

BANDON HILL BULLETIN



Issue 97
Friday 23rd October 2026

Headteacher update



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this long and busy half term, I want to write and thank you all for your continued support. Our children have worked incredibly hard, and I am immensely proud of everything they have achieved over the last few weeks.



I would also like to extend a huge thank you to our fantastic teaching and school staff. They have worked tirelessly throughout this long term to create an inspiring, safe, and happy learning environment for our children. Their dedication is deeply appreciated, and I am sure you will join me in wishing them a very well-deserved rest over the break.



We are delighted to announce the launch of our brand-new Parent Staff Association (PSA)! This group will play a vital role in organising community events and raising funds to enhance our children's school experience. If you are interested in joining or finding out how you can help, please do get in touch with the school office-we would love to welcome you aboard.



As we head into the second half of the autumn term, the British weather is proving to be very unpredictable. With the cold and wet conditions we are currently experiencing, coats are now a must for all children. Please ensure your child comes to school with a warm, waterproof coat every day so they can enjoy their outdoor playtimes comfortably.



Please note the following details for our return after the holiday:

- Monday 9th November: School is closed to all pupils. Staff will be in school for a professional training day.
- Tuesday 10th November: School reopens and we look forward to welcoming all the children back for the start of the new half term.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our iRock assembly and Harvest Festival over the past week. Also well done to all of our 'Wonder Poem' winners!



I hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing, and safe half-term break with your families.

Warm regards,

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.

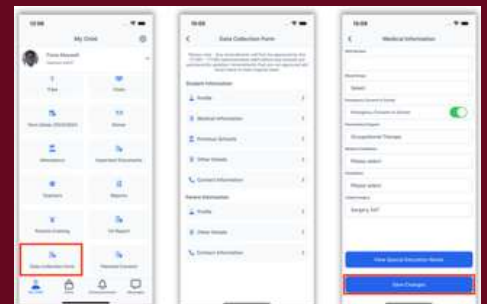


Find "Data Collection Form": Scroll down on the "My Child" dashboard to find the "Data Collection Form" module. Click on it.

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



Penny Wars Winners

A massive well done to all the children who brought in spare change for Penny wars. We raised a huge £388.65

We are excited to announce the winners



KS1 Ali
KS2 Luther King



Both classes will receive a treat after half term.

Have a wonderful
half term

Celebration Assembly Winners

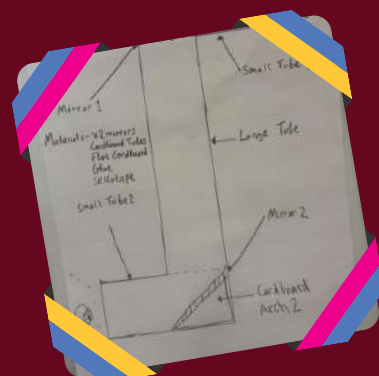
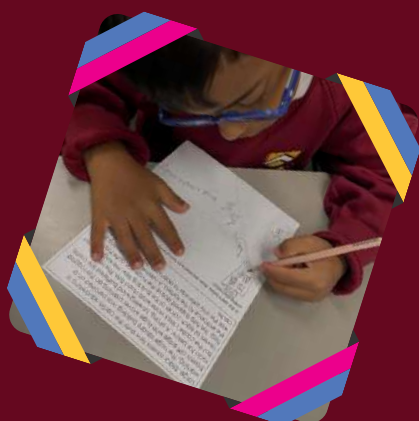


Every Friday, we come together as a community to applaud these individuals. It is a moment of pride for the children, their teachers, and their families, reinforcing the idea that hard work and a positive attitude are the keys to success at Bandon Hill.

"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."



Around our school
this week



House Points

Mason House

Shanahan
House

Weir House

Widdowson
House

759

733

805

895

Curriculum

Update - EYFS

N We can't believe that we have reached the end of your children's first half term at Bandon Hill Nursery. We are so proud of how they have settled in and adjusted to Nursery life. Well done to them!

Next half term, our topic will be 'People who help us' and Christmas. We will also be introducing daily phonics lessons following the Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics programme.

We are pleased to announce that our Christmas Singalong will be taking place on 14th December at 10.30am. More information will follow but please add the date to your diary!

Now that the weather has changed, please ensure that your child has a suitable named coat with them every day and that their shoes are practical for the weather. We spend time outside every day.

We hope you have a lovely half term break.



R We have had a busy week in Reception wrapping up our first half term! We have enjoyed finishing the half term by learning all about Autumn. We went on an Autumn walk to the meadow and collected some Autumn objects to then create some nature art. In phonics, the children have done a great job at learning all of our Autumn 1 sounds. Please do carry on revisiting these at home with your children. In math, we have been busy focusing on numbers 0-4. If you can, you could go on number hunts and get your child to find a certain amount of objects and bring it back to you!

As it is now getting colder and wetter, please practice at home putting on your child's coats and doing up their zips independently. If you are sending in hats, scarfs and mittens please ensure they are named! We do ask for mittens rather than gloves as it can be quite tricky to put on 30 pairs of gloves! Thank you.

We cannot wait to start our new topic after half term which is 'Celebrations'.

Have a restful half term!



Curriculum Update KS1

2

1



We are so proud of how well the children in year 1 have done this term! They have settled into more formal learning and have enjoyed their foundation subjects this term. They deserve a well rest break!

We finished our learning on materials in science, concluding the best material for a house is bricks. We enjoyed speaking about our past in history; they did a great job at understanding the difference between the past, present and future.

Next term: we will be learning about dinosaurs in English. In maths, we will be learning to use the part whole model to add 2 numbers together and in science we will be digging deeper into materials and their properties!

The phonics phase 5 sounds we have learnt this week are:

ay, ea, ou, oy
We will be recapping these sounds during the first week back.

We will be swapping art for DT next term where we working on creating sliders and levers. In RE, we will be looking at the Christmas story and how Christians celebrate Christmas.

Please can coats, jumpers and fleeces be labelled, especially approaching the colder weather.

We hope you all have a restful half term break.

We have come to the end of a busy term, the children have worked incredibly hard and are now ready for a well-earned half-term break!

After the holidays, our weekly spelling tests will be 10 words each week. Our first test will take place on Friday 13th November, when we return to school.

We have collected in the children's phonics reading books over half term and will provide them with new books when they return.

Our learning theme for English and geography next half term will be London.

In English, much of our work will be based around the lovely book *The Queen's Hat*. In geography, we will be exploring the question: "What do you need to know about London to be a tour guide?" We will be finding out more about London's famous landmarks and what makes it such a special city. In science, our focus will be life cycles, where we will explore how living things grow and change.

We finished the term with some fantastic practical learning, making our own fire engines and exploring wheels and axles. The children thoroughly enjoyed getting creative and putting their learning into practice! We also had great fun creating posters in science encouraging reduce, reuse and recycle plastic as part of our 'materials' topic.

We hope you all have a wonderful and restful half-term break. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting half term of learning!



Attendance and Punctuality this week...



KS1

Attendance: Owens 95%

Punctuality: Donaldson, Owens, Ali

KS2 Attendance: Keller 96%

Punctuality: Curie

Fantastic Effort!



Curriculum Update KS2

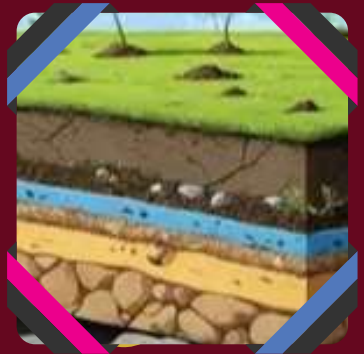
3

We've had a wonderful final week of the half term. We are very proud of the work the children have done already in year 3 and are looking forward to seeing some more fantastic learning next half term!

We finished our reports in English this week, which were all about the different periods of the Stone Age. The children have worked hard to make sure they are using paragraphs and subheadings to organise their work effectively. We've also had some tricky maths this week using the column method to help us subtract with exchanges.

For art this week, we had a mini gallery in our classes to look at each other's clay bowls and completed an evaluation of our own designs. We have also concluded our science topics on rocks by looking at how soil is formed and what it is made of. In music, the children have been learning some songs to sing on Remembrance Day (11th November). We have some great singers in our Year 3 classes!

Reminders:
Paddington Trip - Tuesday 17th November
Christmas Concert: Wednesday 16th December 9:45am
Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat at school.
Thank you for your support this half term. Have a wonderful half term break!



We've had a great week this week! In English, we have finished our book, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. The children enjoyed the story and the misadventures he went on! We have also started to look at our book focus for next half term, Hello Lighthouse, which is a wonderful story about a lighthouse and it's keeper and includes some lovely illustrations which will help to inspire the children's writing. Elsewhere in art, the children have completed their Lowry inspired art work. It was lovely to see the children eager to start sketching their own buildings and people for the background and their artwork demonstrated a very good understanding of perspective; well done to all!

We also finished our maths learning on addition and subtraction this week. The children worked hard on solving problems that involved exchanging, when adding and taking away. Next half term we move onto multiplication and division! Hopefully, you would have received a letter via your child's contact book about which times table they could focus on a home - it'll be great if they could practise them during the holidays!

Reminder: Saxon Workshop 25th November

Thank you for all your support this half term; we wish you a very happy half term holiday.

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

Quelle est le date do ton anniversaire?
Everyone will have an answer and this week in French the children have been working out how to answer the question for themselves. We have worked on days of the week, months of the year and numbers this half term as the children continue to work on their pronunciation - tres bien tout le monde.

In maths, the children have been using counters to investigate prime, square and cubed numbers. It has been lovely to see the children so engaged and using practical resources to aid their learning.

We have come to the end of some of our Foundation topics this week and have been quizzing the children on what they have learned. We will be starting new topics such as The Vikings, Forces and Bread after half term. If you haven't already done so, please confirm whether your child is allowed to do bread tasting as part of their topic. This only needs to be a short message in your child's contact book.

A reminder that our trip to the Science Museum is on Monday 23rd November. Have a restful half term and thank you to everyone for their continued support.

The Year 5 Team

It has been a productive final week of half term in Year 6 this week!

In English, pupils have been planning and writing newspaper reports inspired by an event at Buckingham Palace from our class reader, The Boy at the Back of the Class. They focused on structuring front-page articles, writing clear headlines, and including quotes to report on the event.

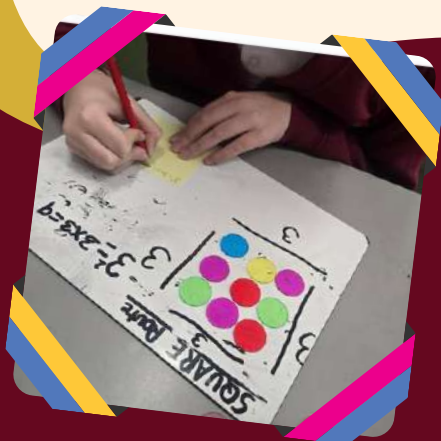
In maths, the children focused on fractions, practicing how to compare and order them and are building in confidence!

In design & technology, the pupils have been busy building periscopes based on their own original designs. Following their plans, they have measured, cut, and assembled their models, using mirrors to see how light travels in straight lines.

In PSHE, Year 6 looked at how to recognise and regulate strong and complex feelings. The class discussed practical strategies for managing challenging emotions thoughtfully, sharing useful ideas and coping techniques to use both in and out of school.

Reminder: Please return any Community Christmas Party slips if you would like a grandparent or elderly family friend to attend the festivities! Thank you.

Have a lovely half term break!



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
09.11.26	All	INSET DAY
10.11.26	All	Return to school
17.11.26	Year 3	Paddington Bear Trip
23.11.26	Year 5	Science Museum Trip
25.11.26	Year 4	Saxon Workshop
27.11.26	All	Mufti Day donations
04.12.26	All	Elfridges Christmas shop
09.12.26	Donaldson, Goodall, Ali	Christmas Around the World Concert
11.12.26	Jeffers, Attenborough, Owens	Christmas Around the World Concert
12.12.26	All	Christmas Fair
15.12.26	Years 5 & 6	Christmas Concert at St Michael's Church (9:45)
16.12.26	Years 3 & 4	Christmas Concert at St. Michael's Church (9:45)
16.12.26	Year 6	Natural History Museum Trip



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

says, like, sound, here, rabbit, proud



Year 2

last, past, father, class, grass, pass, plant, path, bath, rather



Year 3

Group 1: redo, return, refresh, redecorate, reappear, review, replay, reaction, rebound, revenge

Group 2: looking, looked, buzzing, buzzed, jumping, jumped

Group 3: have, he, help, her, here



Year 4

Group 1: adoration, admiration, coronation, detonation, observation, location, generation, exploration, combination, illustration

Group 2: Those highlighted in red.

Group 3: have, he, help, her, here



Year 5

Grp 1: abundant, brilliant, constant, distant, dominant, elegant, fragrant, ignorant, tolerant, vacant

Grp 2: information, sensation, preparation, vibration, decoration, donation, duration, registration, population, determination

Grp 3: have, he, help, her, here



Year 6

Group 1: apparent, committee, curiosity, especially, guarantee, lightning, parliament, recommend, soldier, vegetable

Group 2: disappoint, disobey, disappear, disapprove, disable, dislike, dislocate, disadvantage, dislodge, disagree

Group 3: no, of, one, people, put





Making Life
Better Together



NHS
South West London and
St George's Mental Health
NHS Trust



**FAMILY
HUBS**

Parent/Carer Group: Supporting Infants with Big Emotions & Behaviours

IS YOUR CHILD:

- Aged between 1-4 years old?
- Struggling with big emotions and behaviours?
- Are you struggling to know how to best support them?

If yes, this group might be for you!

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- Top tips on how best to understand your child's behaviour
- Strategies to support your child to express and manage big emotions



TO SIGN-UP & REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

please complete
this form (click link below):
[Parent Group Application](#)

You can also scan the
QR code below.



We'll start with a
screening call to make
sure the group is
right for you!



GROUP DETAILS:

Our parenting groups run over four weekly sessions.
We ask that you attend all sessions.

DATES:

**Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th November 2026,
and a follow up session on 9th December 2026
9:30 am – 11 am**



LOCATION:

Sutton Best Start Family Hub Floor,
1A Sutton Central Library,
St Nicholas Way, Sutton, SM1 1EA



SUITABILITY:

We ask that Parents/Carers are not engaging with
other support services to avoid families getting lots
of different advice.

SPACES ARE LIMITED!

We encourage you to
submit your application
as soon as possible if
you're interested in joining!

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**

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.