16 OCTOBER 2026

BOWDON

BULLETIN



Bowdon Preparatory School

A REPTON SCHOOL

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COMMUNICATION. CURRICULUM. CARE.



In this week's Bowdon Bulletin

Care for all
Supporting Wellbeing Across Our School Community

Communication
Key dates
School information
Mrs Abbey's Menu

Community
BPS and beyond

Curriculum
Commitmment to excellence

Sports News

Staff of the Week

Growing Stronger Leading Together

Reflecting on a half term of autumn growth, quiet foundations, and pupil leadership

As autumn settles around us, we are reminded of the beauty of change; the vibrant colour of this season signalling a time of transformation. Just as the trees prepare for the months ahead, strengthening their roots as the leaves fall, our children have embraced the opportunities and challenges that come with a new academic year. It has been a pleasure to watch them settle into their new classes, build friendships, develop new skills and flourish within their new year groups.

This week, we have reflected on our theme, "***Be the Kind of Leader You Would Follow.***"

Leadership is not simply about holding a title, a position of responsibility or being the loudest voice in the room; it is about setting an example through kindness, integrity, perseverance and compassion. At Bowdon Prep School, we are fortunate to see these qualities demonstrated every day throughout our school community.

I am privileged to work alongside a dedicated Leadership Team and Board of Governors, whose commitment and vision help guide our school community. Equally inspiring is our staff team, who are all leaders in their own right; we encourage an attitude of autonomy across the school, with every member of the team having an important role in supporting our whole school community. We are very proud to offer leadership opportunities for all our pupils, whatever their age; from our Class Ambassadors,



Headteacher's Award pupils and Pupils of the Week, they all embody the values we seek to nurture in every child. Our Y6 leaders continue to inspire - whether welcoming prospective families to our school, excelling in their kindergarten duties or managing our House Point system, they approach their responsibilities with maturity, enthusiasm and pride.

We are immensely proud of the academic and personal growth made by all of the children this first half term, and it was a delight to welcome you into school this week during our Autumn Parents' Evening. We hope it provided an opportunity for you to see first-hand how the children continue to evolve within their new year groups, embracing new challenges with determination and resilience. Their progress is a testament to the hard work and commitment they demonstrate each week, supported by the expertise, encouragement and care of their Form Teachers and Specialist Teachers who all lead superbly well, within their classrooms and curriculum areas.

I was recently given a book of poetry by Donna Ashworth, from Erin in Year 6 (you see, leadership qualities at every turn!), and found a poem which beautifully captures the idea of positive leadership and personal growth:

Most of who we are, cannot be seen,
And the work we do, does not always show,
But it is there, making us stronger,
Creating a steady base, so our leaves can bloom,
Our peaks can peak, and our foundations,
Will never be shaken.

These words remind us that growth is often unseen. Much like the roots of a tree, the foundations our children are developing each day are not always immediately visible, yet they quietly underpin everything they do. As we continue through this season of change, we can take pride in seeing these roots begin to take hold, providing the strength and stability from which our children can flourish, preparing themselves to become the kind of leaders, now and in the future, that they would choose to follow.

Wishing you all a very happy half-term holiday – we will look forward to seeing you on Monday 2 November.





Mrs Makepeace-Taylor
Headteacher

First Week Back

Thought for the Week Ahead

Don't ever let anyone dull your sparkle

Happy Healthy Safe School

Firework Safety

Term Dates 2027/28

Our term dates for the 2027/28 academic year have are now been published and available on the BPS website.

Save the Date



Communication
Key Dates

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.





EVA (EYFS)

OLIVIA (PRE-PREP)

BEA (LOWER PREP)

VIVIEN (UPPER PREP)

WHEN WE RETURN

At a glance...

WC 2 NOVEMBER

Y6 Review Meetings Commence

MON Schoop Opens at 8.30am

TUES

WED Y5 residential online call - 6pm

THUR

FRI BPS Society Annual Disco

After School Club
cancellations

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Key dates

Autumn Term 1

Bowdon Preparatory School
A REPTON SCHOOL

October 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 Early Years Harvest Assembly - 9am	2
5	6	7	8 Individual Photos, full school uniform	9
13	13 Parents' Evening Book Fair	14	15 Y5 Trip Parents' Evening Book Fair	16 School closes for half term

November 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 School opens Y6 review meeting commence	3	4 Online Meeting: Y5 residential - 6pm	5	6 BPS Society annual disco
9 First Aid worshops	10 Class Rep Meeting - 9am Y6 outward bound - online call - 6pm	11 Y2 Trip	12	13
16	17 Open Day for prospective parents	18	19	20 Recognising Children in Need/ Anti Bullying
23	24	25	26 Y4 Trip	27

Clubs

MONDAY
Y1 - Y3 Dance Club
Y5 Netball
Y3 - Y6 Ukulele
Y3 - Y6 Science Club
Y2 Art Club

TUESDAY
Y1 & Y2 Yoga & Mindfulness
Y5 & Y6 Chamber Choir
Y1 & Y2 Recorder Club
Y3 - Y6 Street Dance
Y3 - Y6 Fencing

WEDNESDAY
Y3 - Y6 Multi Sports
Y4 - Y6 Rock Band
Y3 - Y6 A Cappella Group
Y4 Netball

THURSDAY
Y6 Netball
Y1 - Y6 Drama Club
Y3 - Y6 Recorder Club

FRIDAY
Y3 - Y6 Yoga & Mindfulness
Y3 - Y6 Full Orchestra



MRS ABBEY'S LUNCH MENU

WC 02.11.26

MONDAY →	*Paneer or Chicken Curry, Rice and Naan Bread* *Broccoli* *Sorbet*
TUESDAY →	*Veggie or Beef Lasagne, Garlic Bread* *Mixed Vegetables* *Fruit or Yogurt*
WEDNESDAY →	*Jacket Potato with various fillings* *Salad Bar* *Carrot Cake*
THURSDAY →	*Veggie or Pork Meatballs and Pasta* *Peas* *Iced Sponge*
FRIDAY →	*Quorn or Chicken Strip Panini* *Sweetcorn* *Cornflake Cake*

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

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

Health and Safety Notice

As an 'Allergy Aware School' **- we are a nut and sesame seed free school**
(please note - this includes coconut and hummus)
Please be mindful when sending items into school, including birthday treats.
*** SNACKTIME - fresh fruit or veg please ***
Please cut grapes into QUARTERS (updated advice)

You're Invited to...

BPS SOCIETY'S

HALLOWEEN DISCO 2026

6th November
3:30-4:30 Y1-3
5:00-6:00 Y4-6



GET READY FOR A FANTASTICALLY FRIGHTFUL PARTY WITH A DISCO, GAMES, WICKED PRIZES (INCLUDING BEST DRESSED!) AND A SPOOKY PARTY BAG!



JUST £10 IN ADVANCE ON PARENTPAY - ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE PLAYGROUND FUND!

BPS Society Annual Disco
Friday 6 November
Tickets £10 via ParentPay

Y1-Y3 | 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Children arrive at school wearing bright 'firework colours' (with sensible shoes and blue BPS waterproof coat) with a Halloween or Bonfire Night hair accessory in a named bag.

Children will be escorted to the disco by their class teacher. Pupils not attending the disco will be dismissed at the usual time. A Halloween-themed treat will be provided to all children in Years 1-3, courtesy of Mrs Abbey and the Catering Team.

Collection at the end of the event:
Y1 Main Door / Y2 & Y3: Pupil Entrance

Y4-Y6 Disco | 5pm - 6pm

Children attend school in full school uniform.
Children should attend school in full school uniform and will be dismissed as normal at 3.45pm before returning for the disco from 5.00pm. Year 6 pupils may arrive from 4.45pm. Tickets will be distributed the day before the event and must be clearly named and brought along for entry. Children should arrive with an adult and remain with them until they are admitted to the Sports Hall.

Collection at the end of the event:
Y4 Pupil Entrance / Y5 Main Door / Y6 Early Years Entrance



Kindergarten and Reception pupils are invited to wear a Halloween or Bonfire Night themed hair accessory during the school day.

We look forward to an evening of fun, friendship and dancing while raising funds for the BPS Playground Development Project.



Reminder!

Health & Wellbeing: Please support us

Attendance and Illness: A Gentle Reminder

As we enter the season when coughs, colds and other viruses become more common, we would like to ask for your support.



Please remember that children should:

- Not attend school if they are unwell or have a fever (a temperature of 38°C or above).
- Not attend school if they have experienced sickness and/or diarrhoea (and must remain at home for 48 hours after their last episode).

Please be mindful that, even when a fever has subsided, children may still be recovering from a viral infection and can remain contagious. If your child is not feeling themselves, is unusually tired, or is unable to fully participate in the school day, please consider whether an additional period of rest at home would be beneficial.

Thank you for your support and cooperation, these measures help to protect the health and wellbeing of all members of our school community and reduce the spread of infection.

The BPS Society hold **pre-loved uniform** sales throughout the academic year. Parents wishing to purchase pre-loved uniform at any other time should contact the School Office.

THE UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY 8.10-9AM

Uniform can also be ordered online via the following website
www.pascoeandwillis.com/bowdon-preparatory-school
Password: BPS24



Curriculum

Reflecting on our week at BPS



Stepping Back in Time: Year 5's Historic Journey to Quarry Bank Mill

Yesterday, Year 5 stepped back in time for a fantastic educational visit to Quarry Bank Mill, bringing their classroom reading of Street Child vividly to life.

Immersing themselves headfirst into the sights, sounds, and stories of the Victorian era, our pupils were swept up in the rich history of the 19th-century cotton industry. They learned all about how the mill operated and gained a genuine insight into the daily lives of the children who worked there.

Guided through the historic site, the children explored every aspect of Victorian life, from watching the machinery on the factory floor in motion to discovering the stark realities of the living conditions, cramped sleeping quarters, and frugal meals that defined the era for young workers.

A particularly memorable highlight of the day came during an interactive living-history session. As an actor brought the hard realities of Victorian childhood to life, the children were completely captivated by the story. When he finally rang a bell to step out of character and return to the present day, Year 5 spontaneously broke into a warm, heartfelt round of applause.





Without a single word of prompting from staff, their instant reaction showed just how engaged, thoughtful, and respectful they were throughout the whole experience.

It was a brilliant day of hands-on learning that brought our English and history studies to life in such a meaningful and memorable way. The children represented the school wonderfully, asking insightful questions and showing real curiosity at every turn.

A special thank you to Mrs Delf for organising such a wonderful educational trip, and a huge thank you to Mrs Wyers and Mrs Lewis for joining us and supporting the day - your help made everything run smoothly and was greatly appreciated by both staff and pupils!


WELCOME


WELCOME









Sport @BPS

Year 5 Netballers Secure Double Victory Away at Stamford Park

It was a triumphant start to the week for Bowdon Prep's Year 5 netballers, who delivered an outstanding performance away at Stamford Park on Monday 12th October, coming home with a clean sweep of victories across both fixtures.

Both the 5A and 5B squads demonstrated fantastic skill, composure, and teamwork throughout the afternoon, proving that their hard work in training is paying real dividends on the court.

Clinical Display from the Y5 A-Team

The Year 5A team set the tone early with a sharp, high-tempo performance. Dominating possession and moving the ball smoothly through the court, they capitalized on their opportunities to earn an impressive 15–3 win.

Player of the Match: Fifi, who produced an exceptional all-around display to drive her team forward.

Grit and Determination Y5 B-Team

In the second fixture of the afternoon, the Year 5B team faced a much tighter, hard-fought contest. With margins fine throughout, the girls showed remarkable resilience to hold their lead and secure a dramatic 3–2 victory.



Photo: Congratulation to Khushi, who made her second appearnce for BPS since joining this year. We are very proud of you!

Player of the Match: Bella J, who was voted Player of the Match for her stellar defensive play. Both Bella and Eve formed a formidable defensive partnership, working tirelessly to break up Stamford Park's attacks and clear the ball effectively under pressure.



Staff of the Week

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



Mrs Hughes

Mrs Hughes creates fun yet challenging PE lessons and provides a positive, supportive environment where pupils feel encouraged. She also keeps our whole school safe as our Designated Safeguarding Lead - thank you!



Mrs Fan

Mrs Fan is fun, caring and patient, and is always there to help us. She is supportive of everyone she helps and makes us feel happy.
She is also a wonderful pianist and plays the piano in all our assemblies - thank you!


Wreath
Making
Everyone welcome! Bring your friends for a festive evening of wreath making.
Open to BPS families, friends and the wider community.
27th November
6:30pm arrival for 7pm start
Sports Hall at BPS
Cost: £50 | Pay on Parent Pay
All proceeds go back into the school towards the playground project.
Come and enjoy a festive evening!
Bloom & Gorgeous
FLORIST



BOWDON PREP SCHOOL

BELIEVE
PERSEVERE
SUCCEED

ASHLEY RD, ALTRINCHAM, WA14 2LT