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Newsletter October 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back after the half-term break! We are off to a great start, and the children have returned refreshed, enthusiastic and ready to learn.

In our Collective Worship and assemblies, we have been exploring our school values:

Resilience • Excellence • Self-Belief • Perseverance • Equality • Courage • Trust

One of my favourite parts of the week is our Friday celebration assembly, where we recognise and celebrate the many ways children demonstrate these values through their learning and play. As you can imagine, it is not always easy to show perseverance when learning to tie shoelaces or develop a correct pencil grip, both of which are important life skills. Equally, it takes courage to make new friends, join in games on the playground or try something new. Your children are developing these values every day, and we are incredibly proud of them.

Please do keep asking your children about their learning. I often found that immediately after school was not the best time to ask my own children what they had done that day! Instead, later in the evening might be a better time to start a conversation. Questions such as, *"What was the best part of your day?"*, *"What made you smile today?"* or *"Tell me about anything new you have learned this week,"* might lead to some interesting discussions.

We hope you enjoy reading about Bottesford CE Primary School life during this October.





Upcoming events

6.11.26 Wear what you like and donate to the Christmas Fair

13.11.26 Children in Need – details to follow!

1.12.26 and **2.12.26** Ash Class Nativities

3.12.26 Bottesford CE Primary Christmas fair @ 2pm

8.12.26 Whole School Panto Trip. Back to school @ 4.30pm

10.12.26 Christmas Service at St Mary's Church @ 2pm

15.12.26 and **16.12.26** Elm and Willow Christmas Performances

16.12.26 Santa Dash! Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day!

17.12.26 Christmas Parties

18.12.26 Toy Day and Break Up from School

4.1.27 Back to School



In Ash Class the children have been learning about autumn. I was lucky enough to be in class when they were putting together their multimedia pictures, cutting and sticking a photo of themselves blowing beautiful autumn leaves. I love how the children have continued to be creative, turning leaves into little creatures. I also spotted some printing to help with their clever counting. Well done Ash class!

In The Hub the children have been continuing to learn their letters. I love the pictures of penguins and parrots they made when they were learning the letter 'p'. Today they were learning 'd', so the children were 'dobbing on doughnut's and in maths they were learning about the concepts of 'more' and 'the same'. Nice work everyone!

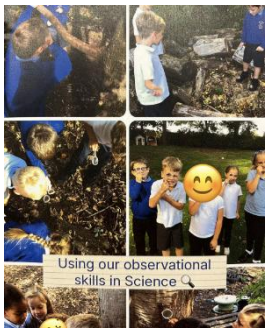


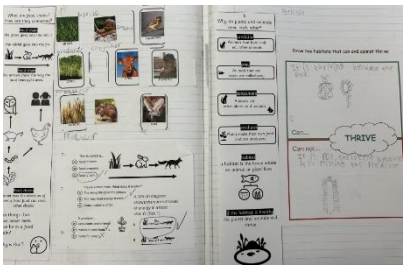


Elm Class have been artists. The have been developing their skills of line and shape while learning about the famous artist Sam Cook (AKA Mr Doodle). They also took part in their first Little Springers gymnastics festival. They were fantastic! They learned about balancing, rolling and jumping with control, working with a partner and bravely using the gym equipment.



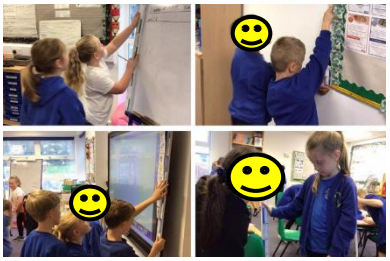
In Willow Class the children have been scientists. They have been developing their investigation skills out and about in the school grounds. It has required careful listening, observation and communication skills. They have also been learning about food chains and why plants and animals need each other. As you can see, they have been learning to use some new and challenging scientific vocabulary.





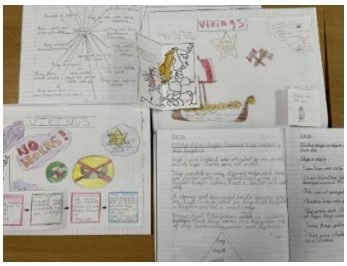
Cedar Class have been marvellous mathematicians! They have been engaging in a variety of measuring activities. They used metre rulers, estimated first, then measured accurately. Today Cedar were practicing basketball skills but earlier this month they were practising their skipping skills. They needed excellent timing and stamina for these skipping games!







In RE, in Chestnut Class, the children have been learning about Christianity and evangelism. They heard the story of when Jesus told Simon Peter and Andrew 'Come follow me!' Some very interesting discussion followed… some children thought people would never do this and leave their old way of life behind. Some disagreed and thought they might be excited at a new opportunity. Some excellent oracy skills being developed in Year 4!



In Hawthorn Class the children have been fascinated by their history learning about the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings. They started with a book called Anglo Saxon Boy. The children told me that it contained 'betrayal, battle and bloodshed!' They said the story was full of 'cliffhangers and surprises!' A definite recommendation, I think! They told me how surprised they were to discover that the helmets the Vikings wore did not have horns… and about how they 'invaded churches' and 'travelled in long boats with dragons on the front to frighten their enemies.'





Sycamore Class have been working on tricky multi step maths problems today… word problems in the millions! The children are getting better at explaining how they chose to work out a problem, choosing the most efficient and effective way. Before half term some of the children took part in Bikeability, learning to ride and be safe on the road. The instructors told me they were impressed with the children's attention, concentration and excellent manners. Well done, Sycamore.





A Harvest and a disco! – Highlights this month included the Harvest Festival at St Mary's and the Friends of Bottesford disco at the Village Hall! A huge thanks to Rev Monica and the team for welcoming us into church and sharing her message about our children growing. The children loved singing their harvest songs for you. Thank you so much for coming along. It was wonderful to see so many families there. Similarly at the disco! My first one! Thank you so much to the Friends of Bottesford for arranging it. It was wonderful to see so many of you enjoying the evening.





Thank you! What a generous community you are! We were able to take many food donations down to church for the Harvest Festival. Your donations were taken to the Grantham Foodbank. You raised £244.60 for Gand Aid UK when we wore jeans for genes and on 'Hello Yellow Day', you raised £35 for Young Minds. Our children are really keen to make a difference in the world. Every other Thursday, each class is working on a service project where they plan an activity to do good, raise money and be changemakers. Further details to follow!







Dress down donation day – on Friday 6th November the children can wear what they would like to school in exchange for Christmas hamper donations. The Friends of Bottesford use your donations to make up hampers to match each school team colour.

White Tigers

Green Dragons

Purple Falcons

Red Panthers

Orange Lions



Bring items to match one of the colours and place in the boxes that will be in front of school. Any other bottle or unwanted gift donations are also gratefully received. A dojo message with ideas will be coming out soon. You will find a reminder of your child's dojo team on the profile page on you Arbor app.

Friends of Bottesford – It was great to join a Friends of Bottesford meeting in October. The team are always thinking of creative ways to raise money for the children. **Thank you!** If you would like to get involved in the parent group, you would be most welcome. Contact them on their facebook page or at friendsofbottesfordprimary@gmail.com



Outside whatever the weather! – At Bottesford CE Primary School we love to see the children playing outside as much as possible. We've been blessed with wonderful weather so far, but it is getting colder, wetter and muddier. Please send your children to school prepared. They need a **waterproof coat** and **hat/gloves** when it gets really cold. It's great to let the children on the field, but soon they will need a change of shoes or preferably **wellies** at school to be able to play on the grass. Please send them, named, in plastic bag to hang on their pegs for now. We are planning a way for boots and shoes to be stored safely outside on the near future.



Last minute news! Today, some of our Year 6 children took the lead in preparing and delivering PowerPoint presentations about ADHD. They first shared their learning with a group of parents at a coffee morning, then to the whole school in collective worship. They were excellent. We were incredibly proud of their passion to raise awareness and encourage understanding amongst their peers.



We are also thrilled to tell you that a group of our Year 5/6 girls returned to school with the winning trophy today following an Exel football competition. Well done team!

Safeguarding – Our **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)** in school are Mrs D Giles, Mr C Andrews and Mrs H Killen Smith. If you have any concerns about a child, please speak to one of our DSLs.

Should you need to be in touch with me, I endeavour to be at the school gates at the beginning and end of each day. You can also email me via the school office.

office@bot.learnat.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

With best wishes,

Mrs Di Giles.