

27 FEBRUARY 2026

# BOWDON

BULLETIN

**CHARACTER IN ACTION:  
OWNING OUR CHOICES**

"Stop. Think.  
Make a Good Choice."



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



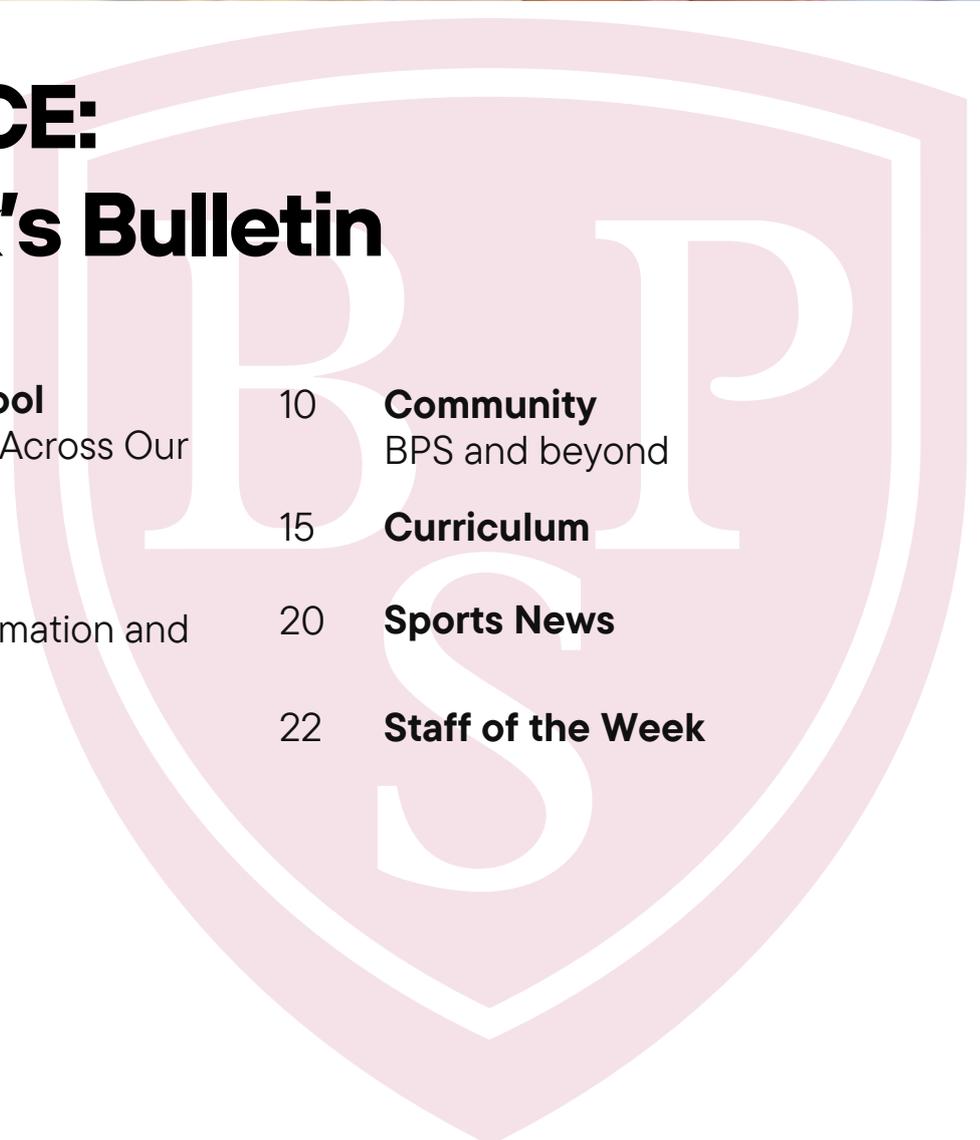
[office@bowdonprep.org.uk](mailto:office@bowdonprep.org.uk)

COMMUNICATION. CURRICULUM. CARE.



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

<b>3</b>	<b>Happy, Healthy, School</b> Supporting Wellbeing Across Our School Community	<b>10</b>	<b>Community</b> BPS and beyond
<b>6</b>	<b>Communication</b> Key dates, School information and Mrs Abbey's Menu	<b>15</b>	<b>Curriculum</b>
		<b>20</b>	<b>Sports News</b>
		<b>22</b>	<b>Staff of the Week</b>





# Character in Action: Owning Our Choices

*From “Stop, Think, Make a Good Choice” to a Lifelong Moral Compass – How BPS Pupils Learn That What They Do Truly Matters*

**This week’s thought reminds us of a powerful truth: “It doesn’t matter what others are doing, it matters what YOU are doing.” At BPS, from Kindergarten to Year 6, this message sits at the heart of our approach to learning and behaviour.**

Every day, our pupils are encouraged to take ownership of their choices and actions, guided by our familiar motto: “Stop. Think. Make a good choice.” Across the school, these positive behaviours are woven into daily routines and interactions. Younger children begin by learning how to pause, calm their bodies, and recognise feelings.

As pupils grow, this strategy becomes instinctive - something they use during group work, problem solving, friendships, and challenges. By Year 6, pupils understand not only how to make a good choice, but why it matters.

A key part of developing this understanding is realising that our choices don’t happen in isolation. What we do can have a real impact on others - helping someone feel included, turning a difficult moment into a positive one, or, at times, causing upset without meaning to. By learning to reflect on how their actions affect those around them, children develop empathy and begin to understand the bigger picture of community, kindness, and responsibility.



Our staff play a crucial role in creating this environment. Across all year groups, adults model respectful interactions, calm problem solving, and support conversations. Pupils know that even if they make a mistake - something that is completely normal and expected as they grow - they will be guided, not judged. They will be helped to reflect, repair, and try again.

This approach ensures that children don’t feel pressured to make good choices simply for a reward or sticker. Instead, they begin to build a moral compass - an inner sense of wanting to do the right thing because it is the right thing.

The emphasis is on learning, ownership, and understanding, not perfection. One of the clearest signs that these values truly sink in is the feedback we receive from families. New parents often share that long before they fully understand our motto, they’re already hearing it at home - sometimes from the smallest voices!



Children remind their siblings, and even their parents, to “Stop, think, and make a good choice.” Hearing this outside of school is a wonderful reflection of how deeply these behaviours are embedded and how confidently our pupils take these skills into

By working together - staff, pupils, and families - we are nurturing a school community where good choices are made not out of obligation, but out of understanding and integrity.

**Mrs G Oakley**  
Phase Leader (Lower School)  
Early Reading & Phonics Lead  
DDSL



## Staff news

**We would like to share the news that Mrs Chapman has returned to school today following a period of absence.**

Some of you may be aware that her husband, who had been undergoing treatment for cancer, sadly passed away over the Christmas period.

Mrs Chapman has been spending valuable time with her son and her family and is now looking forward to gradually returning to school and seeing the pupils, who we are sure will be delighted to welcome her back into school and, in particular, into the Art Room.

She has been missed enormously by us all and we are so happy to welcome her back to the Bowdon Prep family.

## Next Week

### Thought of the Week

When you love what you have, you have everything you need

### Happy school, Healthy school, Safe school

Reading for pleasure- supporting our imagination

# Communication Key Dates





# NEXT WEEK



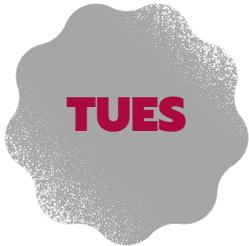
At a glance...

## WEEK BEGINNING 2 MARCH

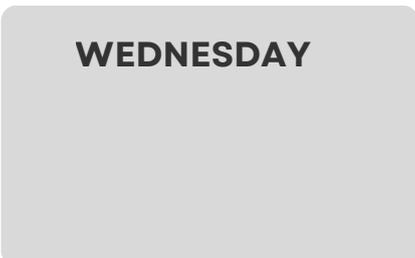
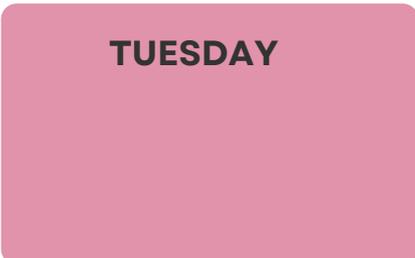


*Y6 reviews commence*

*After School Club  
cancellations*



Science Day



World Book Day  
Heroes and Villains Theme



# Key dates at a glance

## March and April - Spring 2

FOLLOW US



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 March	3 Science Day	4	5 World Book Day	6
9	10	11	12	13 Y1 Mothers Day Assembly - 9am
16	17 Y4 Trip LAMDA Exams	18 LAMDA Exams	19	20
23	24	25	26 Y3 & Y4 Show 2pm	27 Y1 Trip
30 BPSS Easter Egg Hunt	31 Y5 Residential	1 April Y5 Residential	2 Y5 Residential <b>School Closes</b>	

### MONDAY

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

### TUESDAY

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

### WEDNESDAY

Y3 - Y6 Multi Sports  
Y3 - Y6 Art  
Prep Rock Band  
Y5 & Y6 Recorder Club  
Y4 Netball

### THURSDAY

Y6 Netball  
Y1 - Y6 Drama  
Pre Prep Recorder Club  
(Y3 - Y5 Street Dance)  
Y1/Y2 & Y5/Y6 Football

### FRIDAY

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

## April and May - Summer Term 1

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
20 April <b>School Opens</b> <b>Summer Uniform</b>	21 Alderley Edge Musical Festival	22 Alderley Edge Musical Festival	23 Whole School Photo School Uniform to be worn	24 Prep Quidditch Day
27	28	29	30	1 May Break the Rules Day
4 <b>School closed for</b> <b>Bank Holiday</b>	5 Y3 Residential	6 Y3 Residential Y4 Residential	7 Y4 Residential Y6 Stem Day	8 Y6 Stem Day
11	12 Lower School Mini B-Fest	13	14	15





# Dates for your diary!

**SAVE THE DATE**

## World Book Day - Thursday 5 March

See poster on the next page for more information.

## 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.

# 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

Please 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 only BPS hats/scarves and arrive each day with their BPS blue waterproof coat.**



Get Ready for...

WORLD  
BOOK  
DAY  
2026

# WORLD BOOK DAY

Dress Up as a

**HERO** or **VILLAIN**

FROM A BOOK!



5th March 2026

Who will  
you choose?



Prepare your  
costume!





# MRS ABBEY'S LUNCH



WC 2 MARCH 2026

---

## MONDAY



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

---

## TUESDAY



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

---

## WEDNESDAY



*Jacket Potato with various fillings  
Bakes Beans and Salad Bar  
Carrot Cake*

---

## THURSDAY



*Veggie or Pork Meatballs with Pasta  
Peas  
Sponge Cake*

---

## FRIDAY



*Quorn or Chicken Paninis  
Sweetcorn  
Flapjack*



---

The salad bar and fruit and yogurt (as an alternative to desserts) is available each day

## Health and Safety Notice

**As an 'Allergy Aware School' - we are a nut and sesame seed free school**  
Please be mindful when sending items into school, including birthday treats.

Please cut grapes in half - length-ways or in quarters.

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

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



# Young Artists' Summer Show – Enter Now!

*Your art could be shown at the Royal Academy.*

*Entries close 4 March 2026.*

**Do you love making art? Would you like to submit your art to be judged by the Royal Academy of Arts? If so, then read on! The Royal Academy of Arts is hosting their Young Artists' Summer Show and your art could feature!**

Here are the main details: The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4–18 years studying in the UK.

Each student can submit one artwork and there is no theme. When you enter, the Royal Academy of Arts will ask for an image of the artwork plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and some text written by you, the artist, which can include why you created the work and what it means to you.

Their panel of judges will see the artwork and the selected pieces will be shown in their online exhibition. Some of the artworks will also be shown at the Royal Academy of Arts.

We have registered BPS as a school and all submissions need to be in by Wednesday 4 March 2026, judging will then take place in



May 2026 with the online exhibition opening on 14th July 2026 and work is displayed at the RA from 14 July - 30 August 2026.

The RA has set some guidance on the kinds of artwork the judges are looking for when they review submissions (please see attached link: [Click here](#)).

The artwork can be made using any material; it can be a painting, sculpture, photograph, installation, video, drawing, or a combination.

There is no theme so artworks can be of any subject and we don't mind when you made the artwork as long as you are between 4-18 years old when you submit it. We also welcome collaborative pieces made by more than one student, a whole class, a whole year group or even a whole school!

We can't wait to see your amazing creations! Good luck!

# Reminder

A black and white photograph of a young girl with dark hair, wearing a school uniform consisting of a striped shirt and a dark vest. She is seated at a piano, looking down at the keys. The piano is a Schimmel brand. In the background, there are sheets of music hanging on a wall.

Bowdon  
Preparatory School

## Soloists' Concert: A Celebration of Young Musicians

**We are delighted to announce that we will be holding a Soloists' Concert and are excited to offer this opportunity to any pupil who learns a musical instrument, either in school or outside of school, to take part in this special event.**

The concert will take place on Tuesday 10th March at 4.00pm. Parents and carers of those who are performing are warmly invited to arrive from 3.45pm in the playground and will then be welcomed into the sports hall for the performance.

This concert will be free for audience members and will celebrate the musical achievements of our pupils and provide them with the opportunity to perform independently in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Pupils wishing to take part must be working at Grade 1 or above on their instrument. If your child is interested in performing, please complete the reply slip at the bottom of the information letter that is going home this week, no later than **FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY** and return it to school with the required details.

Once we have received all reply slips and confirmed which pupils will be participating, Mrs Stiles will contact families with further information regarding performance arrangements.

We look forward to hearing from our young musicians and hope many pupils will take advantage of this exciting opportunity.

Mrs. Stiles



Bringing science & engineering to life

HubLab

# FunLab



Play, explore, and get hands-on with the wonders of science!

7 & 8

March

## FunLab Trafford Centre Takeover for British Science Week!

Join us to explore, play and discover in a free weekend of science and engineering fun.

Meet robots, handle dinosaur bones and get hands-on with experiments and activities to take home.



Explore more >>>



B B C

13 FEB 2026  
- 3 JAN 2027  
BOOK NOW

# HORRIBLE SCIENCE

# COSMIC CHAOS

AN OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD  
PREMIERE EXHIBITION



MAJOR SPONSOR



# The Outdoors Project

Inspiring Adventure Clubs For Kids



**BOWDON PREP SCHOOL**

**FRIDAY**

**BOOK NOW - 4 WEEK BLOCK**

**LUNCH CLUB**



**BOWDON PREP SCHOOL**

Dates: 6th March - 27th March

Years 3-6 - 12:00 - 12:30 - £24 for 4 weeks

# Curriculum

## Reflecting on our week at BPS





# Arctic Adventures in ICT

## Year 2 Combine Research, Online Safety and Creativity to Design Informative Arctic Animal Posters

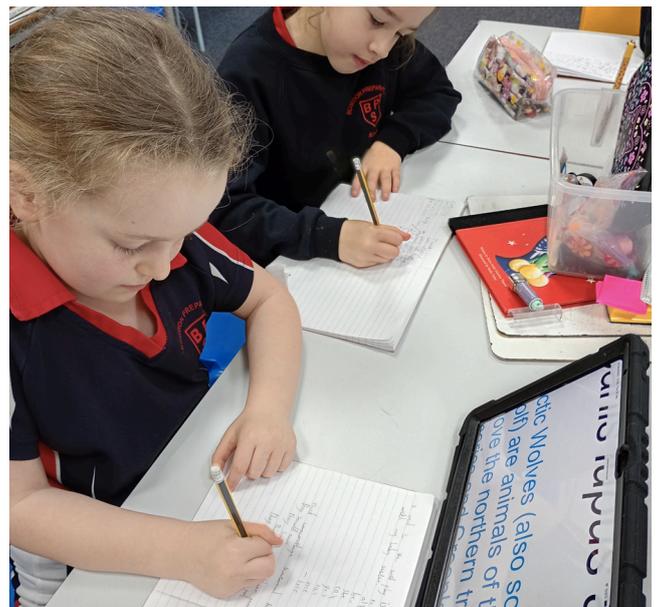
Year 2 worked incredibly hard in their ICT lessons last half-term as they took on an exciting new challenge: creating their very own information poster about an Arctic animal.

Before they could begin designing, the children first had to explore which animals actually live in the Arctic. There were lots of surprised faces when they discovered that penguins don't live there at all - they're found in the Antarctic instead!

Armed with this new knowledge, pupils then chose an Arctic creature to research in more depth. Next came the online investigation. The children learned how to use the internet safely and effectively, practising how to type clear search queries and identify reliable information.

They gathered key facts about their chosen animal—where it lives, what it eats, and how it survives in the freezing climate. Once their research was complete, it was time to get creative. Pupils used their ICT skills to design an eye catching poster, experimenting with different font sizes, colours, and styles.

They also learned how to insert images to bring their posters to life. This project linked beautifully with their Geography topic on Norway and the Arctic region, as well as their Science work on animal habitats. The children have produced some fantastic posters and should be very proud of their hard work and new digital skills!





# A Day of Discovery at Catalyst

## Inspiring Future Scientists Through Hands-On Learning

**Year 5 enjoyed a truly inspiring visit to the Catalyst Museum, where they explored a wide range of interactive exhibits showcasing fascinating scientific phenomena. The children were fully immersed in hands-on learning, their curiosity ignited as they engaged enthusiastically with the displays and discovered how science helps us to understand the world around us.**

During the visit, the pupils participated in two exciting and thought-provoking workshops. In the first, they stepped into the role of forensic scientists, carrying out a series of experiments to help “solve a crime”.

Applying techniques such as DNA sampling, chromatography, flame tests, fingerprint analysis and constructing electric circuits, the children carefully examined evidence and pieced together clues to support a police investigation. Their teamwork, logical reasoning and attention to detail were most impressive.

The second workshop saw the pupils transform into environmental scientists. Investigating the “health” of our planet, they explored air and water quality and examined biodiversity indicators. Through careful observation and scientific testing, they identified environmental concerns and proposed thoughtful, practical solutions to help protect and restore the Earth.



The visit provided a valuable opportunity for Year 5 to deepen their scientific understanding, apply their knowledge in real-world contexts and broaden their awareness of future STEM careers. It was a memorable and enriching experience for all involved.





**Sport**  
**@BPS**



# Silver Success at Regionals

## *U11 Netball Squad Crowned Runners-Up and Secure Ninth Consecutive ISA National Finals Place*

The U11 netball team delivered an outstanding performance at the ISA Regional Tournament, demonstrating determination, resilience and exceptional teamwork throughout. With matches lasting just eight minutes one way, every second mattered – and the squad played with remarkable intensity, composure and focus from start to finish.

From the first whistle, the girls communicated superbly on court and supported one another relentlessly from the sidelines, creating a positive, driven and united atmosphere. Their energy never dipped, and their belief in each other was evident in every passage of play.

Their collective effort translated into a series of impressive results:

### Match Results

- **BPS** v Pownhall School – **Won** 4–3
- **BPS** v The Firs School – **Won** 11–1
- **BPS** v Scarisbrick Hall School – **Won** 8–0

Progressing into the final stages, the team continued to showcase their quality and character:

- **BPS** v Lady Barn House School – Lost 2–5 in a closely contested match
- **BPS** v The King’s School, Chester – Drew 3–3, fighting back from 3–0 down with outstanding determination
- **BPS** v The Grange School – Won 6–1



The squad finished as Runners-Up, proudly taking home silver medals and securing their place at the ISA National Finals in Warwick on 11 March – an incredible achievement and the ninth consecutive year our U11 team has qualified for Nationals.



Having previously been crowned National Champions in 2017, 2022, 2023 and 2025, and finishing runners-up in 2024, the team continues to represent the North of England with pride and distinction.

Their resilience, teamwork and competitive spirit were exceptional throughout the tournament, and we look forward to seeing them bring the same intensity, belief and energy to the national stage.



# UPCOMING FIXTURES

SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY  
ISA CROSS COUNTRY  
NATIONAL FINALS FOR ATHENA  
AND ALEX - *GOOD LUCK!*

MONDAY 2 MARCH  
YEAR 5 NETBALL V STAMFORD  
PARK (AWAY)

TUESDAY 3 MARCH  
YEAR 6 NETBALL V  
MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR GIRLS (AWAY)

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH  
Y4/5 TRAFFORD SWIMMING  
GLA AT SALE LEISURE CENTRE

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



# Staff of the Week

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



## **Mrs Clarke**

We're absolutely delighted to celebrate Mrs Clarke, our wonderfully talented music teacher. Her passion, creativity, and dedication shine through in every lesson and she brings every school show to life. We're so glad to have her back - her energy and love for music make a huge difference to our school community. Thank you, Mrs Clarke, for all that you do!

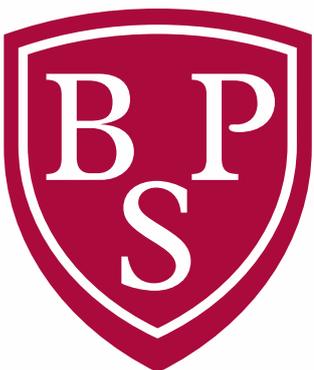


## **Mrs McGrath**

This week we're celebrating Mrs McGrath, one of our fantastic Phase Leaders and Head of Science. Her lessons are full of energy, curiosity, and just the right amount of humour to make even the trickiest topics fun and memorable. She inspires our students to think big, experiment boldly, and love science. Thank you, Mrs McGrath, for bringing STEM to life every single day!



# **BOWDON PREP SCHOOL**



**BELIEVE  
PERSEVERE  
SUCCEED**



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