

30 JANUARY 2026

# BOWDON

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## BULLETIN

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### **PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A GREENER FUTURE**

Gardening, teamwork and  
environmental action

### **MUD, MILES AND MEDALS**

ISA Regional Cross Country  
Championships



[www.bowdonprep.org.uk](http://www.bowdonprep.org.uk)



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**COMMUNICATION. CURRICULUM. CARE.**



# AT A GLANCE:

## In this week's Bulletin

### 3 **Happy, Healthy, School**

Supporting Wellbeing Across Our School Community

### 10 **Community**

BPS and beyond

### 15 **Curriculum**

### 6 **Communication**

Key dates, School information and Mrs Abbey's Menu

### 20 **Sports News**

### 22 **Staff of the Week**

BPS



WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE PASSING OF  
MRS JANE TAN, FORMER HEADMISTRESS OF BOWDON PREPARATORY  
SCHOOL, WHO DIED PEACEFULLY AT THE AGE OF 86.

# *Mrs Jane Tan*

Born and raised in Dublin, Mrs Tan developed a lifelong passion for education from an early age. She graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a degree in English, before going on to obtain a Diploma of Education from Queen's College, Belfast. Her early teaching career took her to Canada and later to the south of England, experiences that helped shape her broad educational outlook and deep commitment to academic excellence.

Mrs Tan eventually settled in the Northwest of England with her husband, Bill, where she became Headmistress of Lauriston School. In 1983, driven by a clear vision for traditional values and high academic standards, she left Lauriston School.

In September 1983 she re-established Bowdon Preparatory School on Stamford Road, with just six pupils and three teachers: Mrs Tan herself, Angela Colligan and Freda Jackson. From the outset, Mrs Tan's dedication and leadership set the tone for a school culture rooted in excellence, care and ambition.

Under her guidance, Bowdon Prep quickly earned a strong local reputation for outstanding teaching and consistently high academic results. As pupil numbers grew, the school expanded, opening a nursery in Timperley village. A significant milestone then came in 2011, when the nearby Culcheth Hall School announced its closure. A group of parents and former staff established a charitable trust to acquire the Ashley Road premises, securing Bowdon Preparatory School's long-term future. That same year, Mrs Tan transferred the school to the new trust, and in September 2011 Bowdon Prep moved to its current site.

Mrs Tan retired in 2013, leaving the school in the capable hands of Mrs Gee, who strengthened the ethos Mrs Tan had established. In 2024, Mrs Makepeace-Taylor was appointed Head, bringing renewed vision and energy while preserving the traditions and values that both Mrs Tan and Mrs Gee had worked so hard to build. Bowdon Preparatory School continues to thrive, as a testament to Mrs Tan's enduring legacy.

Mrs Tan is survived by her beloved husband Bill, her sons Jonathan and Benjamin, and her grandchildren Melissa and Alex. She will be remembered with deep gratitude and affection by generations of pupils, parents, and colleagues, whose lives she shaped through her unwavering belief in the power of education.





# Planting the Seeds for a Greener Future

*Year 6 leaders inspire the school community through gardening, teamwork and environmental action*

**The STEM captains and I have thoroughly enjoyed our new gardening club venture! Our passion is already beginning to show, as we have all been busily working behind the scenes to continue to improve our school community for everyone!**

Enhancing our outdoor areas aligns with our school wellbeing focus; by cultivating and preserving green havens within our communities, we can foster healthier, happier individuals and a greener planet.

I have been so impressed by the enthusiasm shown by our Year 6 leaders, and they are bursting with exciting ideas for the remainder of the year. At BPS, we are always looking for ways to capture our pupil voice and give our pupils opportunities to turn their ideas into reality! Therefore, following the lead of our wonderful STEM captains, we are eager to promote the importance of planting, maintaining, and nurturing our green areas.



The children all understand that plants are the unsung heroes of our world, quietly sustaining our planet. From the air we breathe to the food we consume, their significance cannot be overstated. With all this in mind, we have diligently worked with Years 1 and 2 to clear and plant vegetable plots and bulbs, enhancing our outdoor spaces.

The Year 1 and 2 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside their Year 6 peers and have thrived when given the opportunity to demonstrate teamwork and a bit of hard graft! It has been wonderful for me to witness how much they are learning about the natural world and improving their skills, week on week.



We are also extremely grateful for a generous donation of bird feeders from Amelia S in Year 3. Amelia and her family have provided feeders, a bug hotel, and birdhouses for us to care for the wildlife around our school.



Amelia led our Reception girls in filling the feeders and placing them around the school. Thank you so much to Amelia and her family – I’m sure many members of our school community will appreciate having a spot to sit and watch the birds.

I know that the Early Years children were thrilled to spot birds during the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Our feathered friends are welcome visitors throughout the seasons.

In 5P's brilliant assembly they talked about the significant role birds play in our eco-system and why it's so important to look after them. Finally, the Reception pupils have further embodied this week's Happy school, Healthy school, Safe school: 'Looking after our environment' and also our thought of the week, 'Be brave, take chances and make it happen', by demonstrating bravery in their first class assembly!

We focused our learning on caring for the environment, and how we can all make changes to look after our world. The children suggested excellent ideas on how small actions can lead to significant changes, such as turning off lights when leaving a room and using less water. It was wonderful to see them sharing their ideas with confidence and clarity!

We have lots of exciting plans for our gardening club and we are looking forward to sharing with all of our school community the small, positive changes that we're hoping will make a big impact to BPS!

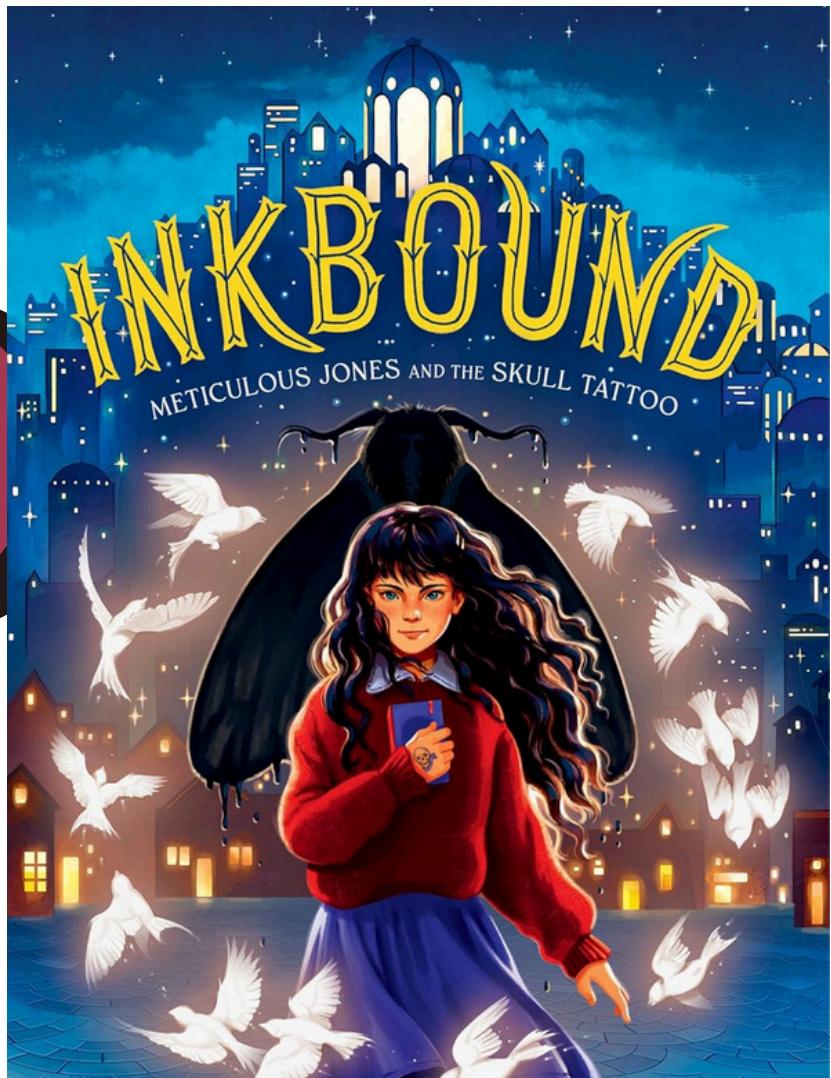
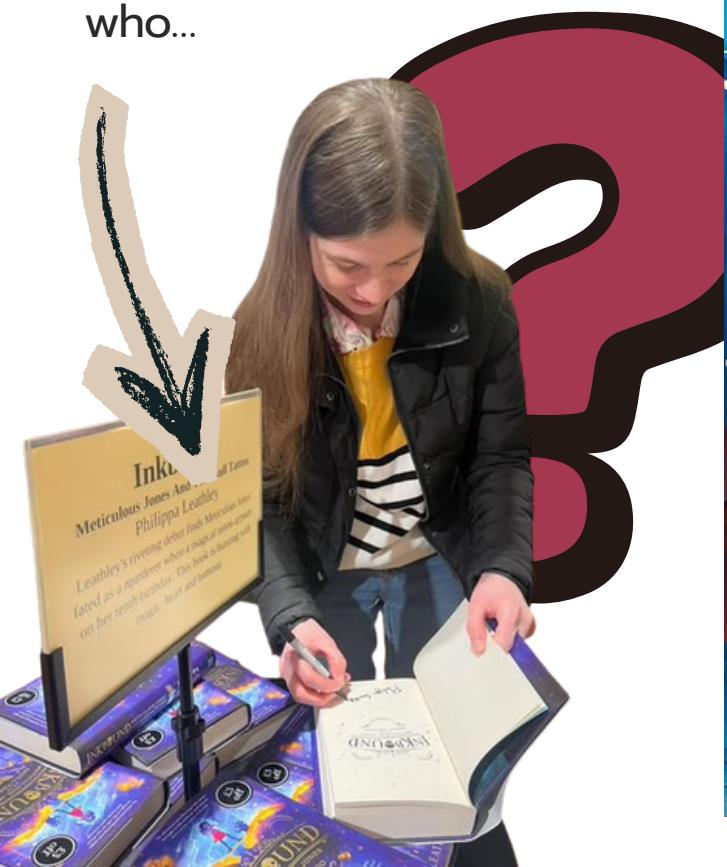


**Mrs S Jaberí**  
Reception Class Teacher (RJ)  
Sustainability Team



## Author Visit...

Can you guess which author is visiting BPS next week? Keep reading to find out who...



# 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:

Thursday 8.10am - 9am

You can email [victoria@pwschoolwear.com](mailto: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

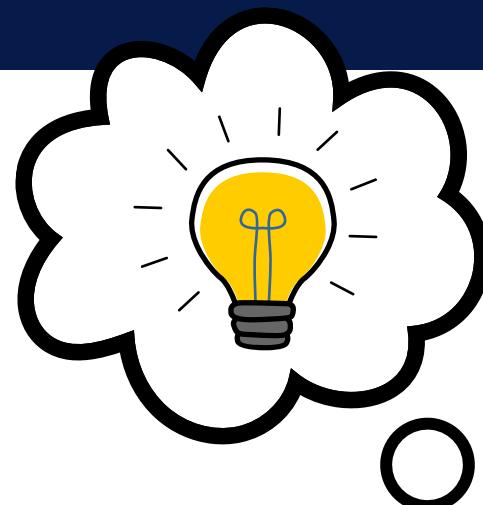
**PLEASE ENSURE** children wear BPS hats/scarves only and arrive each day with their BPS blue waterproof coat



## Looking Ahead: Next Week

### Thought of the Week

Be You. Do You.  
For You.



**Happy school, Healthy school, Safe school**

**Online Safety**



# Communication Key Dates



# NEXT WEEK



## At a glance...

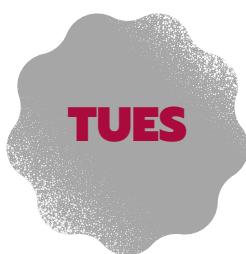
### WB 2 FEBRUARY 2026



Y4 reviews commence



School Office closed from 4pm



Open Day for Prospective Parents



Parent meeting in school:  
2pm and 7pm



*After School Club  
**cancellations.***

**MONDAY**

**Y2 Art Club  
Y5 Netball Club and  
Netball Fixture  
Cancelled**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

# Spring Term 1 - 2026

## Key dates at a glance

FOLLOW US



## February

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3 Prospective Parents Open Day	4 Parent Meetings (2pm or 7pm)	5	6
9	10 Parents' Evening	11	12 Parents' Evening	13 <i>Lunar New Year</i> School Closes
16 <i>Half Term</i>	17 <i>Half Term</i>	18 <i>Half Term</i>	19 <i>Half Term</i>	20 <i>Half Term</i>
23 Inset Day	24 School Opens	25	26 Y5 Trip	27

### MONDAY

Y1 & Y2 Dance  
(Y5 Netball)  
(Y2 Art)  
Y1 Baking  
Y3 - Y6 Ukulele

### TUESDAY

Y1 & Y2 Yoga  
Y5 & Y6 Chamber Choir  
Y1 Baking  
Y3 & Y4 Recorder Club  
Y3 - Y6 Fencing

### WEDNESDAY

Y3 - Y6 Multi Sports  
Y3 - Y6 Art  
Prep Rock Band  
Y5 & Y6 Recorder Club

### THURSDAY

Y6 Netball  
Y1 - Y6 Drama  
Pre Prep Recorder Club

## March

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3 Science Day	4	5 World Book Day	6
9	10	11	12	13 9am: Y1 Mothers Day Assembly
16	17 Y4 Trip LAMDA Exams	18 LAMDA Exams	19	20
23	24	25 Shakespeare Monologues	26 Y3 & Y4 Show	27 Y1 Trip

### FRIDAY

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





# **Holocaust Memorial Day: Teaching Tolerance and Respect in Our School**

**Each year, Holocaust Memorial Day is marked around the world as an opportunity to reflect, remember, and learn.**

In primary schools, this is done in an age-appropriate, sensitive way, focusing on the Fundamental British Values of tolerance and respect.

One of our key values at Bowdon Prep is care for all. Our aim is to help our pupils develop kindness, empathy, and a deep understanding of why treating others fairly matters.

**Why Holocaust Memorial Day matters** Holocaust Memorial Day reminds us of a time in history when millions of people were persecuted because of their religion, ethnicity, disability, beliefs, or identity.

Remembering this helps us teach children an important message: everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. By learning about the consequences of intolerance, pupils begin to understand why celebrating diversity and standing up against discrimination is so important in modern Britain.

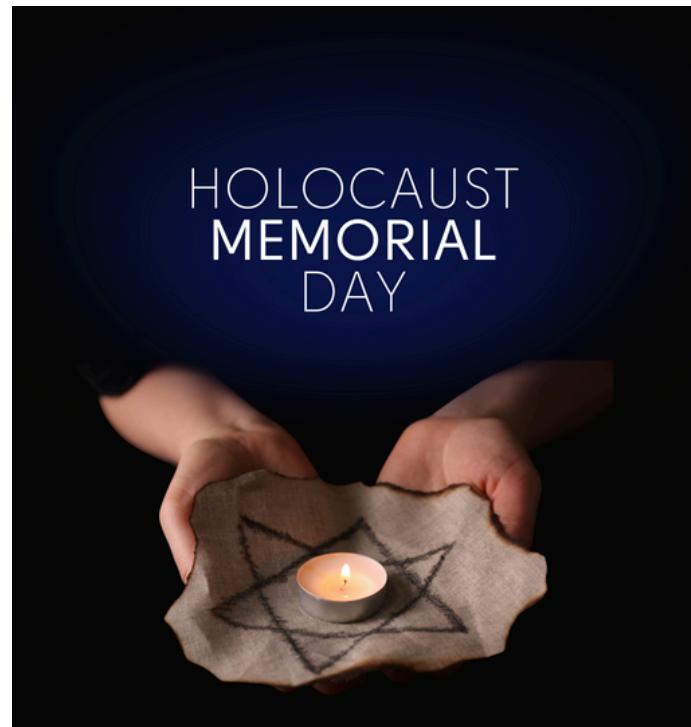
## **How we teach this in School**

At primary level, learning is carefully planned to be age-appropriate and reassuring. Children explore big ideas through discussion, stories, and reflection rather than specific historical detail.

In school, we focus on: understanding that people are different and that differences should be respected. Learning what tolerance means: accepting others even if they are different from us. Learning what respect means: caring about others' feelings and choices.

## **Recognising the importance of kindness, fairness, and inclusion**

Lessons and assemblies often include themes such as friendship, belonging, and standing up to bullying, helping children connect historical events to everyday life.



These values are embedded across the curriculum and school life, from classroom discussions to how pupils treat one another on the playground. Supporting children's understanding encourage children to ask questions and share their thoughts in a safe and supportive environment.

Staff are always mindful of pupils' emotional well-being and ensure that learning remains positive and hopeful.

Families play an important role too. Simple conversations at home about kindness, fairness, and respecting differences can help reinforce the messages children learn in school.

**Together, as a school community, we are committed to nurturing thoughtful, compassionate young people who understand that everyone matters.**

***Mrs Wood and Miss Cross  
Subject Leaders - Humanities***



# A Celebration of Cultures, Faiths and Spring

At Bowdon Prep, we are proud of the rich diversity within our school community and the many cultures and traditions that our families celebrate.

To recognise and honour these special occasions, we warmly invite children who are marking the following events to come to school in celebration or traditional dress on the dates below:

## Lunar New Year – Monday 9 February

To mark this occasion, Mrs Abbey will also be providing some special lunch treats for the children to enjoy as part of the celebrations.

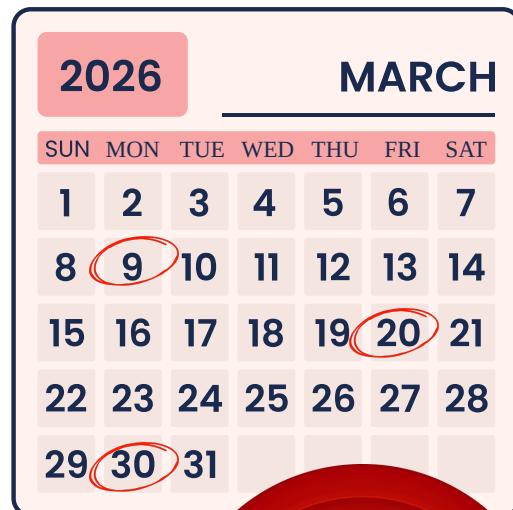
## Eid ul Fitr – Monday 20 March

Children who are celebrating Eid are warmly invited to come to school wearing traditional dress, should they wish to do so.

## Easter celebration - Monday 30 March.

In addition, for our Easter celebrations on Monday 30 March, the whole school is invited to wear spring colours and, if they wish, an Easter bonnet. This will be a joyful way to welcome the new season and share in the festive spirit together.

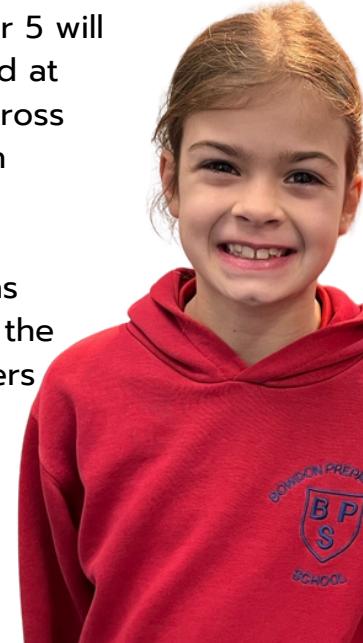
We look forward to celebrating these important cultural and seasonal events as a school community and thank you for your continued support in helping us foster an inclusive and respectful environment for all.



## Run, Lola, Run! Greater Manchester Cross Country Championships

This Saturday, Lola in Year 5 will proudly represent Trafford at the Greater Manchester Cross Country Championships in Heaton Park!

We're thrilled that Lola has been selected to take on the best primary school runners from across the region. Wishing Lola the very best of luck – we know she will make us proud!





# Calling All Young Budding Bakers!

**At BPS, we have been contacted by the makers of Junior Bake Off, who are currently looking for enthusiastic young bakers aged 9–15 years to apply for the next series.**

If your child loves baking and enjoys getting creative in the kitchen, this is a fantastic opportunity to showcase their skills and take part in a truly memorable experience.

Applications can be completed online at: [www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk)

Filming is due to take place in July 2026, but the application deadline is Sunday 15th March 2026, so interested families are encouraged to apply soon.

## Author Visit: Philippa Leathley

**We are delighted to be working with Waterstones Altrincham to welcome children's author Philippa Leathley into school on Tuesday 3rd February, where she will be speaking with our pupils in Y4–6.**

During her visit, Philippa will talk about her life as a writer and the creative process behind developing characters, worlds, and story ideas. She will also share extracts from her latest novel, *Inkbound: Meticulous Jones and the Skull Tattoo* – the second book in her imaginative fantasy series.

The story follows Meticulous Jones as he joins a mysterious secret society and faces a series of perilous challenges, promising plenty of adventure to captivate our young readers.

We are very much looking forward to an inspiring and engaging visit that we hope will spark creativity and a love of reading and writing among our pupils.

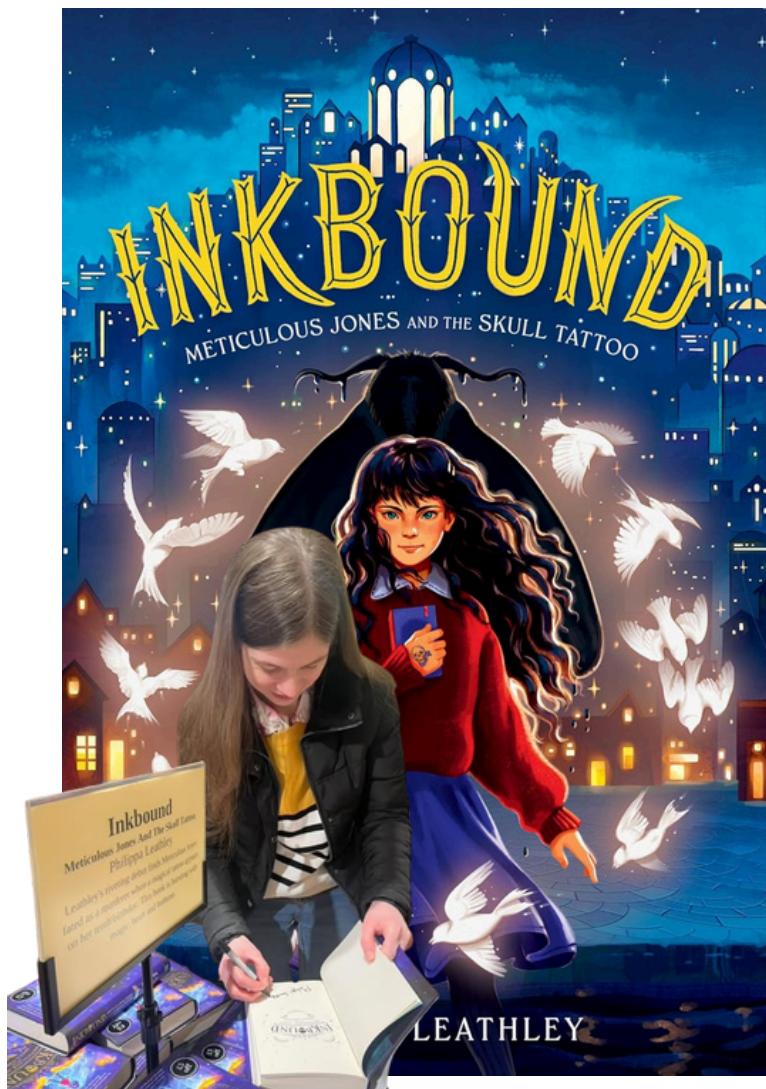
APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR  
**JUNIOR BAKE OFF**

**Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!**

**WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK**



**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026**





# MRS ABBEY'S LUNCH



WC 02.02.26

## MONDAY



*Paneer or Chicken Curry, Naan Bread  
Broccoli  
Sorbet*

## TUESDAY



*Veggie or Beef Lasagne, Garlic Bread  
Carrots  
Fruit or Yoghurt*

## WEDNESDAY



*Jacket Potatoes with various fillings  
Baked Beans  
Carrot Cake*

## THURSDAY



*Veggie and Pork Meatballs with Pasta  
Carrots  
Iced Sponge*

## FRIDAY



*Quorn or Chicken Panini  
Sweetcorn  
Flapjack*



**Each day, a salad bar is available and fruit and yogurt as an alternative to desserts.**

### Health and Safety Notice

**BPS is a Allergy Aware School - nut-free and sesame seed-free**

**(Please be mindful when sending in any items into school, including birthday treats)**

Please note, due to manufacturing processes, some products used in the school kitchen state may contain nuts/sesame'. Please cut grapes in half - length-ways or in quarters.

All our food is made using the finest quality produce, suppliers include Taylor's of Sale (Butchers) and 'Bettaveg'.



HOLIDAY CLUB

ALTRINCHAM PREP

Choose Fun

# HOLIDAY CLUB

FOR CHILDREN AGED  
3 - 12 years

- ★ OPEN FROM 7.30AM - 6.00PM
- ★ BREAKFAST INCLUDED
- ★ OFSTED REGISTERED

MARLBOROUGH RD, BOWDON,  
ALTRINCHAM WA14 2RR

[www.fun-fest.co.uk](http://www.fun-fest.co.uk)

BOOKINGS OPEN NOW



HOLIDAY CLUB

ALTRINCHAM PREP

## February Half Term

16<sup>th</sup> February - 20<sup>th</sup> February  
Altrincham Prep School - Marlborough Road

7:30am - 6pm

Ages 3 - 7	AM	PM
Mon	Shapeshifters	Sports Action
Tues	Sand Fest	Tennis
Weds	Messy Mayhem	Table Tennis
Thurs	Under the Sea	Basketball
Fri	Bling!	Sports Action
		Our 1 <sup>st</sup> Birthday Party!

FOLLOW OUR  
WHATSAPP CHANNEL  
FOR MORE INFO!





# Sport @BPS



# Year 5 Netball Teams Shine Against Ladybarn House

*A fantastic afternoon of teamwork, sportsmanship and outstanding results*

On Wednesday 28th January, our Year 5 A, B and C netball teams enjoyed a sunny and spirited PE lesson match against visiting Ladybarn House School.

All three teams delivered superb performances. The A team secured an impressive 26–6 victory, the B team went one better with a commanding 31–3 win, and the C team completed a clean sweep with an inspirational 18–0 result.

Players of the Match, as voted for by the opposition, were Claudia H, Annie H and Nysha. A special mention must also go to Lottie Dyson, whose progress this season has been tremendous.



Well done to all 25 Bowdon Prep girls who represented their school so skilfully and graciously. Mrs Baxter is extremely proud of you all and of the fantastic improvement you have shown throughout the season.



## Year 4 Netball: Match Day Opportunity

*A friendly and competitive fixture against The Grange*

This week, all of Year 4 had the opportunity to play a competitive netball match against The Grange during their PE lesson – a fantastic chance to put their skills to the test.

The girls showed lots of attacking play and determined defensive work, learning valuable lessons along the way.

Sportsmanship was excellent throughout, and it was wonderful to see the girls growing in confidence as they applied their skills in a competitive setting. Results: A Team: Won 9–2; B Team: Won 4–3; C Team: Won 8–2; D Team: Lost 2–3. A really positive experience for everyone involved!





# Mud, Miles and Medals at the ISA Regional Cross Country Championships

The ISA Regional Cross Country Championships were held on Tuesday this week at Scarisbrick Hall School, with runners competing against pupils from 26 schools across the North.

Conditions were true to form for cross country – cold, windy, drizzly and very muddy – but that certainly didn't deter our pupils from giving it their all.

White trainers didn't stay white for long (in fact, they didn't stay white at all!), but everyone made it back having successfully navigated the course without leaving a trainer behind in the mud.

Smiles were plentiful, and teammates cheered each other on throughout, showing fantastic determination, resilience and sportsmanship.

There were some excellent performances across the races, and we are incredibly proud of all our runners who represented the school with credit and enthusiasm.

A special congratulations goes to Athena (Year 5) and Alex (Year 4), who finished 3rd and 5th in their respective races. They now progress to represent the North at the ISA National Championships at the end of February. A fantastic achievement – well done to everyone involved!





# Year 6 Netball Triumph Over Hale Prep

*Two commanding victories in a superb team performance.*

Our Year 6 netball teams demonstrated outstanding determination and resilience in their fixtures against Hale Prep this week. Despite the bitterly cold conditions, every player rose to the challenge, showcasing excellent teamwork, composure, and sportsmanship throughout.

Hale Prep fielded some particularly tall and formidable defenders; however, our teams adapted intelligently. Through sharp attacking play, swift movement, and confident passing, they were able to take control of both matches and apply sustained pressure across the court.



Both games were competitive and played at an impressive pace, with relentless effort from every member of the squad. The A team secured a commanding 12-1 victory, while the B team followed with an equally impressive 8-0 win. A superb set of results and a wonderful display of skill, unity, and match awareness.

## UPCOMING FIXTURES

WEDNESDAY 4 FEB:

YEAR 5 LACROSSE V GAWSWORTH  
2-3PM (HOME)

WEDNESDAY 4 FEB:

YEAR 3 & 4 INTER YEAR NETBALL  
MATCH (HOME)

**BELIEVE. PERSEVERE. SUCCEED.**



# Staff of the Week

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



## Mr Brooks

Thank you to Mr Brooks, who makes all of our lessons so fun and interesting. The girls learn such a lot from you!

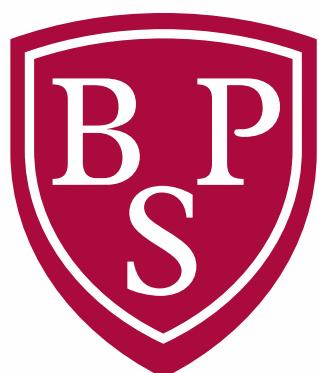


## Ms Pheasant

Huge congratulations to Ms Pheasant! Thank you for all your hard work; you help to run the school so smoothly and always with a smile.



# BOWDON PREP SCHOOL



**BELIEVE  
PERSEVERE  
SUCCEED**



**ASHLEY RD, ALTRINCHAM, WA14 2LT**