

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is very late but I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year—2026 is truly underway. Our Spring Term has certainly been marked by the wet and chilly month of January. Despite the weather our year groups have been making the most of the outside including— Year 1 and Reception in Nature School and also the Year 2 Gardening club.

The learning themes this term have captured the children's imagination and interest across the school. You can find the key learning for each year group detailed on the school website under **curriculum** and in the year group star icon. I was delighted that the Year 1 trip was so successfully rearranged and the children were so well behaved that the school was congratulated by museum staff—a credit to us all. Enjoy the article. All Year groups have been successfully enjoying their maths learning and the writing developments—the handwriting and sentence work are impressive to see! I am confident that you will see great progress when you meet with the team at parent evenings, if you have not already caught a glimpse as perhaps you see it for your self at home. I'm pleased to see many parents /carers taking the Kinetic Letter practice sheets home after collecting them from the main entrance. Help yourself to the families of letters....bounce and skip are there keeping an eye!

It was as ever wonderful to see almost 30 children collect their gift of a book for 100 reads completed at home—I'm expecting a large number of reading tea parties this year to celebrate the reading successes—engagement and progress.

The PFA and all our community are supporting the school to raise funds this year to enrich our schools outside shaded seating areas. There are exciting plans ahead which the PFA and staff team will keep you updated on with our Summer Fayre already being discussed with great excitement. I'm going to let the bee out of the hive by sharing our theme early— we are going to have our very own 'Bee Fest' on June 12th! A lovely way to link our values and sense of belonging together in our very own summer fayre. Watch out for other events on the calendar.

I also include a summary of our parent survey carried out last November— we will continue to review home learning that will enable the children to practice their key skills of reading, writing and mathematics. Please remember to talk with your class teachers if you would like to consider other ways in which to support your child at home.

As the children themselves think about their goals and dreams, from learning to ride a bike to getting better at reading or learning to speak confidently to different people, it is clear what is important to them. They have been thinking about what and who can help them to be successful with this —friends, family and themselves of course!! **Persevering** is a word they can tell us all about and how important we can be to help and encourage each other to keep going and not give up. This is an important area of learning that, as adults, with care and understanding , we continue to teach all our children. It underpins all and any success.

Whatever the year ahead brings for any of us, I hope we all value, just as the children do, friendship and working together. I also look forward to welcoming and working with Mr D. Gubbins to ensure a successful change of Headteachers for the school. He is here today to say hello. Working together is always important to make goals and dreams a reality.

Kind regards

Mrs Edwards



*A happy school; learning, caring, succeeding together*



## **Parent Survey Autumn 2025**

Thank you to the families who completed this survey in November 2025.

82 families completed the survey which is 26% of the school community.

98% of this group of families indicated that their children were happy at school and would recommend the school.

100% indicated that their children were safe at school.

95% indicated that the school manages behaviour well, 93% specifically indicated this in relation to bullying.

90% indicated that the school has high expectations of their children.

***QPIA also asked your views on the balance of home learning given to the children and the impact of our new school values. A smaller proportion of the group replied but gave helpful feedback.***

Home Learning – our families said...

*"It would be helpful to have handwriting practice available as home learning."*

- This is now available from the main school entrance lobby – letter formation practice sheets linked to the Kinetic Letter families available for all families.

*"It would be helpful to have Maths learning."*

- Fluency Bee has been launched to support the key skill of automaticity at KS1.
- Our newsletter will always contain pages for Maths and English with additional ideas for home learning

New School Values – 88% of families felt that these are well communicated.

From January 2026 our new Bee Values will be displayed on the front page of each new newsletter to ensure everyone knows them



Be Kind

Be Safe

Be Successful

Be Respectful

Thankyou again to everyone who completed the survey . It is always good to hear from you.

Kind regards. Mrs T Edwards and Mr J Travel (Chair of Governors)

# Celebrating 100 READS at Home:



## A Fantastic Family Effort



We are delighted to share some wonderful news about **reading at home**, which continues to go from strength to strength across the school. Mrs Edwards was thrilled to be handing out special books to children who have reached an amazing milestone of **100 home reads** – what a fantastic achievement! This is a real celebration of the children's hard work, commitment and love of reading, and we are very proud of them.



At the same time, we would like to gently remind families of the **importance of reading regularly at home**. Reading with your child has a huge impact on their learning and confidence. Although we recommend a minimum of **three reads a week**, the more often you read together, the greater the benefit for your child. This is especially important at this stage of their education, when children are developing their **phonics knowledge, fluency** and **understanding of texts**.

Even short, regular reading sessions make a big difference. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support – working together really does help our children become happy, confident and successful readers.

Mrs Wills—English Lead

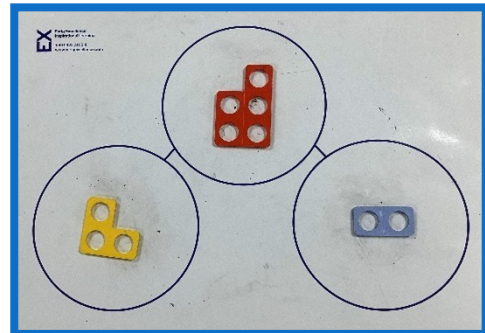
# MATHS

## Maths Across the School!

### Reception

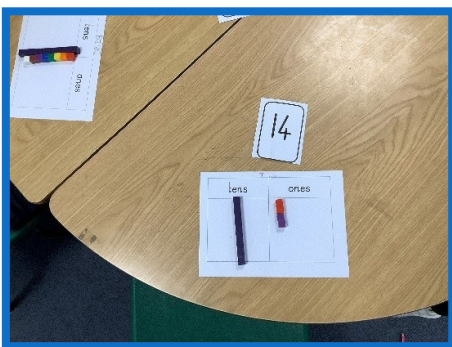
Our Reception children have been focusing on the **composition of 5**. This means they are learning all the different ways numbers can be combined to make 5 (for example, 2 and 3, or 4 and 1). Through hands-on activities, stories, songs and games, the children are developing a secure understanding that numbers can be made in different ways.

Have a look at this picture of a part whole model being used to show a number bond to 5!



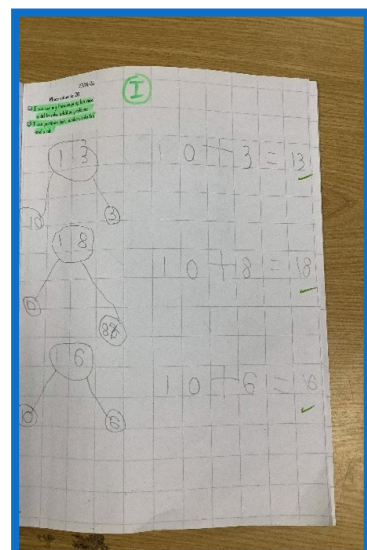
### Year 1

In Year 1, the children have been learning about **place value and partitioning numbers to 20**. They have



been exploring what numbers are made of, understanding tens and ones, and breaking numbers apart (for

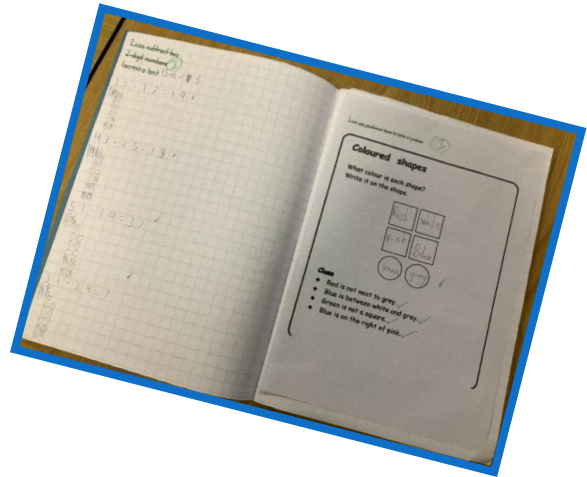
example, knowing that 14 is made of 10 and 4). Using practical resources such as counters and dienes has helped children visualise numbers and explain their thinking clearly.



# MATHS

## Year 2

Year 2 have been developing their understanding of **addition and subtraction** through solving sums involving 2 two-digit numbers. The children have been understanding the concept of 'crossing a ten' which is when addition or subtraction sum moves past a multiple of ten, such as 10, 20, 30 or 40.



For example: **27 + 6** crosses from the 20s into the 30s whilst **42 - 8** crosses back from the 40s into the 30s.

Reasoning and problem-solving challenges are also being explored in the year group!

### How can you help at home?

- **Encourage your child to play Numbots at home!** If you have lost your log in details or need help, please speak to your child's class teacher.
- **Play board games!** Games are a great way for children to talk about numbers, especially those that involve the rolling of 2 or more dice!
- **Number bonds!** Key number facts are the foundations of the children's learning in all number units.

Mr Spokes – Maths lead.

# YEAR 1 Trip to Etches Collection

At the start of term, Year 1 had a truly memorable day out on their visit to The Etches Collection in Kimmeridge. As always, the children were highly excited to be travelling by coach, and being so high up had its benefits! As we journeyed along, the children eagerly counted the many sheep in the fields and enjoyed wonderful views of the Jurassic Coast as we drove into Kimmeridge.

Once at the museum, the children impressed everyone with their excellent knowledge of fossils and palaeontologist, Mary Anning. Nick, the teacher at The Etches Collection, commented on how knowledgeable and enthusiastic the children were and praised their thoughtful questions. A real highlight of the visit was seeing first-hand the world-famous giant sea monster Pliosaur skull, which was especially exciting to learn had been helped out of the cliffs by Steve Etches himself. What a fantastic learning opportunity to see such an incredible fossil up close! You can still go onto iPlayer and see the fabulous film - **Attenborough and the Giant Sea Monster** which shows the excavation.

All of the staff felt extremely proud of how well the children behaved throughout the day. They represented the school beautifully and showed exactly what it means to be a QPIA child. It was a wonderful trip, full of learning, excitement and curiosity – a truly great day for everyone involved.

# YEAR 1 Trip to Etches Collection



Thank you for being stars Year 1!  
- from the Year 1 Team



# BE SUCCESSFUL

## STARS IN JARS



Reception children are excited to receive their own jar for their own stars to collect just like the KS1 classes!

We have been so impressed with their collective knowledge of our school values and how to apply them in their everyday learning!

**Well done Reception, let's see how many you can collect for your first class reward!**



## Be Successful Trophy

This term, we are introducing a new “Be Successful Trophy” to recognise and celebrate one child in each year group who have shown immense progress and success in their learning! This will be addition to our superstar stickers.

The staff in each year group will have a meeting after school to talk about which children have been successful in their own unique ways and one child will be chosen to be awarded the trophy to keep at home for the next half term. This will be presented in Super Star Assembly.

Next half term we will choose the first nominees!



## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM BEE HAPPY AFTER SCHOOL CLUB



Bee Happy is becoming increasingly busy and parents aren't always able to book a space when needed. Please can any parent who has booked a child into Bee Happy, let me know by 9am on the day of the session if they are not going to attend. This can then allow me to pass the space to another child and I can then credit your account. If I'm not advised, the session will be charged for.

Please send Pauline Abel an email:

**[bee.happy@coastalpartnership.co.uk](mailto:bee.happy@coastalpartnership.co.uk)**

as the mobile isn't accessed until 3pm.



## Important Information Regarding Absence Messages



If your child is unwell and going to be absent from school please telephone the school office and leave a message on the absence line.

The phone number is **01202 528805** and choose Option 1. Please leave your child's name, class and reason for absence.

You can also send an SMS via Arbor to let us know.

If no explanation for absence is received, you will be sent a text via the Arbor system. You can then either respond to this text or phone the school.

# BCP LIBRARY LEGENDS

## LIBRARY LEGENDS

Dear Parents / Carers,

2026 is a National Year of Reading and to celebrate this BCP Council Libraries have created a **Library Legends** quest. This will run throughout 2026 and it's free to join.

The challenge is made up of a series of quests, each one linked to one of our Library Legends characters, **Explorer, Creator, Rookie and Faithful**.



Children are rewarded with stars, collectors' cards and, if they complete all 5 quests, a medal and their place in the league of **Library Legends**.

The challenge is designed to involve the whole family and includes lots of creative activities to get everyone enjoying books and reading together.

### How to start

All the information that you will need is on BCP Council Libraries' website.

[bcpcouncil.gov.uk/libraries/national-year-of-reading](https://bcpcouncil.gov.uk/libraries/national-year-of-reading)

Pop into your local library, pick up a booklet and start your journey towards becoming a Library Legend.

BCP  
Council

SCAN  
ME!



Proud to support  
The National Year  
of Reading 2026.

GO  
ALL  
IN.

# LOOKING FOR ACTIVITIES THIS HALF TERM?

Award-winning Sports Coaching and Ofsted Registered Childcare Provider

## **FF** Foundation Sports & Play February Half-term Sports & Play Camps!

Tax-free childcare, childcare vouchers and childcare grants accepted

### **Our Team**

Enhanced DBS Checked, Staff on the Update Service, Qualified in Sports & Childcare, SEND Trained, First Aid Trained & Safeguarding Children Trained. We are always putting the children's welfare first!

### **Activities**

Our engaging programs have 3 areas of play: Sport (football, Gymnastics) Play (board games, lego, outdoor exploration) and Craft (art, masks & biscuit decorating). We have activities for every child's interests.

### **Venues**

Stourfield Junior School, BH6 5JG  
BCS Preparatory School, BH14 9JY  
The Epiphany School, BH9 3PE  
Castle Court School, BH21 3RF

### **Time**

9.00am - 3.00pm with early drop off available from 8.00am & late pick-up times for 4.30pm & 5.30pm.

### **Ages**

3 - 12 years old. 3 year olds only able to book on at BCS & Castle Court.

### **Dates**

Starting Monday 16<sup>th</sup> until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

**From  
£27.50 Per  
Day**

**Tax-free &  
Childcare  
Vouchers**

**Ofsted  
Registered  
Provider**

### **Bookings & Contact**

Click : [www.foundation-play.com](http://www.foundation-play.com)  
or scan the QR code to the right.  
E: [dorset@foundation-sports.com](mailto:dorset@foundation-sports.com)  
IG: @fsportsandplay | FB: Foundation Sports & Play Dorset  
Phone: 01202 007785



**SCAN ME**



# SUPPORTING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Although the section on exams resilience is aimed at much older children, this leaflet could offer you general help and support with the mental wellbeing of your whole family.

**Dorset Mental Health Support Team in Schools**

**NHS**  
Dorset HealthCare University  
NHS Foundation Trust

## PARENT/CARER newsletter

**Parent Mental Health Day 30<sup>th</sup> January**  
Parent Mental Health Day on 30<sup>th</sup> January highlights how important parents' and carers' wellbeing is for the whole family. Created by the charity stem4, the day encourages you to pause, notice how you're feeling, and find small ways to restore balance.

To mark Parent Mental Health Day, this newsletter is especially for you — our school community's parents and carers. We know that when you're supported, it helps your children thrive too. This edition is focused on how you can look after your own mental health and how to access support when you need it, so you can continue to be the steady, caring presence your children rely on every day.

**TEA TALK + TEENS Podcasts**

Next Podcast Episode:  
Parent Mental Health finding the balance

ALL EPISODES - AVAILABLE FREE ON SPOTIFY

[bit.ly/MHSTPodcast](https://bit.ly/MHSTPodcast)

**Parent Mental Health Video**

We've put together a short, uplifting video for Parent Mental Health Day that speaks honestly about the ups and downs of parenting. It offers simple reflections on why the day matters and points you towards support that's there when you need it. We'd love you to take a moment to watch.

Watch now: [bit.ly/4bS6cpg](https://bit.ly/4bS6cpg)

**Supporters Forum: Exam Resilience**

We run termly Supporters' Forums to hear directly from parents and carers about how we can improve our service to better support your family. Each forum includes:

- A short 20-minute presentation
- Open discussion (no camera or mic needed)

Next topic: Exam Resilience  
📅 Tuesday 3rd Feb  
🕒 6:15 PM (6:30 start)  
📍 Online

To sign up:  
[bit.ly/3LgMWaf](https://bit.ly/3LgMWaf)

**Explore our Free Resources**

We have a range of free resources to support you in looking after your child's wellbeing. You can find simple tools, guides and webinars through our Linktree whenever you need them.

📌 Please follow us on social media for updates and support.

[linktr.ee/dorsetmhst](https://linktr.ee/dorsetmhst)

📍 @DORSETMHST

Mental Health Support Team in Schools Issue #02

Always remember that Mrs Parker, our Family Support Worker, is here for you too if you are struggling or in need of support.

## FROM THE OFFICE TEAM...

### The Late Book



If you arrive at school after the gates have been locked and enter through the main office please sign your child into school by completing the late book. We will take them to their classrooms.

### Parking Outside School

To keep children safe & healthy, please **turn your engines off** when parked on the road outside school.



### Bikes and Scooters

The school cannot accept liability for bicycles and scooters left on the school grounds. The gates and bike sheds are locked during the day between 9am and 3pm, but at all other times they may be insecure and unattended, so please take bikes and scooter home at the end of each day.



Please remember bikes and scooters are not allowed in the playground unless being carried by an adult.

### Medication



If your child needs to take a dose of prescribed medicine during the school day, (4 x a day only) please come to the main office where you will need to fill in a form with one of our first aiders. Please do not send medicine into school in book bags.

Please be aware that we are unable to administer Calpol to children unless prescribed as part of a medical plan.

### Second Hand Uniform

Our PFA have lots of good quality second hand uniform which can save you lots of money! Please email them on



**[qpia.pfauniform@gmail.com](mailto:qpia.pfauniform@gmail.com)**

*Thank you!*

### Named Clothing

Please can all items of clothing including: School uniform, hats, coats, PE kit, lunch boxes, drink bottles etc be clearly named.

It makes it much easier to reunite them with the right person if they are lost.

# Dates For Your Diary



## 2026 –2027

We have recently published our term dates for next year on our website.

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the website page.



Coming soon...

## **Children's Mental Health Week**

This year's theme is 'This is My Place'.

We know that our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in school and in our communities plays a vital role in our mental health and wellbeing.

Have a look at this short video for more information.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/about/>

# Dates For Your Diary



## February

Tuesday 3rd February—Reception and SEN base storytelling event, pay via Arbor

Wednesday 4th February: School Nurse Parent Drop in 9am - 10am. Please book via the office.

Monday 16th—Friday 20th February: Half Term

Monday 23rd February: Back to School

## March

Monday 2nd March: Reception Vision screening

Thursday 5th March: Reception Vision Screening

Friday 27th March: Last day of Term

Monday 30th March—Friday 10th April: Easter Holiday

## April

Monday 13th April: INSET Day, school closed

Tuesday 14th April: Children return to school

## May

Monday 4th May: Bank Holiday, school closed

Thursday 21st May: Last day of school

Friday 22nd May: INSET Day, school closed

Monday 25th May—Friday 29th May: Half term

Monday 1st June: Children return to school