

17TH OCTOBER 2025

BOWDON

BULLETIN

YEAR FIVE STEP BACK IN TIME

A Journey into
Victorian Britain!

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN 'WORKING TOGETHER'

Mrs. Makepeace-Taylor
honours Bowdon Prep girls
for outstanding teamwork.

I HAVE BEEN
TO THE
WORKHOUSE



www.bowdonprep.org.uk



office@bowdonprep.org.uk

COMMUNICATION. CURRICULUM. CARE.



AT A GLANCE: **In this week's Bulletin**

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Happy, Healthy, Safe Schools

Be the Kind of Leader You Want to Follow

At Bowdon Prep, we believe that everyone can be a leader. From our youngest pupils in Kindergarten, to our Year 6 pupils, we give all our girls opportunities every day to show the kind of leader they want to be. Whether that is being the class ambassador, taking responsibility for their actions, ensuring everyone is included in a game outside or listening carefully in class.

For us, leadership isn't just about standing at the front or making decisions; it's about the small, everyday actions that make a difference to others. When we show kindness, honesty, and courage, we inspire those around us. That's what it truly means to be the kind of leader you want to follow.

At BPS, we strive to ensure our values are embedded in our everyday school culture so that they become second nature to the girls. Great leaders listen carefully, include everyone, and treat others with respect. They care for all and think about how their words and actions affect the people around them. They know that leadership isn't about being the loudest voice – it's about lifting others up and helping them shine too. When we work together, we achieve so much more than we could alone.

This week, our school has been filled with light and colour as we celebrated Diwali, the festival of lights. Diwali reminds us that light triumphs over darkness and that goodness, kindness, and hope will always shine through. Through our assemblies, art, music, and storytelling, we learned how Diwali is celebrated around the world and what it teaches us about tolerance and respect.



By learning about the traditions and beliefs of some of our friends at school, we build understanding – and that makes our whole school community stronger and more united. A special thank you to our Year 1 and Year 5 pupils for leading the Lower school and Prep in their class assemblies, giving everyone the opportunity to learn something new!

Our Year 5 pupils also had a fascinating experience on their trip to the Victorian Workhouse this week. They stepped into the shoes of children from the past and discovered what life was like for those who had very little. It was a powerful reminder of how important it is to care for all and to stand up for fairness and equality. The visit sparked thoughtful discussions about gratitude, compassion, and how we can all make choices that help others.

I think all the girls agreed that school leadership during the Victorian times left a lot to be desired! As we look ahead to the rest of the term, let's keep our lessons on leadership close to our hearts. Whether it's helping a classmate, welcoming someone new, or showing patience and kindness, we all have



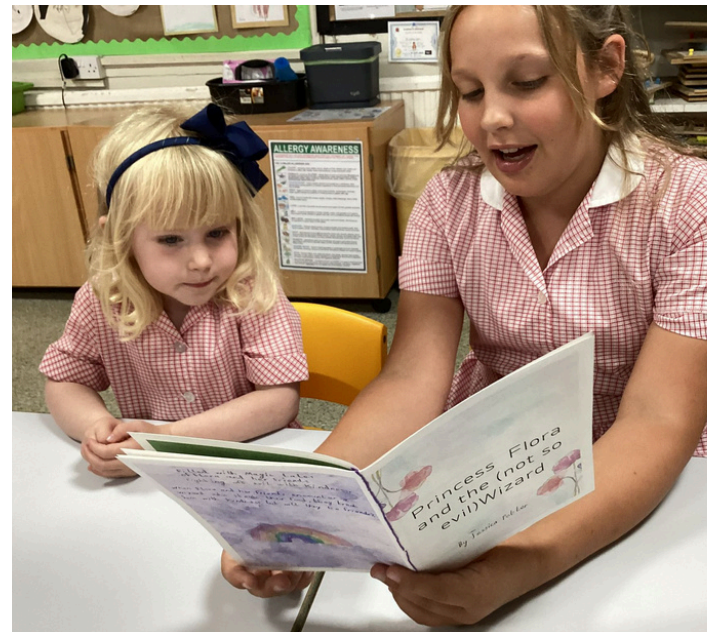
chances to continue to lead by example every single day.

Recently, we had a visitor to the school who commented that everyone at Bowdon, be it the staff or pupils, had a real sense of purpose. Mrs Makepeace- Taylor spoke about how that perfectly encapsulated the essence of Bowdon and highlighted what makes it such a special place to all who work or are taught here. In our own individual ways, we are all working with purpose. We believe this sense of purpose helps drives us all to become the kind of leaders we would want to follow.

As we reach the end of this half term, we want to thank everyone - pupils, staff, parents, and carers for your continued hard work, positivity, and support. It's been a busy but wonderful half term of learning, teamwork, and celebration. We wish all our families a lovely half term holiday - a time to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, on Monday 3rd November, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term of learning and leading together!



Mrs G Oakley
Phase Leader
Lower School



Looking Ahead: Next Week

Thought of the Week

Don't let anyone dull your sparkle

Happy school, Healthy school, Safe school
Firework safety



S Makepeace-Taylor

Mrs S Makepeace-Taylor
Headteacher

Communication

Key Dates





NEXT WEEK

At a glance...

**WC 3RD
NOVEMBER**

Y6 Pupil Reviews will take place this week
Y2 Pupil Reviews will take place this week

*After School Clubs
cancellations.*

MON

School opens

TUES

WED

6pm: Y5 Residential Zoom

THUR

FRI

Y2 Trip

BPSS Disco (after school)

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Autumn Term 2025

Key dates at a glance

November

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 <i>School opens</i>	4	5 Y5 Residential Zoom	6	7 Y2 Trip BPSS Disco
10 Reception Walk	11 Y6 Outward Bound Zoom - 6pm	12	13 Class Reps meeting with Head	14 Anti Bullying/Odd Socks/ Children in Need
17	18 Open Morning - Prospective Parents	19 Y5 Trip	20	21
24	25	26	27 Y4 Trip	28 Prep Theatre trip

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

MONDAY

Y1 & Y2 Dance
Y5 Netball
Y2 Art
Y2 Baking

TUESDAY

Y1 & Y2 Yoga
Y5 & Y6 Chamber Choir
Y2 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

December

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4 Early Years Nativity 1.30 Y1 & Y2 Concert 2.30	5 Eco Day - School Council
8	9 Y3 & Y4 Show 2.30pm	10 Lower school trip to Theatre	11 Y5 & Y6 Carol Concert at St Marys Church	12 Xmas Jumper Day and Lunch
15 <i>Hanukkah</i>	16	17	18 BPSS Xmas Fair	19 <i>School Closes</i>

FOLLOW US



**BELIEVE
PERSEVERE
SUCCEED**



COMMUNICATION. CURRICULUM. CARE.



MRS. ABBEY'S LUNCH



WC 3RD NOVEMBER

MONDAY



*Paneer or Chicken Curry, Rice and Naan Bread
Broccoli
Sorbet*

TUESDAY



*Veggie or Beef Lasagne, Garlic Bread
Green Beans
Fruit or Yoghurt*

WEDNESDAY



*Jacket Potatoes with various fillings
Carrot Cake*

THURSDAY



*Veggie or Pork Meatballs and Pasta
Peas
Carrot Cake*

FRIDAY



*Quorn or Chicken Paninis
Sweetcorn
Flapjack*

Salad Bar available each day

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



BPS is a nut and sesame seed free school

Please note, due to manufacturing processes, some products used in the school kitchen state
'may contain nuts/sesame'.

Fruit and yogurt are available daily as an alternative to desserts. All our food is made using the
finest quality produce, suppliers include Taylor's of Sale (Butchers) and 'Bettaveg'.



BOOK FAIR SUCCESS!

Inspiring a Love of Reading, One Page at a Time

A heartfelt thank you to all our parents and children for your wonderful support during this year's Book Fair. It was fantastic to see so many pupils excitedly exploring the shelves, discovering new authors, and sharing their love of stories with friends.

Events like these play a vital role in helping children become avid, lifelong readers—opening doors to new worlds, ideas, and adventures every time they turn a page.

We are thrilled to share that we have raised an **incredible £680, of which £230 will go directly towards purchasing brand-new books for our classrooms**. These resources enrich our lessons, inspire curiosity, and ensure that reading remains at the heart of everything we do at Bowdon Prep.

Thank you once again for your continued enthusiasm and support—it truly makes a difference!

For anyone who took a book and still needs to make a payment, please use the following link below.



SUGGESTED LEAFLET: SUPPORTING GOOD SLEEP FOR CHILDREN.

This week we're sharing a helpful guide from Great Ormond Street Hospital all about sleep hygiene — the routines and habits that help children settle to sleep and stay asleep.

The leaflet provides practical advice for families, including:

- How much sleep children and young people need at different ages.
- Tips for creating a calm and consistent bedtime routine.
- Ways to make bedrooms more sleep-friendly — keeping them quiet, cool, and screen-free before bed.
- The importance of regular sleep and wake times, healthy daily habits, and gentle exercise.

Establishing good sleep routines supports children's wellbeing, concentration, and emotional balance.

Scan the QR code to read the full NHS guide and discover how small changes at home can make bedtime calmer and sleep more restful for everyone



BPS UNIFORM

To **purchase new uniform**, the BPS Uniform Shop will be open this week on;

Tuesday 4 Nov 8.10–9am
Thursday 6 Nov 8.10- 9am

You can email victoria@pwschoolwear.com to arrange a fitting appointment

Or you can purchase online (local delivery is free)

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

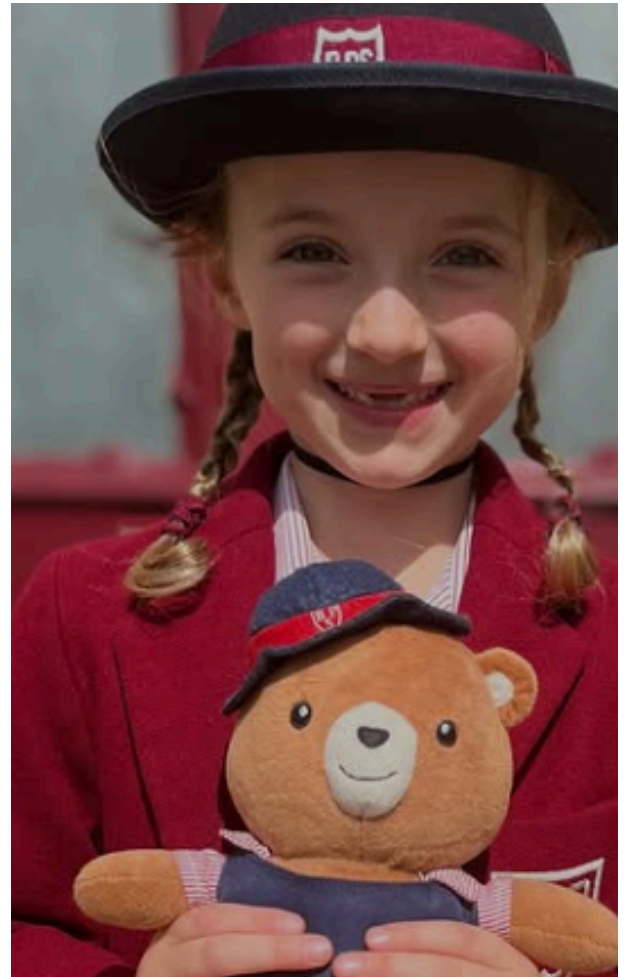
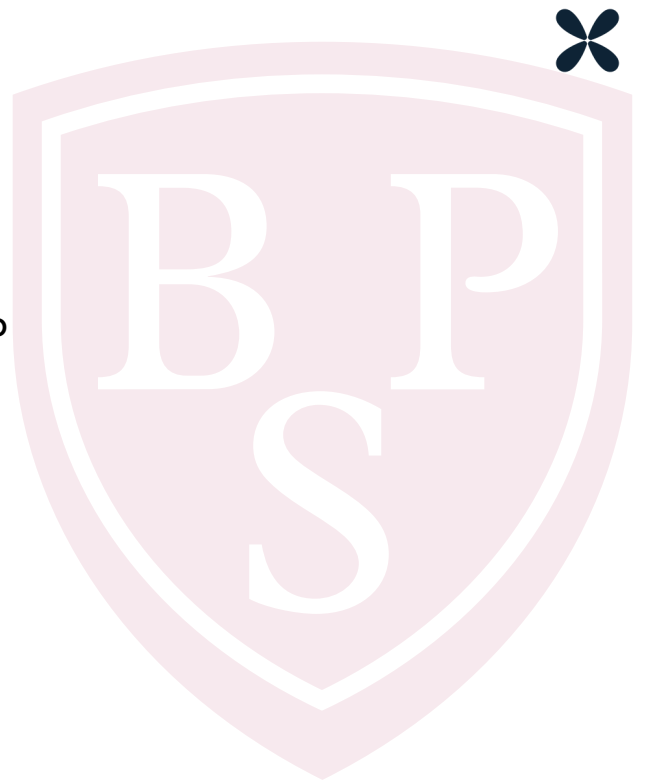
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Pre-Loved Uniform Sale Success!

We're delighted to share that during Parents' Evening, our BPS Pre-Loved Uniform Sale raised over £1000!!!

A huge thank you to everyone who donated, helped organise, and supported the sale on the night. Your generosity not only benefits families within our school community but also promotes our shared commitment to sustainability and reusing resources at Bowdon Prep.

A special thank you to the BPS Society volunteers for their time and effort in running the event — a wonderful example of our Bowdon community working together so that the money raised can be re-invested in our school.



BPS SOCIETY NEWS

Christmas Wreath-Making Evening – In Support of Our New Playground Fund!

The BPS community is invited to wonderfully festive evening hosted by local florist Bloom and Gorgeous Flowers, where you'll create your very own **12" scented Christmas wreath** to proudly hang on your front door throughout the season.

Using British foliage and decorations on a willow base, all materials are compostable – making this a sustainable and stylish way to celebrate.

You'll receive all tools, materials, and expert tuition, ensuring a relaxed, hands-on experience perfect for getting into the Christmas spirit. Not only will you leave with a beautiful handmade wreath, but you'll also be helping raise funds for our school playground!

27 November 2025
School Hall
£45 - Parent Pay





BPS SOCIETY NEWS

THE ANNUAL BPS HALLOWEEN AFTER PARTY DISCO FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER

It's that time of year again – the much-anticipated **BPSS Spooky Disco** is just around the corner!

Friday 7 November

Years 1–3: 3.45 – 4.45pm

Years 4–6: 5.15 – 6.15pm

£10 per ticket. The children will enjoy an evening filled with treats, games, prizes, DJ and plenty of dancing.

Tickets are available to purchase via ParentPay.
Further details have been shared through the Reach More Parents App.

We can't wait to see all the children arriving at the disco dressed in their spookiest costumes, ready for a night of fun.

KG and Reception children are invited to wear bright colours and hair accessory on the disco day!

Reminder!



Supporting Phoebe's Challenge – A Local Family in Need

This week, we wanted to share the story of Phoebe, a brave young girl from Altrincham who is facing an incredibly difficult journey. In February, Phoebe was diagnosed with an extremely rare and aggressive liver cancer.

Despite undergoing major surgery to remove over 80% of her liver, the tumours sadly returned, and she is now enduring 18 weeks of intensive chemotherapy. Once her treatment finishes, Phoebe will need a living donor liver transplant – a procedure no child in the UK has ever had for this type of cancer.

Her family are doing everything they can to give her the chance she deserves – to grow up, laugh, and live the life she was meant to. They may soon need to seek private medical treatment, either in the UK or abroad, to make that possible.

We know the Bowdon Prep community is caring and compassionate, and we'd like to come together to support Phoebe and her family during this time.

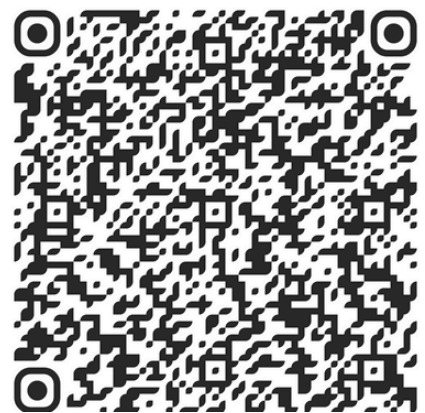
You can also follow their journey on Instagram: [@phoebes_challenge](https://www.instagram.com/phoebes_challenge).

Every donation, message, and share helps give Phoebe and her family hope – and a chance for a brighter future.



gofundme

SCAN ME



Curriculum

Reflecting on our week at BPS

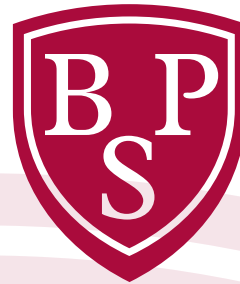




Headteacher's Award

Fostering positive and respectful relationships based on compassion, kindness, and integrity

Each half term, our Headteacher's Award celebrates one of our school values. This half term, the focus has been on 'Working Together', with a particular emphasis on fostering positive and respectful relationships based on compassion, kindness, and integrity. Mrs Makepeace-Taylor was delighted to present this special award to the following girls, recognising their consistent demonstration of these values in all aspects of school life. Their empathy, teamwork, and thoughtful support of others make them wonderful role models within our school community.



**RAYA-MAI
KHOKHAR**
(EYFS)

SOPHIE
(PRE-PREP)

**IQRA
PARSONS**
(LOWER PREP)

**ANNABEL
FOX**
(UPPER PREP)

Care for all. Commitment to excellence. **Working together.**



Year Five Step Back in Time to the Victorian Workhouse

From Bonnet to Blackboard – A Journey into Victorian Britain!

On Wednesday, Year 5 travelled to the historic Workhouse in Northwich as part of their study of *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty. The experience was nothing short of extraordinary, transporting pupils back to the harsh realities of Victorian England and offering a powerful insight into the lives of the poor and destitute.

As the children approached the grand but imposing doors of the Workhouse, excitement quickly turned to nervous anticipation. Waiting to greet them was the formidable Master Grim, whose stern expression and booming voice made quite the impression! His “warm” Victorian welcome certainly set the tone for the day ahead—there was no mistaking who was in charge. The children quickly learned that there would be no laughter, no chatter, and absolutely no dawdling in the corridors!



Dressed in their wonderfully authentic costumes—thank you to our ever-supportive parents for your outstanding efforts—the pupils looked every inch the Victorian pauper children they were portraying. Bonnet strings were tied, caps straightened, and aprons firmly in place as they prepared to experience a day of strict discipline, hard work, and a taste of 19th-century schooling.

Inside the Workhouse, the children took part in a range of immersive activities designed to bring their learning to life. They attended lessons in the old-fashioned schoolroom, writing on slate boards under the watchful eye of a very serious schoolmistress. They learned about the harsh routines that governed workhouse life—early mornings, gruelling chores, and meagre meals that left little room for comfort. Through hands-on tasks and roleplay, they gained a true sense of the hardship faced by Victorian children,



and understanding of *Street Child*, the powerful novel they are studying in class.

There were moments of laughter too, as the children threw themselves wholeheartedly into their roles. The staff at the Workhouse commented on how polite, enthusiastic, and impeccably behaved the group were throughout the day.

Mrs. Delf remarked, "It was wonderful to see the children so immersed in their learning. From the moment Master Grim greeted them, they were completely transported back in time. Their curiosity, respect, and sense of wonder made it a truly special experience."

A particular highlight came from Vivien, who joined BPS this term from the USA and has settled into Year 5 so beautifully. Reflecting on the trip, she said, "It was amazing to experience what life might have been like for children back then—it really made me appreciate school today! I loved dressing up and learning in such a different way." Her enthusiasm and positivity captured the spirit of the entire day.



The trip was a perfect blend of education and imagination—a day where history leapt from the pages of a book into the hearts and minds of every pupil. The children left the Workhouse tired but inspired, grateful for their modern comforts and eager to continue exploring the world of Victorian Britain back in the classroom.

A huge well done to all of Year 5 for their enthusiasm, exemplary behaviour, and willingness to embrace every moment—and an enormous thank you to parents for the effort and creativity that went into the children's costumes. It was a truly unforgettable day of learning, laughter, and living history!





Kindergarten Sparkles with Diwali Magic!

Spreading the Light Beyond the Classroom

This week, Kindergarten has been absolutely glowing — quite literally — as we've been learning all about the dazzling Hindu festival of Diwali, the Festival of Lights! Our classroom has transformed into a colourful celebration, bursting with bright decorations, shimmering glitter, and joyful excitement (with just a little bit of paint on the tables... and maybe our sleeves!).

The girls have thoroughly enjoyed dressing up in our role-play area as the legendary characters Rama, Sita, Hanuman, and Ravana. There's been no shortage of heroic rescues, mischievous monkey armies, and plenty of giggles from our mini Ravana. Their enthusiasm and imagination brought the Diwali story to life in the most delightful way.



We also got wonderfully creative by making our own diya lamps, which now twinkle proudly around the classroom. The children decorated them with such enthusiasm (and so much glitter!) that we're fairly certain we'll still be finding sparkles well into Christmas.

Of course, no Diwali celebration would be complete without rangoli patterns. Armed with bright paints and even brighter imaginations, the girls designed truly spectacular creations — colourful enough to make a rainbow jealous! It's been a joyful, messy, and magical week of learning, laughter, and light.

It's been a truly special week in Kindergarten, filled with colour, creativity, and celebration — but the Diwali magic doesn't stop there! Turn to the next page to discover how our Art Captains and Citizenship Captains joined forces to design a beautiful Diwali card for members of our BPS community.



Captains Collaborate to Create a Diwali Design

Our Citizenship Captains and Art Captains joined forces this week to create a beautiful Diwali card for members of our BPS community. Using Canva, the girls worked independently to design and add heartfelt messages, showcasing both creativity and compassion. Their thoughtful collaboration perfectly reflected two of our core values at Bowdon Prep – Caring for All and Working Together.

Mrs McGrath said she was incredibly proud of the girls' initiative, teamwork, and the meaningful way they shared the spirit of Diwali across our school.

Bowdon Prep Shines at the ISA North Area Art Competition!

We are absolutely delighted to share the fantastic news that four Bowdon Prep pupils have achieved first place in this year's ISA North Area Art Competition 2025 – an incredible achievement and a testament to their creativity, skill, and artistic vision.

Congratulations to our winners:

- Evelyn Clee – Bare Branches
- Clara Drape – Autumn Waistcoat
- Melody Eskandari – Koi Fish
- Edith Bell – Garden in Bloom

Each of these stunning pieces impressed the judges with their originality, attention to detail, and creative expression. The girls' artwork will now go forward to represent the North Area in the ISA National Art Finals later this year – a wonderful opportunity to have their work showcased alongside pupils from schools across the country.



Mrs Chapman said she was "immensely proud of the girls' achievements – each piece reflects the creativity, imagination, and individuality that we encourage every day in our Art lessons at Bowdon Prep."

We wish Evelyn, Clara, Melody, and Edith the very best of luck in the national finals – what an outstanding accomplishment for our young artists!



Mrs Chapman
Head of Art

The BPS Learning Hub

Quick Links. Smart Learning.

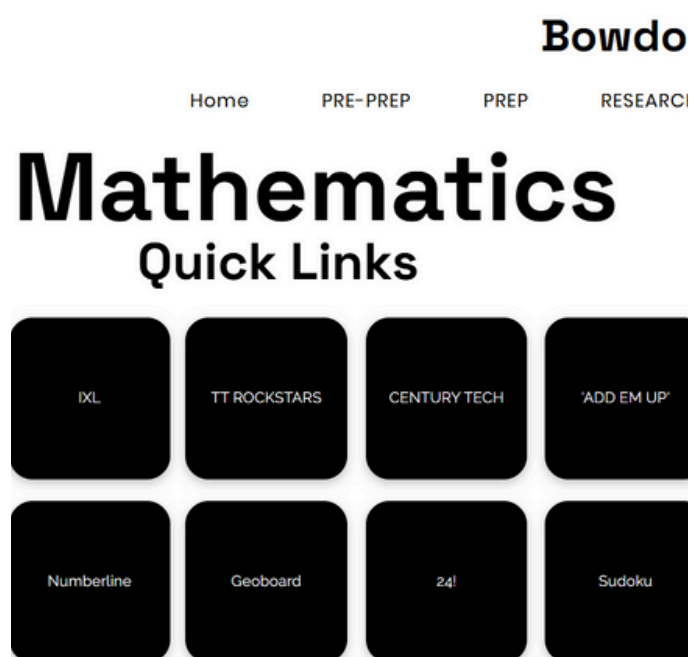
Whenever the girls open a browser in school, they are prompted to visit the BPS Learning Hub. Built in-house, this one-stop site provides quick and easy access to the resources we use most often, both in school and at home.

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!

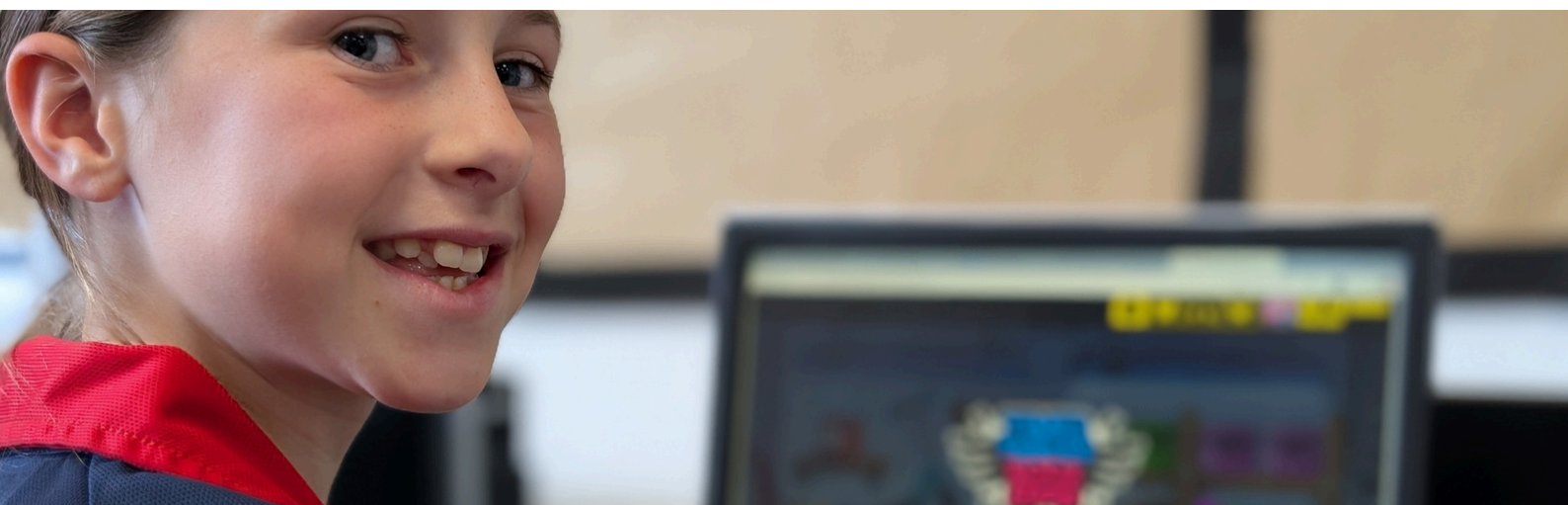
Why not add the Hub to your child's device at home? It's a fantastic way to encourage independence with homework and is especially useful for pupils who are new to BPS.

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





Sport
@BPS



BOWDON SPORT

DOUBLE VICTORY VS HALE PREP!

On Monday 13th October, excitement filled the courts at Bowdon Preparatory School for Girls as the Year 5A and 5B Netball teams took to the court for a highly anticipated home fixture against Hale Prep. Both teams demonstrated excellent skill, teamwork, and determination, resulting in two impressive wins for Bowdon Prep!

The A Team got off to a flying start, moving the ball swiftly through the court with sharp passing and clever positioning. Their attacking play was exceptional, with accurate shooting and excellent defensive pressure keeping their opponents at bay. The final whistle saw Bowdon Prep celebrate an outstanding 20–4 victory, a testament to their hard work in training and growing understanding of the game.

Not to be outdone, the B Team also delivered a performance to remember. Showing great energy and enthusiasm from start to finish, they maintained control of the game with strong interceptions, excellent communication, and some fantastic shooting in the circle. Their teamwork and determination paid off with another superb result – a 17–4 win.

Both matches highlighted the girls' commitment to improving their netball skills and working together as a unit. Every player contributed to the success, demonstrating not only technical ability but also sportsmanship and resilience throughout.

A special congratulations goes to the Players of the Match, Lola and Aashi, who both displayed exceptional effort, composure, and leadership on court. Their focus, accuracy, and positive attitude set a brilliant example for their teammates.

It was a fantastic afternoon of sport, and the atmosphere was full of excitement and encouragement from start to finish. The coaches and supporters were immensely proud of the girls' achievements – two excellent performances that reflect the progress and enthusiasm seen in training this term.

Well done to all the players involved – a truly memorable double victory for Bowdon Prep Netball!





Prep Swimmers Shine at the ISA North Swimming Gala

Our Prep swimmers represented Bowdon Prep with pride at the ISA North Swimming Gala, held in Stockport. Competing against 32 schools from across the region, the girls demonstrated fantastic determination and focus throughout the day.

Between patiently waiting for their 50m races, they could be heard cheering on their teammates from the sidelines, showing true team spirit. The journey was filled with chatter and a few songs in the minibus, adding to the fun and camaraderie of the occasion. We are incredibly proud of all their efforts and the way they represented our school with such credit.



Superb Double Win for Our Year 6 Netballers

Our Year 6 netballers continue to shine on the court, delivering another outstanding performance against Stamford Park yesterday. Mrs Baxter was full of praise for the teams' tight defensive play, fluid attacking movement, and impressive shooting accuracy — all underpinned by strong, composed mid-court play. In recent lessons and club sessions, the girls have been focusing on driving forward onto the ball and creating space in attack. It was fantastic to see this skill applied so effectively during match play, demonstrating their growing confidence and tactical awareness. Congratulations to all the players on a superb double victory and another wonderful display of teamwork, determination, and sporting spirit.



Players of the Match: Talia and Isi

UPCOMING FIXTURES

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5TH
NETBALL (INTER)
YEAR 4 A&B VS
YEAR 5 B&C

SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
PREP CROSS COUNTRY
JOHN LEIGH PARK
MEET MRS BAXTER AT 9.45AM
RACE START 10AM



***BELIEVE. PERSEVERE.
SUCCEED.***

Staff of the Week

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



Mrs Wood

Thank you for being so calm and kind. We love all your lessons and the way you teach us English is wonderful. You are just amazing!

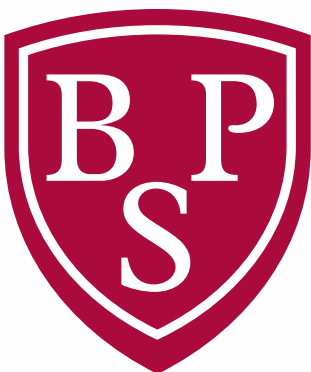


Mrs Abbey

We look forward to our school lunches and chatting with you at the counter. You are always happy and give us the best lunches. Thank you!



BOWDON PREP SCHOOL



**BELIEVE
PERSEVERE
SUCCEED**



ASHLEY RD, ALTRINCHAM, WA14 2LT