nursery fund. This money is very much appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend!



R What another busy week in Reception! We have had a lovely week talking about why our families are special to us and what we love about them. Next week, we will speak about different homes and where we live.

We want to start encouraging your child to walk across the playground by themselves. Some children are already doing this which is amazing. Please, if you can, say goodbye to your child at the top of the playground and let them walk across to the classroom independently.

Show & Tell - Starting next week!
Each day, a colour group will have a turn to bring in something to share with the class. You can also upload to Tapestry.

Monday - Red group
Tuesday - Yellow group
Wednesday - Orange group
Thursday - Green group
Friday - Blue group

Have a lovely weekend!



Curriculum Update KS1

2

1



Another busy week in year 1, diving into our foundation subjects. We visited St. Michael's Church and enjoyed a workshop with Mother Berni! We are learning what it means to belong in R.E, so we learnt what it means to belong to a religion and go to the Church.

Thank you to all the parents that came along and helped; we greatly appreciate the help.

In Art, we used circular objects to make print patterns inspired by the artist, Kandinsky. In History, we thought of some questions we would like to ask Mrs. Stirrat's dad about what childhood was like in the past. The children can't wait to get the answers back! Maybe you could discuss with your child what your childhood was like?

To celebrate Black History Month, Year 1 very much enjoyed our drama workshop today, based on the African Anansi tales. The children really liked using their imagination to pretend to be different animals!

We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Year 2 have had a busy week of learning!

In maths, we've been using our number bonds to 10 to help us add three numbers together. We learnt to look for 2 numbers to make 10 and then add on the third number. Practicing number bonds at home is a great way to boost confidence - the free game Hit the Button on [Topmarks](https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button) is one fun way of practicing:
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

In English next week, we'll be investigating non-chronological reports so the children can work towards writing their own. In PE, the children have been enjoying developing their ball control through rolling and retrieving exercises.

The highlight of our week was definitely our trip to Whitehall Cheam! Owens class loved stepping inside a real Tudor house and had a wonderful time exploring history first hand. We got to see some lovely artefacts from Tudor times and had a great time practicing drawing linked to the Great Fire of London.

Ali class will get to have this great experience next week so we look forward to hearing their news about it then!



Attendance and Punctuality this week...



KS1

Attendance: Attenborough 100%

Punctuality: Donaldsonson & Owens

KS2 Attendance: Kahlo 98%

Punctuality: Hadid, Kahlo, Curie, Gandhi, Luther-King

Fantastic Effort!



Curriculum Update KS2

3

We've had a wonderful week in Year 3 this week. The children have been writing some poems for poetry day last week along the theme of "Wonder". They came up with some very creative vocabulary to include in their poems. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting through tens and hundreds this week and the children have worked through some challenging problems together. Next week, we will be continuing to work on addition and subtraction of 3-digit numbers with exchanging.

In science, we have been learning about fossil formation and the children had great fun creating their own fossils using clay. The children explored the meadow to find materials and natural items they could use and made imprint of these different items in their pieces of clay.

Reminders:

Paddington Trip: 17th November (please ensure your payment has been made so that the trip can go ahead as planned.)

Winter months.

Have a wonderful weekend!



We've had a busy week in Year 4. Firstly, the children worked very hard on their narratives in English. They came up with some wonderful ideas and used some great adjectives and similes to describe Edward Tulane's adventure at the bottom of the ocean.

In maths, we have completed our unit on area and have moved onto addition and subtraction. We have begun to use the column method to help us add and subtract 4 digit numbers. Next week, we move on to using this method to help us exchange. The children have also moved onto learning square numbers during our maths meetings in the afternoon - Well done to all who have been practising their times tables at home!

What do you know about Calais? In geography, we have been learning why Calais is important as well as the different ways we could get there. Next week, we will be exploring the different foods produced and eaten in Northern France!

We hope you all have a happy weekend.



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Celebration Assembly Winners



Every Friday, we come together as a community to applaud these individuals. It is a moment of pride for the children, their teachers, and their families, reinforcing the idea that hard work and a positive attitude are the keys to success at Bandon Hill.

"A DREAM certificate isn't just a piece of paper; it's a testament to a child's character and their dedication to being the best version of themselves all week long."



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

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It's been another busy week here in Year 5. Have you ever wanted to explore the Amazon Rainforest? Are you tired of all your holidays being bland, boring and benal? They why not be an Explorer in the Amazon! This week the children have started their next 'Big Write' by looking at the features of a persuasive letter. They have used the acronymn AFOREST to help them - ask them what it means. They have also identified some key vocabulary before practising writing a persuasive letter to Mr Hopkins.

In maths we will soon be finishing our next unit on addition and subtraction. We we will then move on to multiplication and division. In order for the children to consentrate on specific elements taught in class it would beneficial for the children to practise their multiplication tables at home to increase their fluency. The TTRS programme is a great and fun way to do this.

'Sunrise, Sunset' - no we're not studying Fiddler on the Roof (If yo know you know) but rather in science the children have been looking the making basic sundials, finding True North using a compass and turning themselves into a giant clock in order to tell the time.

A reminder that payment for the Science Museum trip needs to be made as soon as possible and that ALL children will need a packed lunch on Monday 23rd November.

Have a lovely weekend 😊

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In English this week, Year 6 have been diving into our class text, The Boy at the Back of the Class. Inspired by the story, the children have started writing persuasive letters to the Queen! They've been working hard on keeping their writing formal while using the AFOREST framework—incorporating techniques like facts, rhetorical questions, and emotive language—to build really convincing arguments.

In maths, the children showed brilliant focus as we tackled short division. They didn't stop at standard multi-digit calculations either; Year 6 took on the challenge of dealing with remainders and learned how to convert those leftover numbers into fractions. It's been fantastic to see their confidence grow with these tricky multi-step problems!

We've had plenty of great discoveries across our other subjects, too. In Science, we explored the link between light and colour, looking at how light travels and gives us all the vibrant colours we see around us. Meanwhile, in RE, the children compared churches and mosques, spotting their similarities and differences while thinking carefully about why these special places mean so much to the people who visit them.

Please note that on the last week of this half term, we will be taking part in a DT day to create our own periscopes. Any **spare cardboard and kitchen roll tubes** that you have at home would be greatly appreciated! Thank you

Have a lovely weekend 😊



MCAS Updates



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.



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



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.



Upcoming dates

Date	Year Group	Event
12.10 & 13.10	Luther-King	Parents' Evening
14.10.26	Ali, Hadid, Gandhi	Parents' Evening
14.10 & 15.10	Nursery - Year 5	Parents' Evening
16.10.26	Ali Class	Trip to Whitehall, Cheam
23.10.26	All	PSA Favourite Fridays (Mufti Day)
26.10.26	All	Half term starts
10.11.26	All	Return to school
17.11.26	Year 3	Paddington Trip
23.11.26	Year 5	Science Museum
25.11.26	Year 4	Saxon Workshop



Bandon Hill Primary School Term Dates 2026/27

Tuesday 1st September 2026 - INSET Day 1
 Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - INSET Day 2
 Thursday 3rd September 2026 - First Day of Term
 Friday 25th September 2026 - INSET Day 3
 Friday 23rd October 2026 - Finish at 3.15pm

October half term

Monday 9th November 2026 - INSET Day 4
 Tuesday 10th November 2026 - First Day of Term
 Friday 18th December 2026 - Finish at 1.00pm

Christmas holidays

Monday 4th January 2027 - First day of term
 Friday 12th February 2027 - Finish at 3.15pm

February half term

Monday 22nd February 2027 - First day of term
 Thursday 25th March 2027 - Finish at 1.00pm

Easter holidays

Monday 12th April 2027 - First day of term
 Thursday 27th May 2027 - Finish at 3.15pm
 Friday 28th May 2027 - INSET Day 5

May half term

Monday 7th June 2027 - First day of term
 Thursday 22nd July 2027 - Finish at 1.00pm

Summer Holidays





SPELLINGS

Year 1

me, she, have, march,
chair, morning

Year 2

every, everybody, even,
after, fast

Year 3

Group 1: adventure, future, picture,
nature, creature, furniture, capture,
sculpture, fracture, mixture.

Group 2: catch, fetch, kitchen, switch,
hutch, witch, ditch, patch, match, batch.

Group 3: dad, day, do, don't, down, for.

Year 4

Group 1: interact, intercept, interchange,
intercity, intercom, interface, interfere,
international, internet, interview

Group 2: Those highlighted in red

Group 3: dad, day, do, don't, down, for

Year 5

Grp 1: commercial, controversial, controversially,
financial, financially, initial, initially, palatial,
provincial, spatial

Grp 2: interact, intercept, interchange, intercity,
intercom, interface, interfere, international,
internet, interview

Grp 3: dad, day, do, don't, down, for



Year 6

Group 1: aggressive, bruise, convenience,
embarrass, forty, interrupt, occupy,
pronunciation, shoulder, thorough

Group 2: adventure, future, picture, nature,
creature, furniture, capture, sculpture,
fracture, mixture

Group 3: look, looked, made, make, me



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**