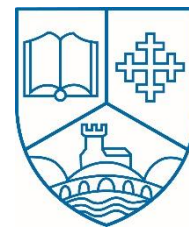


Bidford on Avon Church of England Primary School



NEWSLETTER 37 – 3rd July 2026

Dates for your Diary (new dates added in green)

Monday 6th July – Year 5/6 PE, instead of Wednesday

Tuesday 7th July - Art Explorer's session 1:30 till 3pm (parents & Y3 & Y4 children)

limited spaces, book a place with the school office

Thursday 9th July – Year 2 (Mr Batts class) Forest school instead of Wednesday

Friday 10th July – KS1 Enrichment Day – PE Kit

Friday 10th July – No celebration assembly

Monday 13th July – Year 6 leaver's play (Year 6 parent's invited), 1:30pm

Monday 13th July – Open classrooms, 3:30pm till 4pm

Tuesday 14th July - open classrooms (Reception classrooms and Reception parents only) 3.30 - 4.00pm.

Tuesday 14th July – Sports Day (children to come to school in house colour t-shirt) Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 will start at 9.15am & Rec, Year 1 & 2 at 1.15pm

Thursday 16th July – Sports Day reserve

Friday 17th July – Year 6 Leavers service, 9:30am (year 6 parents invited)

Friday 17th July – Year 6 (Miss Drissell's class) PE

Friday 17th July – School finishes at 3:25pm for summer term

Monday 20th July – Teacher training day (school closed for children)

Tuesday 1st September – Teacher training day (school closed for children)

Wednesday 2nd September – Children return to school

Friday 23rd October – School finishes at 3:25pm for half term

Monday 2nd November – Children return to school

Notes/Reminders

- If your child has sickness or diarrhea, they need to remain off school for 48 hours from the last episode
- If your child will be collected by another person, please notify the school office by 1:00pm
- Please remember to report your child's absence to the school office by 9:00am via emailing admin3011@welearn365.com, calling 01789 773201, or through the School Gateway app.



Have Your Say: The Big Future Survey

We are encouraging all our pupils to take part in an important national survey called **The Big Future**, led by the Children's Commissioner for England.

This survey gives children and young people the chance to share their views about their lives, their communities, and their hopes for the future. It will help ensure that children's voices are heard by decision-makers, especially as more young people will be eligible to vote in future elections.

Children will be asked about:

- What matters most to them
- Their biggest concerns
- The changes they would like to see
- What a good childhood looks like today

We would love as many of our pupils as possible to take part so their voices can be included.

👉 **Complete the survey here:**

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

The deadline for responses is **Friday 23 October**.

Schools with high participation will receive recognition, and the results will help shape decisions at a national level.

Thank you for supporting your child to take part and make their voice heard!

Term-Time Absence Reminder

If you wish to take your child out of school during term time, please ensure that you complete the relevant absence request paperwork. Forms can be collected from the school office and should be returned to the school office for consideration before any arrangements are made.

If you have any questions regarding term-time absence requests, please contact the school office, who will be happy to help.

Warm Weather/uniform

With hot weather forecast for next week, children are welcome to come to school wearing their PE kit each day to help them stay cool and comfortable throughout the school day.

Please ensure that:

- Children bring a named sun hat to school every day.
- Sun cream is applied before school and that it is an all-day sun cream to provide protection throughout the day.
- Children bring a named water bottle so they can stay well hydrated.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep the children safe, comfortable and ready to learn during the warm weather. 🌞

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Summer Fair on Wednesday. The children all had huge smiles on their faces as they enjoyed visiting the various stalls. A huge thank you once again goes to the BSA for organising such an amazing event.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the children in Years 5 and 6 on their enterprise projects. Their commitment to their work was truly impressive, and they managed to raise a significant amount of money. The dedication they demonstrated shows that we will certainly have some entrepreneurs in the future!

Next week, your children will be bringing home their school reports, which will reflect their hard work and progress throughout the year. We are also looking forward to the children taking part in a transition session in their new classes, which will help reassure them as they prepare for the next step in their educational journey.

I hope you all have a restful weekend and enjoy the excitement of the final weeks of term.

Mr A. Morris

Upcoming Changes & Expansion to Free School Meals (FSM)

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

We are writing to inform you about important national changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility that will come into effect from the start of the 2026/27 school year.

Please be aware this does not change the entitlement of everyone in Early Years and Key Stage One (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) to be entitled to Universal Free School Meal (UFSM). All pupils in these three years are entitled to a Free School Meal daily and you do not need to complete any forms to enable your child to access this.

The UK Government has confirmed that, from September 2026, all children in England whose households receive Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals, regardless of their overall household income.

What is Changing?

Under current rules, families must earn below £7,400 per year (after tax and not including benefits) to qualify for free school meals. From September 2026, this earnings threshold will no longer apply — any family receiving Universal Credit will be eligible. This change is expected to support over half a million additional pupils across England.

What This Means for Your Family

- No income cap: If your household receives Universal Credit, your child will be eligible.
- Financial savings: Families could save up to £505 per child per year on school lunches.
- Support for wellbeing: Access to a nutritious daily meal has been shown to improve

children's health, concentration, and learning outcomes.

When Will This Happen?

The new entitlement will begin at the start of the school year in September 2026. Schools nationwide are preparing now to accommodate the increased number of children who will receive meals. We, as your school's caterer, are fully prepared to support this fantastic new initiative and are keen to support even more pupils with access to our exciting and nutritionally balanced lunches each day. Remember this a free lunch every day of the school year.

Do Parents Need to Apply?

Yes. Although eligibility will cover all families on Universal Credit, parents, guardians and carers will still need to apply for free school meals so the school can process and confirm entitlement. Applications are expected to open before the start of the 2026 school year, typically requiring your National Insurance Number and Universal Credit Reference Number. The new rule also means that you will need to apply each year for free school meals as the once registered rollover will stop.



Exciting News from Bidford Kids Club

Hi all,

We are nearing the end of the year and our first one working with the school has been great as Breakfast Club continues to grow.

New Full Wraparound Provision From September 2026!!

From September Bidford Kids club will expand to include after school childcare, taking it from just a breakfast club to a full wrap around service that families at the school can use.

More details on how to book and what the full wrap around provisions looks like in September will be sent out next week.