

12TH SEPTEMBER 2025

BOWDON

BULLETIN

WELCOME BACK

Back to school with a message from
Mrs. Makepeace-Taylor

A WONDERFUL START IN EARLY YEARS

Happy Beginnings, Bright Futures

BUILDING RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH RESTORATIVE APPROACHES

A way of working that helps children to
build positive relationships, manage conflict,
and repair any harm caused when things go
wrong.

**BELIEVE
PERSEVERE
SUCCEED**



www.bowdonprep.org.uk



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COMMUNICATION. CURRICULUM. CARE.



Thought for the week

Dream Big – “You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first **Bowdon Bulletin** of our new academic year!

There’s always something extra special about the first full week in school - a fresh chapter, full of possibilities. It’s wonderful to see the school spring back to life again, with happy, smiling faces filling the corridors, classrooms buzzing with excitement, and a renewed sense of energy and enthusiasm throughout our school.

This week, our **Thought for the Week** has been:

“You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”

A. A. Milne

As we begin the year, we’re focusing on the idea that we are stronger than we seem. Strength isn’t always loud or obvious—it’s often quiet, steady, and revealed in moments of challenge. We see it in our children who try again after a setback, who speak up even when they’re nervous, and who show kindness when it’s not easy.

As we settle into the Autumn Term, we remind the girls of their incredible inner strength—knowing that sometimes they just need a little help to see it.





This theme is beautifully echoed in Amy Morin's article, "Mentally Strong Children". Morin reminds us that mental or emotional strength is just as important as physical strength—and it's something we can help our children build every day. Here are three ways to support this at home:

Encourage realistic thinking

Help your child develop a balanced inner voice. If they say, "I'll never be good at this," ask, "What's one thing you can do to improve?" This helps them see their own strength and potential.

Praise effort, not just achievement

Celebrate the hard work, not just the outcome. Saying, "I'm proud of how hard you worked," encourages resilience and a willingness to try—even when success isn't guaranteed.

Help manage emotions

Teach your child how to cope with difficult feelings. Whether it's through drawing, music, or talking, helping them find healthy strategies builds emotional strength that lasts a lifetime.

All these themes fit perfectly with our school motto: **Believe, Persevere, Succeed.**

We believe in every child's potential, we encourage them to persevere through challenges, and we celebrate their successes—big and small.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our pupils grow into confident, resilient learners. Here's to a joyful, inspiring, and successful year ahead.



Mrs S Makepeace-Taylor
Headteacher

Looking Ahead: Next Week

Thought of the Week

All are welcome here

Happy school, Healthy school, Safe school

Staying safe at home



Communication

Key Dates





NEXT WEEK

At a glance...

**WB 15TH
SEPTEMBER**

Please note: **Y1 Reviews** take place this week

*After School Clubs
cancellations.*

MON

15

TUES

16

WED

17

THUR

18

Y3 Trip

FRI

19

8.45am - BPS Society meeting
in school - all welcome

MONDAY

...

TUESDAY

...

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Lacrosse



Autumn Term 1 - 2025

Key Dates at a glance

September

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 InSeT	2 InSeT	3 School opens Winter Uniform Y5 Study Skills Day	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15 11+ Trafford Exam	16	17	18 Y3 Trip	19 Loreto Exam BPS Society meeting
22	23 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> Nasal Flu Vaccinations	24	25	26 World Space Day
29 Harvest Donations into school	30 Y1-Y6 Harvest Festival - Pupils only			



Why not print and add
the Club/Activities that
your child/children
attend here...

MONDAY

Y1 & Y2 Dance
Y5 Netball
Y2 Art
Y3 Baking

TUESDAY

Y1 & Y2 Yoga
Y5 & Y6 Chamber Choir
Y3 Baking

WEDNESDAY

Y3 - Y6 Multi Sports
Y3 - Y6 Choir
Y3 - Y6 Art
Rock Band

THURSDAY

Y6 Netball
Y1 - Y6 Drama
Y3 - Y5 Street Dance
Y1 & Y2 Recorder Club

FRIDAY

Y3 - Y6 Yoga
Y3 - Y6 Full Orchestra
Y1 -Y6 Mandarin

October

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1	2 <i>Yom Kippur</i> EY Harvest - 9am parents invited	3
6	7	8	9 Individual school photos	10
13	14 Parents' Evening Book Fair	15 Y5 trip Book Fair	16 Parents' Evening Book Fair	17 <i>Diwali</i> School closes for Half Term

FOLLOW US



PARKING WITH CARE: SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

As part of our ongoing commitment to being a thoughtful and respectful BPS community, we ask all parents to take extra care when parking during drop-off and collection times.

We have recently received concerns from neighbours living close to school and on surrounding roads regarding cars blocking driveways and access routes—even for very short periods of time. While it may feel like a quick stop, it can cause real disruption, such as preventing residents from leaving for work or attending important appointments.

Each morning, our dedicated Premises Team set out traffic cones to help guide safe and considerate parking in what is a particularly busy area. We kindly ask all parents to respect these measures and to avoid parking across driveways or in any way that restricts access for local residents.

By working together, we can maintain positive relationships with our neighbours and ensure that BPS continues to be a valued and respected part of our community.

Thank you for your support.



SUPPORTING SOUTH TRAFFORD FOODBANK THIS HARVEST

We are delighted to let you know that our school will soon be celebrating our annual Harvest Festival. This is always a special time of year when we come together as a community to give thanks for the food we enjoy and to remember those who may be in need.

As part of our celebration, we are once again supporting South Trafford Foodbank, who are extremely grateful for the continued generosity of our BPS families. Your donations will help provide essential supplies for local families who rely on this service.

This year, we kindly ask each year group to contribute the following items:

- **Kindergarten:** Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- **Reception:** Biscuits (no nuts) or a box of chocolates (no nuts)
- **Year 1:** Toilet rolls
- **Year 2:** Instant mash or tinned ham
- **Year 3:** Shower gel and shampoo
- **Year 4:** Washing capsules (for clothes), washing powder, cleaning cloths
- **Year 5:** Tins of fruit, custard, rice pudding
- **Year 6:** Jars of coffee or plastic bottles of squash/cordial

Please send donations into school in a labelled bag (with your child's year group and type of items) on **Monday 29th September**, or by **Tuesday 30th September** at the latest.

All contributions will be displayed during our Harvest Festival Assemblies on Tuesday 30th September and Thursday 2nd October, before being delivered to South Trafford Foodbank on Friday 3rd October.

Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity.



BPS SOCIETY NEWS

Donations Needed: Help Build Our Costume Bank!

The BPS Society is building a costume bank for school events. First, we need Victorian Day costumes for Year 5 by **Friday 26th September**.

After this, we will also ask for donations for the Nativity, Y3 Waxworks & World Book Day.

Please leave clean, labelled donations in Bella Bench. Thank you!



BPS UNIFORM

Our wonderful BPS Society sell **pre-loved uniform** throughout the academic year and all funds raised go towards our school. Please contact the School Office for contact details.

If you would like to **purchase new uniform** item during the summer holidays, then please email victoria@pwschoolwear.com to arrange a fitting appointment at a convenient time. You can also purchase your uniform as usual online – local delivery is free.

<https://www.pascoeandwillis.com/bowdon-preparatory-school>
Password: BPS24

The BPS uniform shop will be open
Tuesday 16 Sept 8.10- 9am & 3-4pm
Thursday 18 Sept 8.10- 9am



REACH MORE PARENTS APP - NOW LIVE

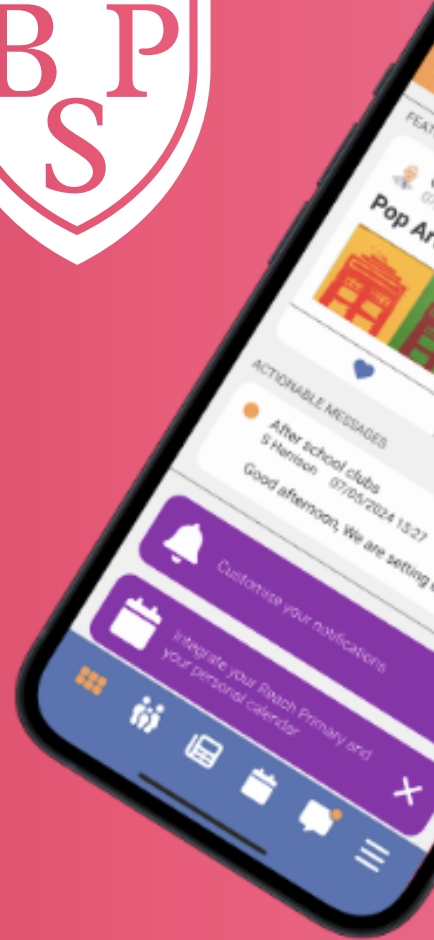
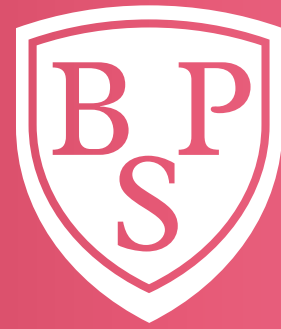
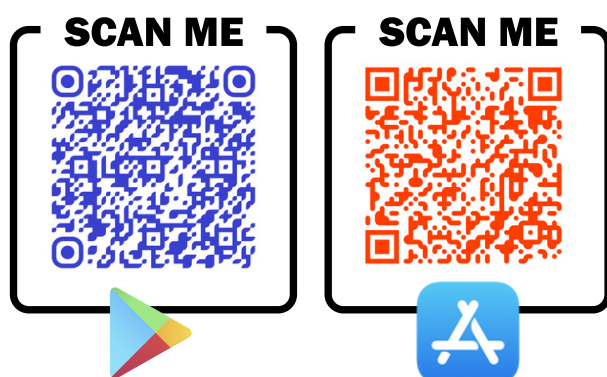
At Bowdon Prep, we are always seeking new ways to improve how we connect with our parents and carers. In July 2025 we announced that our new communications app, Reach More Parents, is now live and ready to use. If you have not signed up yet, follow the link below to download the app.

This user-friendly platform is designed to keep you updated on all aspects of your child's school life. From school news, trips, and learning activities to important announcements, attendance updates, and key dates, the app provides live updates—so you'll never miss a moment of your child's learning journey.

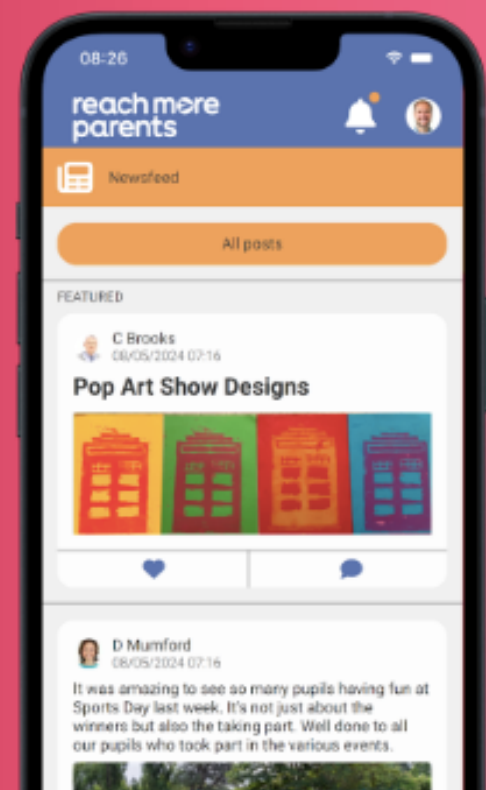
An email has now been sent out to all parents and carers with everything you need to get started. This includes an enrolment message and enrolment codes for both Priority One and Priority Two contacts with parental responsibility. Year 6 parents are very welcome to enrol, although if you choose not to, we will continue to communicate with you via the parent portal until the end of term.

We're confident that Reach More Parents will make our communication more effective, efficient, and accessible. Please check your inbox for the email from school and follow the instructions to sign up. We look forward to welcoming you on board!

If you want to download the app scan below (left for Android and right for Apple)



Keep up to date via the school's newsfeed





MRS. ABBEY'S LUNCH



WB 15.09.25

MONDAY



Veggie or Beef Pasta Bolognaise
Green Beans
Blueberry Muffins

TUESDAY



Veggie or Pork Sausages
Mashed Potatoes, Baked Beans and Carrots
Sorbet

WEDNESDAY



Baguettes with various fillings
Olives and Salad
Oak Cookies

THURSDAY



Veggie or Chicken Fajitas
Sweetcorn
Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

FRIDAY



Veggie or Fish Fingers
Potatoes and Peas
Lemon Shortbread

Salad Bar available each day

BPS is a nut and sesame seed free school

However, due to manufacturing processes, some products used in the school kitchen state that they 'may contain nuts/sesame'. Vegetarian options, salad bar, fruit and yoghurts are available daily. All our food is made using the finest quality produce. Suppliers include Taylor's of Sale (butchers) and 'Bettaveg'.

If you provide grapes as a school snack, for health and safety -
PLEASE cut grapes in half lengthways or in quarters



Curriculum

Reflecting on our week at BPS



Turn the Page: Exciting New Books in the Library!

It has been really exciting to see all the new books that have recently been added to our school library. Many of the girls have already been to visit and have borrowed some of the new titles. With such a wide selection available, there is something to suit every type of reader.

Do you enjoy a puzzling murder mystery? Agatha Oddly and the Silver Serpent might be the perfect choice for you. Prefer a magical adventure filled with griffins and dragons? Then Dragon Rider – The Griffin's Feather will take you on a journey you won't forget.

If you have previously enjoyed books from our large collection set during World War Two, don't miss our latest addition: The Swallow's Flight. For those who love a touch of romance and history, Lizzie Bennet's Diary is sure to entertain, while Daisy in London will have you laughing out loud at Daisy's delightful antics.



Your school library is ready to welcome you—so come on in, explore the shelves, and find your next great read!

“It’s wonderful to see so much excitement around reading. I hope every girl finds a story that sparks her imagination and makes her want to keep turning the pages.” Mrs. Walsh, Librarian

From BPS to Loreto: Smiles in Year 7

We were delighted to receive this photograph of our former Year 6 girls, now thriving in Year 7 at Loreto. It brought us joy to see them looking so happy and settled in their new secondary school.

Keep being Bowdon!



Building Respectful Relationships through Restorative Approaches

At Bowdon Prep, we believe that learning how to live and work well with others is just as important as academic achievement. Central to this is our commitment to restorative approaches to behaviour; a way of working that helps children to build positive relationships, manage conflict, and repair any harm caused when things go wrong.

A whole-school commitment At the start of this academic year, all staff took part in refresher training on restorative practices during our September INSET day. This means that every adult in school is confident in using the same approaches and language with the children, ensuring consistency and modelling respectful problem-solving across our community.

The proactive side: prevention through respect Restorative practice is not just about what happens after an argument, it begins long before. We work proactively with the children to: Respect relationships – reminding the girls daily that kindness, honesty, and responsibility are the foundations of our school values.

Circle times – giving every child a voice in a safe, structured setting, where they can share thoughts, worries, or celebrations. Promote respect and tolerance – encouraging children to understand



different viewpoints and celebrate diversity. Teach conflict skills – helping pupils recognise feelings, use respectful language, and find constructive solutions when disagreements arise.

This proactive focus strengthens class communities, fosters empathy, and creates a culture where children feel valued and heard. The reactive side: repairing relationships Of course, no school (or family!) is free from conflict. When arguments occur, we take a restorative approach to help children reflect and learn, rather than simply assigning blame. This means: Listening carefully to everyone's perspective. Exploring how people have been affected.



Bowdon Bulletin

Supporting children to find solutions and agreements together. Through this, children develop accountability and resilience, while relationships are mended in a respectful, forward-looking way. Restorative conversations at home Parents often tell us they would like to use these strategies with their own children. Below is a simple Restorative Conversation Crib Sheet you can use at home with siblings, friends, or even as a family reflection tool.



Restorative Conversation Questions:

What happened? (Encourages sharing facts and perspectives.)

What were you thinking and feeling at the time?

Who has been affected and how?

What do you need to feel better about this?

What could you do differently next time?

How can you make things right?.

defensive; instead, we focus on what happened and how people were affected, which encourages honesty, reflection, and problem-solving. Linking to our school values Our school values of Kindness, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, and Perseverance sit at the heart of restorative practice. Whether in circle time, resolving a playground disagreement, or reflecting as a family, restorative approaches give children the skills to live these values every day. By working together we can nurture confident, empathetic young people who know how to build strong, respectful relationships that last a lifetime.



Miss Powell
Head of Wellbeing
PSHE Leader
Year 3 English
3P Form Tutor

These open questions help children slow down, reflect, and take ownership of their actions, while also considering others' feelings. In restorative conversations, we avoid asking "Why did you do that?" because it can make children feel





A Wonderful Start in Early Years

Settling In, Making Friends, and Loving Learning

Our Early Years children have made a fantastic start to the autumn term. They have embraced their new classrooms with confidence and enthusiasm, while also enjoying the chance to build new friendships.

It has been a busy and exciting week as the girls began their new half-term topic, took part in phonics, literacy and numeracy activities, and discovered an impressive range of specialist subjects. In Reception, the girls are already thriving in PE, drama, music, and French, showing great curiosity and energy in every lesson.

We are delighted with how quickly the children have settled into their new routines and are especially proud of the way our newest members have embraced our school values—already becoming an important part of the BPS family.



Mrs. Jaberi shared: "I am so proud of how well the girls have started this year. They are already showing such enthusiasm for learning, and it is a joy to see them forming wonderful new friendships and growing in confidence each day."



From Bowdon to the Big Stage: Dancing at Disney

This summer, Elizabeth (6M) had the incredible opportunity to perform at Disneyland Paris with her dance school—a dream come true for any young dancer! Among the proud spectators was our very own Mrs. Howard, who had double the reason to celebrate as her daughters, Emily and Isabel, were also performing as part of the senior team.

The adventure began on Tuesday, as dancers and their families arrived and threw themselves straight into the excitement of the park, enjoying its world-famous rides and dazzling shows. Wednesday started bright and early with a rehearsal on the Videopolis stage. After a confident run-through, the dancers had some free time to explore before returning to get into costume and prepare their hair and make-up for the big performance.



As showtime approached, the venue quickly filled with excited parents and spectators, creating a buzzing atmosphere of support. The show featured two energetic performances from the junior group (including Elizabeth), two polished routines from the seniors, and a vibrant finale performed by all dancers together. Each routine was met with loud applause and cheers from the delighted audience.

Afterwards, dancers and teachers gathered in front of the iconic Disneyland castle for a celebratory photo shoot, capturing the magic of a day they will never forget.

Mrs. Howard said: "It was such a proud moment to see Elizabeth on stage, and to watch Emily and Isabel perform alongside their team. The dancers showed such joy and professionalism—it was a truly magical experience for everyone."

A huge congratulations to Elizabeth (6M) for her outstanding performance on one of the most iconic stages in the world—what an achievement!

The BPS Learning Hub

Quick Links. Smart Learning.

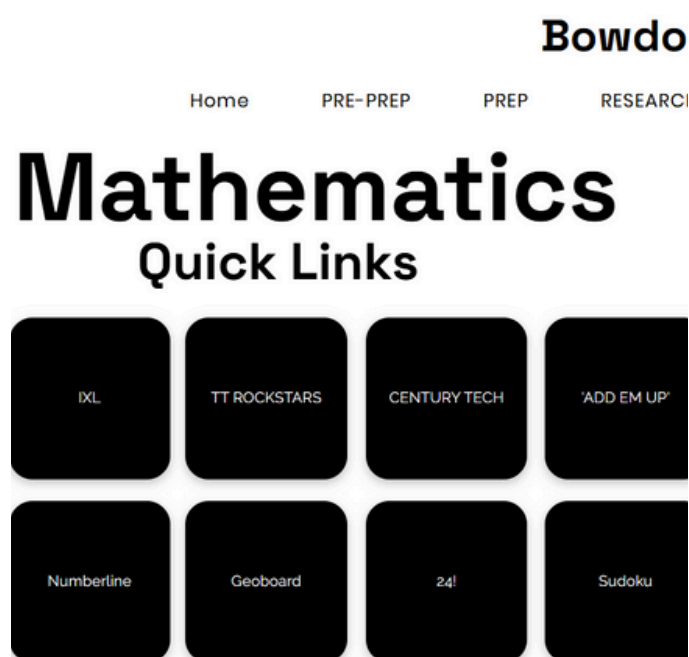
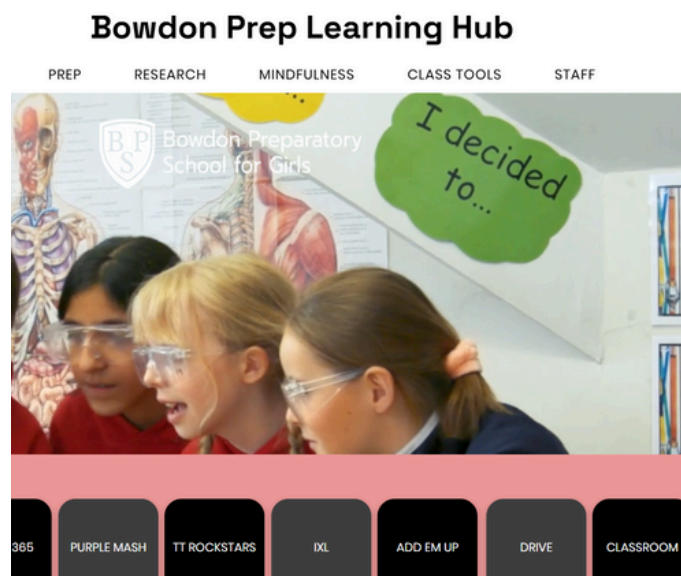
Whenever the girls open a browser in school, they are prompted to visit the BPS Learning Hub. Built in-house, this one-stop site provides quick and easy access to the resources we use most often, both in school and at home.

The Hub includes links to Century Learning, IXL, and TTRockstars, as well as safe search engines, maths games, NVR videos (visit the Prep section for these), and even calming meditation clips. In short, if we use it in school, you'll find it on the Hub!

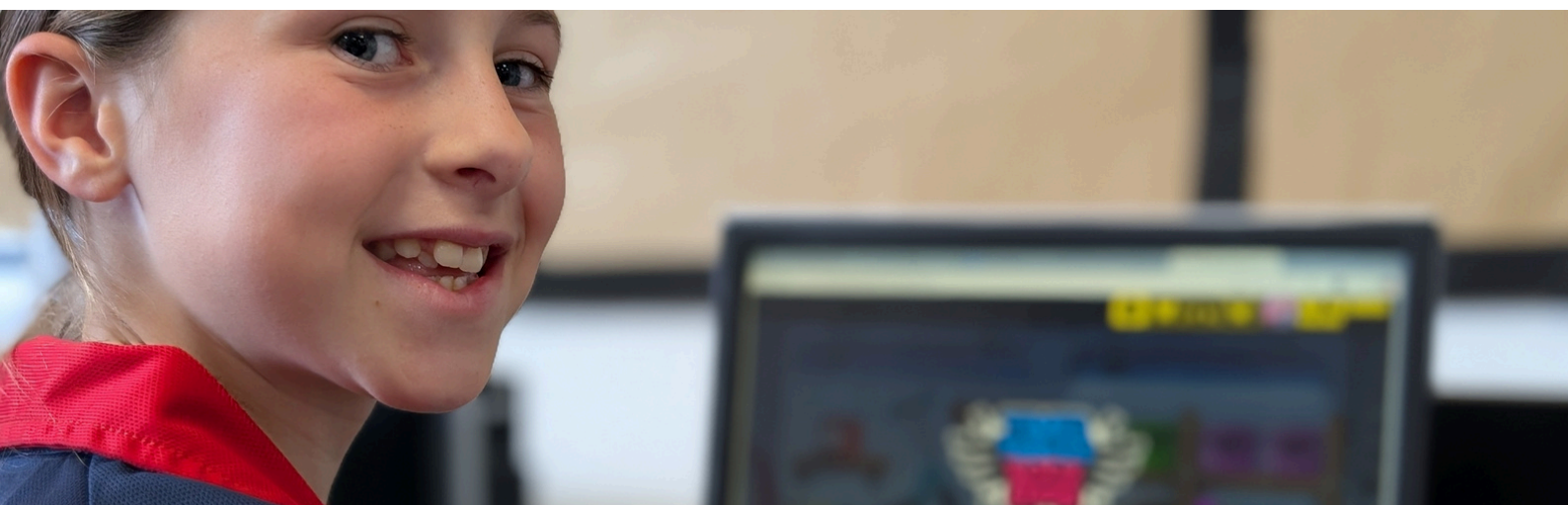
Why not add the Hub to your child's device at home? It's a fantastic way to encourage independence with homework and is especially useful for pupils who are new to BPS.

We'll continue to develop the Hub throughout the year, and we'd love your input. If there are resources you feel would benefit our girls, please do get in touch with us.

www.bpslearninghub.org



Maths Bot - Qu



Staff of the Week

Each week, the School Council presents this prestigious award during the Celebration Assemblies..



MRS. HUNTER

We congratulate Mrs Hunter for receiving star staff of the week; she greets us with the biggest smile and helps us all every day. Thank you for being simply amazing!

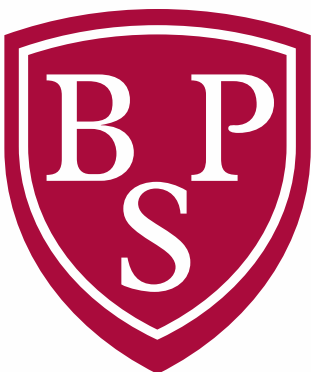


MR. POWELL

Congratulations to Mr Powell for gaining star staff of the week; his humour in the classroom is infectious, always making our lessons fun and exciting every single day. His also has the best ideas! Thank you Mr Powell.



BOWDON PREP SCHOOL



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