

6 FEBRUARY 2026

BOWDON

BULLETIN

AN INSPIRING VISIT FROM AUTHOR PHILIPPA LEATHLEY

Thoughtful questions, attentive
listening and genuine excitement

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026

Exploring AI, Authenticity
and Critical Thinking



www.bowdonprep.org.uk



office@bowdonprep.org.uk

COMMUNICATION. CURRICULUM. CARE.



AT A GLANCE: In this week's Bulletin

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SURVEY

Your Voice Matters

Co-ed Consultation Feedback

We hope you found the Co-education Consultation meetings, and subsequent discussions, both informative and supportive, and that you have had time to reflect on the presentation, whether you attended in person or viewed it afterwards.

Parental insight is an essential part of this consultation process, and we now kindly invite you to take a few moments to share your thoughts by completing the short parental questionnaire linked below. Please know that your opinion matters. **Questionnaire closes Wednesday 11 February.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JOJJSBL>

Thank you in advance for the time you have taken to engage with this process, as we consider the next steps for securing the long-term future of Bowdon Prep School.

Many thanks if you have already completed the survey.



**BELIEVE
PERSEVERE
SUCCEED**



Safer Internet Day 2026

Smart Tech, Safe Choices: Exploring AI, Authenticity and Critical Thinking in Year 6

On Tuesday 10 February 2026, schools across the country will mark Safer Internet Day. This year's theme – "Smart Tech, Safe Choices: Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI" – encourages young people, families and educators to think carefully about how artificial intelligence is shaping the online world.

At Bowdon Prep School, online safety is embedded within our curriculum through a comprehensive online safety programme that aligns with Project Evolve, ensuring that digital literacy, critical thinking and responsible technology use are taught progressively from the early years through to Year 6.

How We Teach Online Safety

Our online safety curriculum explores key themes such as self-image and identity, online relationships, managing online information, privacy and security – all adapted carefully to suit each age group. Artificial Intelligence is openly discussed within school. Pupils learn:

- What AI is and where they encounter it (search engines, recommendation algorithms, voice assistants, chatbots and creative tools).
- How schools may use AI responsibly – for example:
 - Supporting research and idea generation.
 - Drafting and editing writing.
 - Creating quizzes or revision materials.
 - Exploring coding and digital creativity.
- Why AI outputs must always be checked for accuracy.

We emphasise that AI can be a powerful learning tool – but it must be used thoughtfully, critically and ethically.



A Spotlight on Year 6

Over the past week, our Year 6 pupils have been exploring two important PSHE objectives:

- How and why images online might be manipulated, altered or faked.
- How to recognise when images might have been altered.

The discussions were insightful, reflective and impressively mature. Pupils explored why individuals might use AI or editing tools to alter images – including for advertising, influence, humour, popularity or sometimes deception.

They examined how filters, editing apps and AI image generators can create pictures that look realistic but are not entirely truthful.

In speaking with members of Year 6, their reflections demonstrated a deep awareness of the impact this can have.



Emily E. commented: *"I think it is scary what some images are promoting, and it can damage the mental health of young people if they think every image out there has to be perfect."*

Emily C. thoughtfully balanced the conversation by recognising both sides of AI: "It has many advantages – to learn from, to gather information to solve a problem or explain a problem – but it has many disadvantages too."

Olivia J. highlighted the importance of awareness and dialogue: "We have to be careful, but knowing images are altered and talking about it helps."

The girls recognised that they are growing up in a world where images are frequently filtered, enhanced or entirely AI-generated – and that everything online is not always as it seems.

To deepen this understanding, Mrs Hughes, 6H Form Tutor, reflected on a powerful classroom moment:

"Our Year 6 pupils were very aware of how AI can manipulate images to deceive the viewer. However, when I showed the class some AI-enhanced photographs of themselves and of Mrs McGrath, they were shocked and unnerved by how much AI can actually do. They didn't approve of how fake the photographs looked and much preferred the unedited and authentic versions."

This reaction was telling. While pupils intellectually understood that AI could alter images, seeing realistic – yet artificial – versions of themselves brought the message home in a much more personal way. Their preference for authenticity over perfection speaks volumes about the values we strive to nurture.

Mrs McGrath, 6M Form Tutor, added that these discussions are crucial in preparing pupils for the digital world they are growing up in



helping them to think critically, question what they see and protect their wellbeing in an increasingly image-driven online culture.

Working Together with Parents

Safer Internet Day also encourages families to:

- Talk regularly about online experiences.
- Explore technology together.
- Discuss how AI works and where it appears.
- Encourage critical thinking – Is this real? Who created this? Why?
- Remind children that they can always speak to a trusted adult if something online concerns them.

We are incredibly proud of the maturity, empathy and perceptiveness our Year 6 pupils demonstrated in these discussions.

By combining structured teaching through Project Evolve with open conversations about emerging technologies, we are equipping our girls not only to stay safe – but to thrive responsibly in a rapidly evolving digital world. Let us continue working together to ensure our children make smart tech, safe choices – not just on Safer Internet Day, but every day.



Mr K Powell
Head of Innovation
ICT Subject Leader
5P Form Tutor/ Maths Teacher



BPS UNIFORM

Add

Add

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 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.



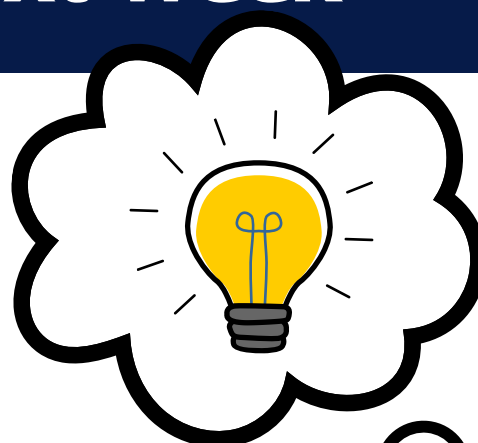
Looking Ahead: Next Week

Thought of the Week

Find what makes your heart sing

Happy school, Healthy school, Safe school

Online Safety



Mrs S Makepeace-Taylor
Headteacher

Communication

Key Dates





NEXT WEEK

At a glance...

WB 9 FEBRUARY 2026



*After School Club
cancellations.*

MON

MONDAY

Y5 netball club
Cancelled

TUES

Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm

TUESDAY

No Fencing

WED

WEDNESDAY

THUR

Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm

THURSDAY

No Drama
No Street Dance
No Y6 netball

FRI

Parental Consultation closes

School closes for Half term

FRIDAY

Spring Term 1 - 2026

Key dates at a glance

FOLLOW US



February

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 February	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

March and April

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 and 6pm	27 Y1 Trip
30 BPSS Easter Egg Hunt	31 Y5 Residential	1 April Y5 Residential	2 Y5 Residential School Closes	

THURSDAY

Y6 Netball
Y1 - Y6 Drama
Pre Prep Recorder Club

FRIDAY

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





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.

Lunar New Year - Thursday 12 February

Pupils in Kindergarten, Reception and Years 1–3 enjoyed celebrating Lunar New Year through a range of engaging activities in school. The children learned traditional songs, listened to stories and explored creative painting inspired by the rich culture and traditions of the festival.

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.

2026							MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
8	9	10	11	12	13	14							
15	16	17	18	19	20	21							
22	23	24	25	26	27	28							
29	30	31											



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

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!





An Inspiring Visit from author Philippa Leathley

We were delighted to welcome children's author Philippa Leathley into school on Tuesday 3rd February, in partnership with Waterstones Altrincham.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity for pupils in Years 4–6 to hear directly from a published author about the craft of storytelling and the journey to becoming a writer.

Philippa spoke engagingly about her life as an author and the creative process behind developing memorable characters, imaginative worlds and gripping storylines. She shared fascinating insights into how ideas evolve - from a simple spark of inspiration to a fully realised novel – and encouraged pupils to embrace their own creativity.

A highlight of the session was hearing extracts from her latest novel, *Inkbound: Meticulous Jones* and the *Shadow Compass*, the second book in her exciting fantasy series. The story follows Meticulous Jones as he joins a mysterious secret society and faces a series of perilous challenges. The suspense, adventure and richly imagined world had pupils completely captivated.



What truly stood out was the enthusiasm and engagement of our pupils. Their thoughtful questions, attentive listening and genuine excitement demonstrated both maturity and a real love of reading. Philippa commented on how impressed she was by their curiosity and imaginative ideas – a testament to the vibrant reading culture within our school.

It was an inspiring and memorable visit that we hope will continue to spark creativity and a passion for storytelling in all who attended.

A huge thank you to Philippa Leathley, Waterstones Altrincham and of course, Mrs. Delf for making this special event possible.





MRS ABBEY'S LUNCH



WC 09.02.26

MONDAY



Lunar New Year celebrations

TUESDAY



*Veggie or Pork Sausage Roll, Mashed Potato
Baked Beans and Carrots
Fruit or Yoghurt*

WEDNESDAY



*Selection of Baguettes
Olives
Oat Cookies*

THURSDAY



*Veggie or Chicken Fajitas
Sweetcorn
Blueberry Muffins*

FRIDAY



*Fish and Veggie Fingers, Potato Wedges
Peas
Lemon Shortbread*



**Each day, a salad bar is available with 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

BOOKINGS OPEN NOW



HOLIDAY CLUB
ALTRINCHAM PREP

February Half Term

16th February - 20th February
Altrincham Prep School - Marlborough Road
7:30am - 6pm

Ages 3 - 7	AM		PM	
Mon	Shapeshifters	Sports Action	Yoga	Football
Tues	Sand Fest	Tennis	Fun Fest Got Talent	Cricket
Weds	Messy Mayhem	Table Tennis	Down in the Jungle	Sports Action
Thurs	Under the Sea	Basketball	Great Outdoors	Sports Action
Fri	Bling!	Sports Action	Our 1 st Birthday Party!	

**FOLLOW OUR
WHATSAPP CHANNEL
FOR MORE INFO!**





Sport
@BPS



Year 5 Pop Lacrosse Show Grit and Determination

A Spirited Performance Against Strong Rivals

On Wednesday 4th February, our Year 5 Pop Lacrosse team competed at home in a fast-paced and challenging fixture.

The A team won two of their four matches, while the B team drew one and narrowly lost three closely contested games. The girls demonstrated excellent resilience, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout.

Congratulations to Beatrice and Sophia, who were voted Players of the Match, and a special mention to Lola for her fantastic goal scoring. Well done to the whole team – you did yourselves proud!



A Fantastic Netball Match Between Year 3 and Year 4

Improved Shooting on Display in a Competitive Match

On Wednesday 4th February, our Year 4 pupils took on Year 3 in an exciting and competitive netball match.

Having worked hard on shooting consistency with Mrs Baxter, the improvement was clear to see during the game. Year 4 secured a 9–3

victory, demonstrating strong teamwork and growing confidence.

Congratulations to Isabel and Libby, who were voted Players of the Match. Isabel was top goal scorer for Year 4, while Libby, Sienna and Charlie each scored for the Year 3 team.

Well played to everyone involved – a fantastic display of progress and team spirit!





Double Gold for Theodora in Y6!

A Return to the National Arena for our fencing star!

We are delighted to share wonderful news about Theodora in Year 6.

Theodora has been fencing with Premier Sabre Academy for the past four years, having first tried the sport through an after-school club. She now regularly competes in Under-12 Girls' Sabre competitions and has enjoyed tremendous success, winning two gold medals in the past fortnight.

Most recently, Theodora won gold at the British Youth Championships qualifier in Liverpool, securing her place at the national finals in May. This will be her second time competing at the British Youth Championships, which will be held at the Utilita Arena Sheffield — a fantastic achievement.

She also claimed gold at the Leon Paul Junior Series North, demonstrating her consistency, focus and competitive strength. Reflecting on her success, Theodora said, "I am feeling proud! I would like to thank my coach and parents for their support!"

We are super proud of Theodora's passion and dedication to developing her fencing. Her commitment and enthusiasm are a credit to her, and we look forward to following her continued success on the national stage.



UPCOMING FIXTURES

MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY

**YEAR 5/6 NETBALL TRIALS FOR U11
SQUAD**

GOOD LUCK TO ALL INVOLVED!

BELIEVE. PERSEVERE. SUCCEED.



Staff of the Week

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



Mrs Thomason

A huge congratulations to Mrs Thomason, the pupils really love how kind and caring you are to them all!

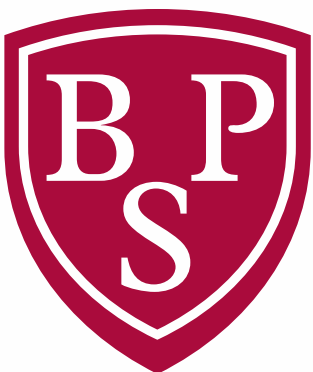


Mrs Creely

Congratulations to Mrs Creely, the school runs so smoothly with your amazing input and helps all pupils and staff. Thank you.



BOWDON PREP SCHOOL



**BELIEVE
PERSEVERE
SUCCEED**



ASHLEY RD, ALTRINCHAM, WA14 2LT