

28TH NOVEMBER 2025

BOWDON

BULLETIN

**BPS AWARDED SCHOOL GAMES
PLATINUM AWARD FOR THE
THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

Recognised for outstanding commitment to
sport



www.bowdonprep.org.uk



office@bowdonprep.org.uk



COMMUNICATION. CURRICULUM. CARE.



AT A GLANCE: In this week's Bulletin

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Every day is a chance to be better

Fostering resilience and a growth mindset in every girl at BPS

At BPS, we believe every day is an opportunity to grow and improve. Developing perseverance, grit, and resilience is at the heart of what we do, helping our young people thrive academically and personally. Life inevitably brings setbacks, and the real measure of growth is how quickly and effectively our girls can recover and keep moving forward.

We put into practice the principles of the "Learning Pit," creating opportunities for our girls to engage with ideas that challenge their current understanding. By working through these challenges, they develop resilience, persistence, and a growth mindset. Facing difficulties helps them think critically, deepen their understanding, and view setbacks as valuable learning experiences.

It also provides a shared language for discussing emotions and strategies around learning, supporting their confidence and adaptability. As parents, you play a vital role in nurturing these skills. Supporting your daughters when learning feels tough for them, praising effort rather than outcomes, and framing mistakes as opportunities to grow, helps them build resilience that will last a lifetime.

Even small moments of reflection at home, conversations about challenges faced during the day, or acknowledging their courage in trying something new, can make a huge difference. It's all part of our guiding principle: every mistake is a step forward.



That's why pencils have rubbers, the lessons we learn from overcoming challenges are often the most lasting. By embracing challenges, our girls become confident, adaptable learners who understand that growth comes through effort, persistence, and belief in themselves.

Together, we can continue to support our girls in developing the resilience and determination they need to thrive – not just at school, but in every aspect of their future lives. As a result, they can truly Believe, Persevere and Succeed in Life.



**BELIEVE
PERSEVERE
SUCCEED**



Mrs. Fiona McGrath
Phase Leader/Prep (Ed Ops) /
Head of Science/ Year 6 FT
(6M) / Senior Transition





Our Thoughts Are with Those Affected by the Fire in Hong Kong

We are deeply saddened by the recent fire in Hong Kong and the tragic impact this has had on so many lives.

Our thoughts and heartfelt sympathies are with all those affected by this devastating event. During this difficult time, I encourage our community to come together so that we can offer comfort to those who need it most. If any of our families require support, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here to help you in any way we can.



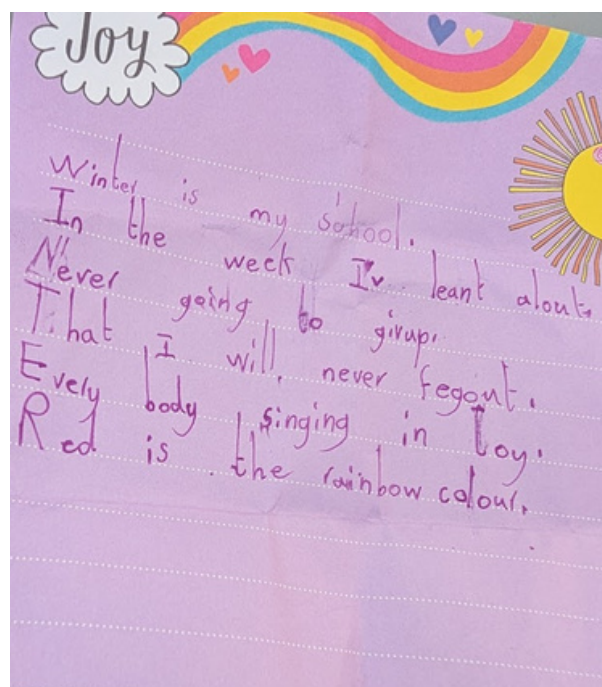
Mrs. Makepeace-Taylor

Bowdon Prep Spirit Shines Through Abbey's Poem

Abbey popped into see Mrs Makepeace-Taylor today, to share a wonderful "Winter" poem. Her message truly captures the spirit and determination of our Bowdon Prep girls. We particularly love the line, "Never going to give up." Well done, Abbey - what an inspiring piece!



*Winter in my school
In the week I've learnt a lot
Never going to give up
That I will never forget
Everybody singing in joy
Red is the rainbow colour*



Looking Ahead: Next Week

Thought of the Week

We are a team because we work together,
respect and trust each other

Happy school, Healthy school, Safe school

Safeguarding – keeping each other safe

Communication

Key Dates





NEXT WEEK

At a glance...

WC 1ST 
DECEMBER

*After School Clubs
cancellations.*

MON

MONDAY

Baking Club

TUES

TUESDAY

WED

WEDNESDAY

THUR

EY Nativity - 1.30pm

Y1 & Y2 Christmas Show - 2.30pm
(Refreshments at 2pm)

THURSDAY

FRI

Eco Day - Fashion Swap

FRIDAY

Autumn Term 2025

Key Dates at a glance

November



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

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

MONDAY

Y1 & Y2 Dance
(Y5 Netball)
Y2 Art
Y3 Baking

TUESDAY

Y1 & Y2 Yoga
Y5 & Y6 Chamber Choir
Y3 Baking
Y3 & Y4 Science Club

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 EY Nativity 1.30pm Y1 & Y2 Concert 2.30pm	5 Eco Day
8	9 Y3 & Y4 Christmas Concert 2.30pm	10 Lower School trip	11 Y5 & Y6 Carol Concert St Mary's Church	12 Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
15 Hannukkah	16	17	18 BPS Society Christmas Fair	19 School Closes

FOLLOW US





MRS. ABBEY'S LUNCH



WC 01.12.25

MONDAY



*Veggie or Beef Bolognaise, Pasta
Broccoli
Sorbet*

TUESDAY



*Veggie and Pork Sausage Rolls and Mashed
Potatoes. Baked beans and Carrots
Fruit or Yoghurt*

WEDNESDAY



*Baguettes with various fillings
Salad Bar
Oat Cookies*

THURSDAY



*Veggie or Chicken Fajitas
Sweetcorn
Blueberry Muffins*

FRIDAY



*Veggie or Fish Fingers, Wedges
Peas
Shirtbread*

Salad Bar available each day

Health and Safety Notice

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'.

BPS UNIFORM

The BPS Society sell pre-loved uniform throughout the academic year with all funds raised going towards our School. Please contact the School Office if you have an enquiry

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

Tuesday 2 December 8.10am–9am
Thursday 4 December 8.10am– 9am

PLEASE ENSURE children wear BPS hats/scarves

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>.
Password: BPS24



Important Update: New Finishing Times for Year 5 and 6 Netball Clubs During the Festive Season

With the arrival of the festive season, Bowdon Prep is busy preparing for its spectacular Christmas performances. As the sports hall becomes a stage for rehearsals and shows, and with the darker evenings drawing in, Year 5 and 6 Netball Clubs will now finish at 4.30pm from Monday 1st December.

This small change ensures everyone stays safe. All other sports clubs will continue to finish at their usual times.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we celebrate this magical time of year at Bowdon Prep!



Mrs. Hughes
Head of Sport



Reminder

Bowdon Prep Launches Its First Ever Eco Fashion Swap: Friday 5 December

Welcome to Bowdon's very first Eco fashion swap run by the School Council team. This is a brilliant opportunity to give a piece of clothing a new home. Allow someone else's pre-loved clothes to become your treasure!

Fashion swaps, also known as clothing swaps, are a sustainable practice that benefits the environment, promotes community, and supports local economies. They involve two or more people exchanging pre-loved, gently used clothing, giving each other a newhome and a second life. This practice not only reduces the demand for new clothing production but also helps to decrease pollution, water usage, and waste associated with the fashion industry

When – Friday 5th December 2025

Where – BPS Prep Gym

Time – Each class will visit the hall on a rota between 10.00 – 11.55am and will have 25 minutes to browse their allocated stall and swap their ticket for a fashion item.

Instructions

- Each pupil can bring in between 1-3 items that they would be proud to pass onto someone. The items need to be in very good condition with no stains/rips.
- Items included – clothes (suitable sizing for their year group- including coats, trousers, shorts, dresses, jumpers etc – no crop tops please) scarves, hat, gloves and bags.

Each Form Teacher will be given a set of tokens, when a pupil brings in an item for the fashion swap; the girls will be presented with a token that will allow them to pick one different item from the stall. Any items left over will be donated to the BPS society or local charities.

When do I bring my items in?

Please bring in your item/items into school the week commencing Monday 1st December, where your Form Teacher will store them until Friday morning. They will then be sent to the Prep Gym at 9am on Friday (Kindergarten and Reception, the Year 6 school council team will collect yours).

Parents/Carers and Teachers

We have a stall for parents, carers and teachers too! If you wish to be a part of the first ever Eco Fashion Swap, please send your item/items (between 1-3, no more than 3 please) into school with your daughter, they will bring it to Mrs Hill's room where they will be given a token. Parents are invited to the fashion swap stall between 12-12.30pm.

Please come into school via the Pupil Entrance, there will be a sign on the door.



Mrs J Hill
Year 2 Teacher
School Council Leader



More funds raised at Christmas wreath workshop

BPS parents got into the festive spirit a this week attending a Christmas wreath workshop hosted by local florists, [@Bloom&Gorgeous](#).

Music played, BYO wine flowed, and the Prep Gym was transformed into a veritable Christmas oasis, full of greenery and festive scents.

As well as an ideal opportunity to spend a bit of time together outside school and test our creative flair, the Christmas wreath workshop was a great way for parents to raise some additional funds for the BPS Society. Together we continue to work towards our goal to redevelop the school playground and can't wait to share progress with you soon.

On the night, we raised just under £400, while also supporting an enterprising local business. Thanks to everyone who participated for their time, enthusiasm and donations.

PS - Check out Mirian's wreath (our BPS Society Chair), hanging on the big red door next week. Thank you!



Bowdon Prep's Festive Forest Adventure

with The Outdoors Project

Monday 22nd December

9:30am – 12:30pm

£15 per child

Parents attend for free

Join us for a magical morning of outdoor festive fun as The Outdoors Project brings the **Christmas spirit** to Bowdon Prep!

Children will get hands-on making their own **frosted s'mores** around the **campfire**, while sipping on hot chocolate or festive pine needle tea.

Then we'll dive into some snow-themed creativity – making our very own snow to take home and testing it out in a snowball target challenge before we finish!

All equipment and refreshments provided.
Dress warmly and ready for outdoor fun!



[Click here](#) to
book or scan QR
code





The new holiday club provision for BPS



We are excited to introduce Fun Fest - a provider that reflects our School's values and ethos, offering a stimulating, safe, and engaging environment where children can learn and grow, while having fun.

Welcome to Fun Fest !

We are Emma and Becky, **proud owners of Fun Fest Altrincham**, and we're thrilled to bring our passion for childcare to this fantastic setting. With First-Class Degrees in Childhood Studies and years of experience in playwork and wraparound care, we're committed to creating an inclusive, exciting, and truly child-led environment where every child can thrive.



We're delighted to be **partnering with BPS**, a school that holds a special place in our hearts. Having grown up in the Trafford area, it means so much to give back to our community by providing the very best wraparound care for local families. Our qualified childcare team is supported by skilled sports coaches, ensuring children enjoy a dynamic mix of creative, imaginative, and active sessions every day. And of course, you'll see us in the club too—wraparound care is truly where we shine!

Based at Altrincham Preparatory School, we make full use of the facilities to offer a huge variety of engaging sessions. From Mission Impossible and Lego Challenges to Crafty Creations and Beauty School, our activities are designed to spark creativity, build confidence, and fill each holiday with fun and laughter. With over 40 activities delivered throughout the year, children have an unbeatable choice—after all, it's their holiday!

Fun Fest Altrincham is Ofsted registered and welcomes children aged 3 to 12 years. As proudly neurodivergent practitioners ourselves, we are passionate about creating a warm, inclusive environment where every child feels welcome, celebrated, and free to be themselves.

2026 dates at APS;

- 16 – 20 Feb
- 7 – 17 April
- 26 May – 5 Jun
- 13 Jule – 21 August

We won't be open at Altrincham Prep over the Christmas holidays, but you can still join the fun at our nearby site in Bramhall at Queensgate Primary School, Albany Road, SK7 1NE.

We'd love to welcome you there.

altrinchamoffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk

Reserve



Christmas Holiday Club
 @ Queensgate Primary School
 Bramhall, SK7 1NE

**BOOKINGS
OPEN NOW**

WWW.FUN-FEST.CO.UK/CHEVIEW



Christmas Week 1

22nd December – 24th December

	AM	PM
Mon 22 nd	Crafty Creations Lego Creations	Creation Zone Sports Action
Tues 23 rd	Picturesque Painting I'm a Kid Get Me Out of Here!	Crafty Creations Sports Action
Wed 24 th *	Creative Cooks	Christmas Party

*Reduced operating hours 7:30am – 3pm on 24th December

Christmas Week 2

29th December – 2nd January

	AM	PM
Mon 29 th	Crafty Creations Sports Action	Jewellery Making Lego Creations
Tues 30 th	Great Outdoors Nailed it!	Dance & Movement Axe Throwing
Weds 31 st *	Brainiacs Crafty Creations	New Years Eve Party
Thurs 1 st	CLOSED	
Fri 2 nd	Crafty Creations Football Camp	Movie Magic Sports Action

*Reduced operating hours 7:30am – 3pm on 31st December

Curriculum

Reflecting on our week at BPS





Bowdon Prep Awarded School Games Platinum Award for the Third Consecutive Year

We are delighted to celebrate Bowdon Prep's continued sporting success as we have once again achieved the School Games Platinum Award for the 2024/25 academic year – our third consecutive Platinum Award. Having announced this achievement at the end of the summer term, we are immensely proud to maintain a strong reputation both locally and nationally for excellence in sport, participation and competition.

This award reflects the depth, quality and ambition of sport at Bowdon Prep. Our outstanding facilities – including our sports hall and multi-purpose astro – support a rich and varied curriculum delivered by specialist PE teachers. Alongside this, our extra-curricular provision continues to flourish with opportunities such as street dance, judo, archery, yoga, lacrosse, multi-sports and more, enhanced by visiting coaches who bring further expertise and variety.

We are proud to maintain growing links with external clubs, supporting pupils to deepen their skills and continue their sporting journeys beyond school. Pupils show remarkable enthusiasm, participation and team spirit in every area of sport. They benefit from a programme that builds confidence, resilience, social skills, healthy competition and excellent sportsmanship.

We compete confidently within both the independent and state sectors, demonstrating real girl power - our pupils are never deterred by competing against boys. Right from Kindergarten, pupils experience high-quality



specialist teaching, beginning with exploring and discovering how to use our fixed gymnastics apparatus and early multi-skills development.

Throughout the year, they enjoy unique events that inspire creativity and joy – including our magical Prep Quidditch event, where pupils can feel as though they're soaring straight to Hogwarts, proudly supported by our BPS Parents' Society.

Our strong whole-school sporting culture is reflected in the exceptional achievements from the 2024/25 academic year, including:

- Altrincham and District Cross Country Girls' Champions
- ISA U9 and U11 Girls' North Cross Country Champions
- Year 4 and Year 6 pupils representing Trafford at the Greater Manchester Games Cross Country Finals
- ISA U11 Regional Netball Runners-Up
- ISA U11 National Netball Champions – for the third time in four years!



-
- A large collage of images showing various school sports activities. At the top, a student is captured mid-swing in tennis. To the right, a group of girls in blue and red tracksuits pose with a basketball. In the center, a student is performing a handstand on a horizontal bar. Below this, a girl in a blue and red tennis outfit is in a dynamic pose, holding a tennis racket. To her right, a girl in a red hoodie holds a large, worn rugby ball. In the middle, a teacher in a white polo shirt is being lifted by two students, one holding a trophy. To the left, a girl in a blue and red tennis outfit is also in a dynamic pose. At the bottom, a group of girls in blue and red tracksuits are posing together, some with trophies. On the right, a group of girls in red and white tracksuits are holding tennis rackets. The background of the collage features a large, stylized 'PS' logo in a light blue color.

A collage of various young athletes in different sports uniforms, including soccer, basketball, and track and field, celebrating and competing. The image shows a group of girls in red and white soccer uniforms huddled together, a girl in a blue and red basketball jersey holding a trophy, a girl in a blue and red track and field uniform running, and several other girls in various sports uniforms, including soccer, basketball, and track and field, celebrating and competing.

A Magical Start to the Festive Season at the Bolton Octagon

Today, Friday 28th November, the prep girls of BPS stepped into the enchanting world of 'A Christmas Carol' at the Bolton Octagon Theatre. From the moment they took their seats, excitement filled the air. The stage was set with twinkling lights, cobbled streets, and carol singers, creating the perfect atmosphere for this timeless Christmas story.

Charles Dickens' much-loved tale was brought to life in the most magical way. The performance followed the grumpy and tight-fisted Ebenezer Scrooge, who cared little for Christmas or cheer. However, on Christmas Eve, he was visited by the ghost of his old business partner, Jacob Marley, and the three spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. Together, they took him on a mystical journey that opened his eyes – and his heart – to the joy of kindness, generosity, and love.

The girls were spellbound throughout the performance. The mix of live music, humour, and festive sparkle created a heart-warming experience that left everyone smiling. One pupil, Ava, said afterwards, "I loved how magical it felt when the ghosts appeared – it really made me feel like Christmas had begun!"

Mrs. Delf, our Head of Prep and Deputy Head, was equally delighted, commenting, "The children's behaviour was exemplary from start to finish – I was very proud of our BPS pupils!" The staff praised the girls for their enthusiasm and impeccable manners, both during the performance and throughout the day.

As the final curtain fell, the message of the play – that it's never too late to share kindness and goodwill – lingered in everyone's hearts. The trip was a truly memorable experience and the perfect way to begin the festive season.





Year 4 Scientists Shine at the Catalyst Museum - an Inspiring Science Experience

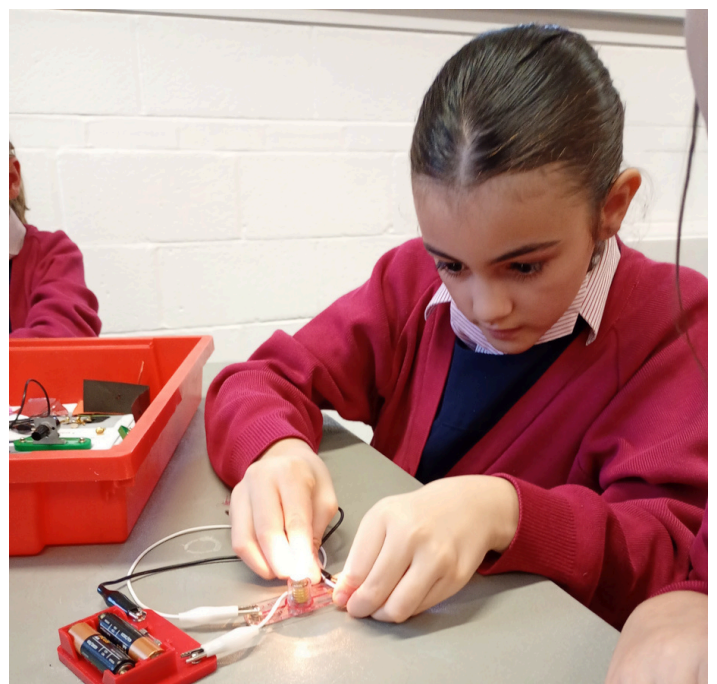
A day of discovery, curiosity, and hands-on STEM learning in Widnes.

On Thursday, our Year 4 girls enjoyed an exciting and enriching trip to the Catalyst Museum in Widnes, where they developed their scientific understanding through hands-on exploration.

In the first workshop, the children donned lab coats and safety goggles before investigating acids and alkalis. Using pipettes, spotting tiles, and indicator solutions, they worked like real scientists to test and identify a range of unknown liquids. Their confidence grew as they mastered new techniques and applied their developing knowledge of chemistry.

During the second session, pupils deepened their understanding of electricity by experimenting with different types of switches. They even designed and built their own, marvelling at how scientific concepts could be brought to life in such a practical and engaging way.

The Year 4 girls thoroughly enjoyed learning through play and experimentation with the museum's interactive exhibits. It was a wonderful day filled with discovery, excitement, and hands-on STEM learning – one they will remember for a long time!



ISA STEM COMPETITION

YEAR 5 & 6

Your task: Design and build a self-sustaining terrarium

A terrarium is a sealed transparent container that contains plants (like a mini- garden) Self-sustaining means the garden can continue in a healthy state without outside assistance (including watering it) You will need to think about how the plant will 'water' itself and get nutrients from the material it is 'sown' in.

Which plants are fairly easy to look after. You will also need to include a PDF presentation to Introduce your design and explain how you created the terrarium. You will also need to identify what factors you needed to consider and include photographs of the terrarium at different stages of production, showing you involved in its production.

Finally, you will need to show photographs of the finished terrarium. Any video clips should be no longer than 2 minutes and should be embedded in the presentation.

YEAR 3 & 4

Your task: Could you build and design a rollercoaster for a marble?

Put your creativity and engineering skills to the test! Use ramps, loops, and twists to construct an exciting track that safely carries a marble from start to finish. Experiment, problem-solve, and see how thrilling you can make the ride!

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for entries is 12th December 2025. We will submit 4 entries online in January. The Final will be on 19th March 2026 and successful candidates will be asked to present their project to the judges. Good Luck!

Mrs. McGrath





Sport
@BPS



Year 5 Netballers Triumph as Darkness Falls!

Two Impressive Wins Against Manchester High

On Monday 24th November, our talented Year 5 netball teams took to the court to face Manchester High in what turned out to be an unforgettable evening of sport. Despite the late arrival of the visiting team – which meant much of the match was played as daylight faded – both Bowdon Prep teams remained focused and full of determination.

The A team produced a fantastic performance, winning 11–2, with Lola earning Player of the Match for her excellent positioning, sharp shooting, and confident play. The B team followed suit with an outstanding 12–0 victory, with Imogen named Player of the Match after a tireless and skilful performance.

Both teams showed great resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship, adapting brilliantly as the light faded.

Mrs Baxter praised the girls' efforts, saying: "The girls showed such determination and positivity, even as it grew darker. Their teamwork and enthusiasm were wonderful to see – they truly rose to the challenge!"

A huge well done to all the girls for two fantastic wins and an evening of netball to remember!

Year 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D Netball Matches v The Grange

Parents Invited to Come and Support!

On Monday 1st December, our Year 4 girls will be taking part in a series of netball matches against The Grange School during their PE lesson from 2–3pm on the astro.

This promises to be a fantastic afternoon of sport, with our A, B, C and D teams all getting the chance to represent Bowdon Prep and put their netball skills into action. The enthusiasm among the girls has been wonderful to see, with most of the year group asking to take part in the fixture.

As the matches are taking place within the normal PE lesson time, match slips have not been issued, but parents are warmly invited to come along and cheer on the teams.

It's set to be an exciting and fun-filled event – a brilliant opportunity for our young netballers to showcase their teamwork, energy and growing confidence on the court!





Braving the Cold, Bowdon Prep's Year 5 Netballers Shine with Stunning Wins at The Grange!

A superb afternoon of netball – and a big thank you to Mrs. Glendon for her support and timekeeping!

On Wednesday 26th November, the Year 5A and 5B netball teams travelled to The Grange for an exciting set of away fixtures – and what a day it was! Despite the freezing temperatures, our determined girls showed incredible teamwork, resilience, and skill on the court.

Both teams played with real focus and energy from the first whistle to the last. The A team produced an outstanding performance, winning 30–1, while the B team followed with an equally impressive victory of 16–0! Every player gave their all, showcasing superb passing, accurate shooting, and excellent communication throughout each game.

It was another fabulous win for our talented Year 5 netballers, who continue to make Bowdon Prep proud with their hard work and team spirit.

A big thank you goes to Mrs. Glendon for accompanying the teams on the minibus and for being a wonderful timekeeper – her support helped make the afternoon run smoothly.

Well done, girls – two brilliant results and a perfect way to warm up a very chilly afternoon with plenty of Bowdon Prep pride and passion!



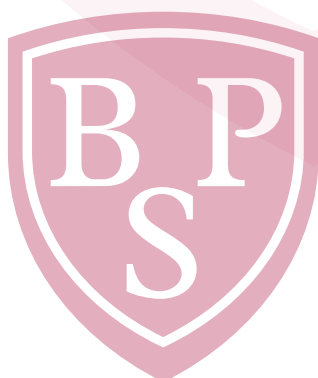
Mrs. Hughes
Head of Sport



NOTICE...

Check out next week's fixtures on the next page!

Mrs. Hughes



**BELIEVE
PERSEVERE
SUCCEED**

UPCOMING FIXTURES

MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER
YEAR 4 A, B, C & D NETBALL V THE
GRANGE (HOME)
2.00PM START - DURING PE LESSON

TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER
YEAR 4 V YEAR 5 INTER-YEAR
NETBALL (HOME)



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

Staff of the Week

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



Mrs Stiles

A huge well done to Mrs Stiles this week - the girls adore your music lessons, clubs and shows. Thank you for all you do to promote a love of music at Bowdon Prep!

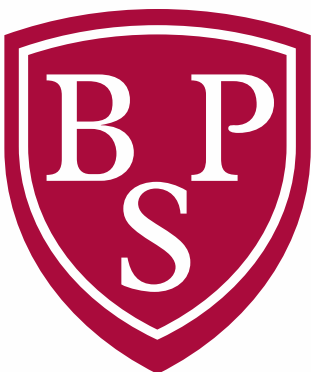


Mrs Ward

Big congratulations to Mrs Ward - the girls love spending time with you! Thank you for being so kind and wonderful with our BPS pupils, and for all the creative lessons and vocabulary you share with them!



BOWDON PREP SCHOOL



**BELIEVE
PERSEVERE
SUCCEED**



ASHLEY RD, ALTRINCHAM, WA14 2LT