



Bawnmore Community Infant School and Cygnets Pre-School Newsletter



17th October 2025

Head of School's Letter



Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge thank you to everyone who donated cakes for our after-school cake sale in support of mental health charities. Your generosity is appreciated. We're also very grateful to FOB for organising volunteers to run the stall. Together, we raised **£233.74** to support mental health charities.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at **St Mark's Church** on Sunday for the harvest celebration. The congregation was very pleased to have us participate in their worship.

Year One had a fantastic afternoon on Wednesday, meeting a range of exotic animals including an **African Leopard Tortoise**, **Savannah Monitor Lizard**, and a **Tarantula!** Meanwhile, **Year Two** enjoyed a visit from **Safety Seymour** on Wednesday, followed by a trip to **Rugby School** on Thursday for some of our keen singers, while those remaining in school took part in a **dinosaur-making workshop**.

We're hosting a **Parent and Carer Mental Health Session** today at **4pm**, both in person and online. The session will be led by **Alex Hare** from the Mental Health in Schools Team, offering practical advice on supporting children's mental health. A link has been sent out this afternoon for those joining online.

It was lovely to see so many of you at **Parents Evening** this week. We look forward to welcoming the rest of you on **Wednesday 22nd October**. If you haven't yet booked an appointment, please speak to your child's teacher or contact the school office.

School finishes for the **half-term break on Friday 24th October**, and we return on **Monday 3rd November**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

Warm wishes,
Pam Davey
Head of School



Parking with Care – A Shared Responsibility

We kindly ask all parents and carers to be extra mindful when parking near the school. Please **do not park on the yellow lines or zig-zags**—these areas are there to protect our children and keep visibility clear. We know mornings can be hectic, but a few extra steps on foot are a small price to pay for safety. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

FOB
Friends of Bawnmore - Parent Teacher Association

 **Year Group WhatsApp**



Easy Fundraising – Shop. Click. Donate (For Free!)

Did you know the **same online purchases** you're already making could also raise **free donations** for the school? You don't

pay a penny more - the retailer donates on your behalf. 🙌 **DOWNLOAD THE Easyfundraising APP!**

Whether it's your **weekly supermarket shop**, **back-to-school bits**, **Christmas pressies**, or a **late-night scroll on your favourite sites**, it all adds up. Big names like supermarkets, fashion brands, travel companies, and tech stores are part of it.

All you need to do is head to easyfundraising.org.uk, search for *Bawnmore Infant School Parent Staff Association* and shop as normal.

Do your weekly online Sainsbury's shop → £2 donation

Book a £400 holiday on Expedia → £20 donation

Grab those Christmas gifts on Amazon → more donations (without spending extra!)



Pre-loved Uniform – Choose to Reuse!

It was so lovely to chat with so many of you on Tuesday night while I was on the cake and uniform stand. And while we were there, many of you admitted (just like me!) there's a stash of uniform at home just waiting to be donated.

Consider this your friendly nudge: bag it up, drop it into school, and our lovely staff will keep it safe ready to find a second life. Every jumper, polo and pair of trousers keeps good stuff in use, raises funds for the school, and supports more sustainable habits. 🌿

We're also still on the lookout for someone to help **coordinate our pre-loved uniform**. No big commitment - just a bit of sorting, organising and keeping things ticking along. A small role with a big ripple effect. ✨



A Little Time, A Big Difference

I have a confession - I didn't volunteer for *any* FOB events until my son was in Year 1. And perhaps it was that the Christmas Disco would not be able to go ahead without more volunteers... I forget now ... but I braved it.

And honestly? I had a *brilliant* time - maybe that says more about me than DJ Rizzo! But what really struck me wasn't just the awesome kiddos we have here, just living out their ready and respectful values, but the grown-ups who volunteer remind me just how grounded & warm our Bawnmore community really is.

So, if you've ever thought "I'd love to help, but I've got no time" - I get it. Truly. But maybe, just maybe, you could spare *an hour* this year to see what it's like. You might be surprised. After all, many hands make light work 🧡

Save the Date - Christmas Wreath Making Evening

Mark your calendars - **Wednesday 26th November**

Tickets £30 - includes everything you need to make a gorgeous wreath, plus a glass of prosecco or a craft beer to keep the creativity flowing. Keep an eye for more details



Values Book

Class	Child's Name	Award	Reason
1R	Robert	Wonderful Work	For taking his time and producing a great non-fiction fact file.
	Esme	Certificate	For being super enthusiastic with her maths!
	Marika	Values Sticker	For always having a great attitude to learning.
	Max	Values Sticker	For doing <u>really well</u> with his maths work.
	Lucy	Values Sticker	For being independent with her writing.
1H	Albie	Wonderful Work	Fantastic scientific knowledge for animal classification.
	Elise	Certificate	Always demonstrating our school values and being an excellent role model to others
	Brooke	Values Sticker	Great contributions in lessons.
	Carter	Values Sticker	Trying really hard with his blending to make words.
	Harry	Values Sticker	Always being a respectful and considerate member of our class.
2K	Lucas H	Wonderful Work	For a beautifully presented dinosaur poem
	Dylan	Certificate	For continually showing respect to all
	Suharshith	Values Sticker	For representing the school fantastically at Choral Day
	Josie	Values Sticker	
	Mia	Values Sticker	
2W	Nefeli	Wonderful Work	For a great dinosaur poem
	Aanish	Certificate	For wowing us with amazing knowledge all day long
	Ollie H	Values Sticker	For representing the school fantastically at Choral Day
	Findlay	Values Sticker	
	Grace	Values Sticker	

Extra Curricular Opportunities

Some opportunities are free to all children. Where an activity is normally parent/carer funded, if your child receives Pupil Premium funding they may be able to access a paid for club free of charge. Please speak to the admin team if you would like to know more. A child's place at any extra-curricular activity may be withdrawn if they are unable to consistently follow our school rules– this is to ensure that the clubs are fun, safe places for our children and staff.

Day	Activity	Led By	Timings	Year Groups	Availability
Monday	Musical Theatre	Funstar Dance	3.10pm-4.10pm	Reception, Years One and Two	Spaces
Monday	Maths in Action	Mrs Holston	3.10pm-4.10pm	Years One and Two	Spaces
Tuesday	Music Lessons	Rocksteady	8.30am-11am	Reception, Years One and Two	Spaces
Tuesday	Gym	Miss Sprayson	3.10pm-4.10pm	Reception, Years One and Two	Spaces
Tuesday	Cookery	Miss Bourton	3.10pm-4.10pm	Years One and Two	Spaces
Wednesday	Cheerleading	Funstar Dance	3.10pm-4.10pm	Reception, Years One and Two	Spaces
Thursday	Art	Mrs Lear and Mrs Wigginton	3.10pm-4.30pm	Years One and Two	Spaces
Thursday	Dance	Spellbound Dance	3.10pm-4.10pm	Reception, Years One and Two	Bookings not yet open- Club starts after half-term break.
Friday	Outdoor	Miss Sprayson	3.10pm- 4.10pm	Reception, Years One and Two	Spaces
Friday	Football	DM Coaching	3.10pm-4.30pm	Age 5 and above	Full

Celebrations

Attendance Award

Congratulations to 1H who have been chosen as our Attendance Champions this week with 97.8% attendance.

Congratulations!

Our whole school attendance was 95.8%. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting their children to make this happen.



Assembly Award

Congratulations to 1H who have been chosen as our Assembly Champions this week.

Lunchtime Award

Congratulations to 2K who have been chosen as our Lunchtime Winners this week.

Wonderful Work



Calendar

Week	Date	Time	Who	Where	Activity
7	Fri 17th October	4pm-5pm	All parents and carers	Hybrid	Mental Health Parents and Carers Workshop Led by Alex Hare, MHST. Alex will be with us in person but you will also have a link so that you can join us online if you wish to.
8	Wed 22nd October	3.30pm-6.30pm	Rec, Y1 and Y2 parents and carers	Classrooms	Parents' Evening. You will be able to book a 10 minute in person appointment on this date or on 14 th October.
8	Fri 24 th October	3.10pm	All		End of half-term. Puffins Wraparound Care closes at 5.45pm as normal.

Half Term Holiday					
Saturday 25 th October – Sunday 2 nd November					
Autumn 2 2025					
1	Mon 3 rd November	8.45am-3.10pm	All	Drop off/pick up from playground	All pupils return to school.
1	Tue 4 th November	During school day	Rec. pupils	School Hall	The School Nursing Team will be in school carrying out the National Child Measurement Programme with reception pupils. A link for you to consent or opt out of this will be sent out to you to from the team prior to their visit.
1	Wed 5 th November	2.30pm	All parents and carers	School Hall	A chance to hear about how maths is taught in school, find out more about how you can support your child and ask any questions.
2	w/b 10 th November	During school day	All pupils and staff		Anti-Bullying Week 2025 will be held from Monday 10 th to Friday 14 th November with the theme "Power for Good". The campaign aims to empower children and young people to use their "Power for Good" to speak out and support others, countering the harm caused by bullying.
2	Fri 14 th November	During school day	Year 2 Pupils, parents and carers	Classrooms	African Theme Days. Children will be taking part in lots of activities related to our Africa topic. Parents and carers will be invited to join us for part of the day to take part in arts and crafts activities.
3	Mon 17 th November	2.15pm	Rec. parents and carers	School Hall	Reception Parents and Carers Reading meeting – A chance to hear about how reading is taught in school, find out more about how you can support your child and ask any questions.
4	Thu 20 th November	8pm	All parents and carers	Fighting Cocks Pub	FOB Meeting– All welcome. This will be an in person meeting held at The Fighting Cocks. A great time to socialise as well as help plan our next events.
4	Mon 24 th November and Tue 25 th November	During school day	All pupils	Classrooms	Advent Workshops. Across the school, the children will be taking part in activities based on Christmas traditions around the world. This will be in preparation for the beginning of Advent. If you have a tradition you'd like to share, please let your child's teacher know.
4	Fri 29 th November	2pm	Year One Grandparents/friends	Year One Classrooms	Grandparents and family friends are invited to come into school to play traditional board games with the Year One children as part of their history topic. If you have any games you think they'd enjoy, please let your child's class teacher know.
5	Fri 5 th December	8.45am-3.10pm	All		Children are invited to come to school in non-uniform (Christmas jumpers, hats etc. optional) in return for a bottle, toiletries, chocolate or sweet donation for our tombola or raffle.
5	Fri 5 th December	3.30pm-5.00pm	All	School Hall	Christmas Fayre. Come along to our annual Christmas Fayre organized by FOB to raise funds for our school. Please let us know if you would be able to help with this event.

6	Tue 9 th December	R 1.20pm Y1 1.50pm Y2 2.30pm	All	School Hall	Year Group Christmas Assemblies. Performance 1. Families are invited to watch their child(ren)'s assembly. 2 tickets per family will be issued for each date. Reception -1.20 p.m. Year 1- 1.50p.m. Year 2- 2.30pm Children can be taken home following their performance if you wish.
6	Wed 10 th December	R 1.20pm Y1 1.50pm Y2 2.30pm	All	School Hall	Year Group Christmas Assemblies. Performance 2. Families are invited to watch their child(ren)'s assembly. 2 tickets per family will be issued for each date. Reception -1.20 p.m. Year 1- 1.50p.m. Year 2- 2.30pm Children can be taken home following their performance if you wish.
6	Fri 12 th December	9am-11am	Cygnets		Cygnets Christmas Crafts Morning. Cygnets families are invited to take part in some seasonal arts and crafts activities.
7	Tue 16 th December	During school day	Rec-Year 2 Pupils, parents and carers	St Mark's Church	Join us as we walk to St Mark's Church for a Christmas Service.
7	Wed 17 th December	During school day	All pupils	School Hall/ Classrooms	Christmas lunch & class parties. Children are invited to come to school in non-uniform.
7	Thu 18 th December	3.15pm-4.30pm 4.45pm-6.00pm	Cygnets and Reception pupils Year One and Year Two pupils	School Hall	School Discos. Adult helpers will be required. More details later on. Cygnets and Reception pupils are invited to attend a disco from 3.15pm-4.30pm. All children attending this disco will need to be accompanied by a designated adult. 4.45pm-6.00pm. Year 1 and 2 pupils are then invited to attend their disco without an adult.
7	Fri 19 th December	3.10pm	All		End of term. Puffins Wraparound Care closes at 5.00pm on this day.

Christmas Holidays

Saturday 20th December- Sunday 4th January

(5th January: Staff Training Day- School closed to children)

Admissions 2026/2027 - Bilton C of E Junior School

Prospective Parents School Tours



The staff and pupils warmly invite prospective parents to visit our school during one of the following sessions.

Wednesday 22nd October 2025 9.30am – 10.00am

Wednesday 22nd October 2025 10.15am – 10.45am

Thursday 23rd October 2025 2.00 pm - 2.30pm

Monday 24th November 2025 9.30am – 10.00am

Members of the team will provide a tour of the school and answer any questions you may have.

If you are unable to make any of the above dates, then please feel free to contact the school office to make an alternative appointment.

office@biltonjuniorschool.co.uk

We look forward to meeting you.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wight 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2025-26

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).

First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.

Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

As its name suggests, YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of Google's online video-sharing platform. Its colourful user interface is designed with young people in mind, and it offers a curated, family-friendly experience with features like age-based content settings and parental controls.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS



YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.

BE WARY OF ADVERTISING



Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.

DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.

SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED



YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.

AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION



There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading "scientific" videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.

DATA COLLECTION RISK



While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS



YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as "Preschool" or "Younger". You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.

SET TIME LIMITS



The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.

CHECK WATCH HISTORY



YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the "Recommended" icon at the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's "My Activity" page.

WATCH TOGETHER



It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, THE INQUIRER, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.





Mental Health in Schools Team
Tips For Wellness



Thoughtfulness

Being thoughtful is when you consider, or think about, how your actions and words will affect other people's feelings. Taking the time to make ourselves aware of the needs and feelings of others and then taking action to help them is great for our mental health; it helps reduce stress, improve friendships and creates a sense of belonging.

When we think about how others feel and show kindness, it makes us feel good inside and boosts our confidence!

Our tips for Thoughtfulness:

You can be thoughtful through small acts of kindness; it doesn't have to be a grand gesture! Here are some examples below:

- Smile at someone.
- Listen carefully when someone is talking—it shows you care about what they're saying.
- Give someone a nice compliment.
- Help out without being asked, like sharing your things or tidying up.
- Think about how others might feel before you act or say something.
- Hug someone you care about (e.g., parents/carers, family members or a friend).
- Hold the door open for the person behind you.
- Say kind things to others and try to cheer someone up if they're feeling sad.
- Say "thank you" and "please"—small words can make a big difference.
- Tell someone that they are important to you.

Scan the QR code for more information about the benefits of being kind and thoughtful to ourselves and others:



In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.

Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.



FREE ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOP

FOR PARENTS OF SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Get practical hints and tips to support your children and keep them safe online, and learn how to keep up to date in the ever changing online world.



Mon 10th
NOVEMBER

7pm-8pm



Speaker

LYNDSEY VAUGHTON

Education & Wellbeing Training Lead (UK)
Smoothwall



Access the event here:

<https://meet.google.com/cze-sgju-fbj>

With a background in law enforcement, Lyndsey is a seasoned child protection advocate with extensive expertise in safeguarding education. She is passionate about fostering safe student environments, offering support in policy implementation, training, and committee establishment, as well as furthering her commitment to student wellbeing through her PhD research on the effects of domestic abuse on children.

For more information on online safety, visit <https://warwickshire.onlinesafetyhub.uk/>