

17/07/26



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents/carers,

As we come to the end of year 14 since the school opened we say a sad goodbye to 2 of our founder members of staff - Mrs Smith in the kitchen who is relocating back to her home in Nottingham and to Mrs Thomas in nursery who is retiring - we can't thank them enough for everything they have done for the our school over the 14 years and wish them every success in their new ventures!

Today we also say goodbye to some other staff members who move on to pastures new, Mr Budge, Mrs Singh, Miss Ashmore, Mrs Brennan-Smith, Miss Brown, Mrs Caulfield, Miss Harris and Miss Akhter! As well, we wish a temporary goodbye to Miss Dix who starts her maternity leave! We also say goodbye to Aria and Arjun in Year 1, Noah in Year 2, Willah in Year 3, and Penelope, Owen, Austin and Ore in Year 4 as they move on to new schools. Finally we wish our year 6 leavers the very best in their new schools - they have been such an amazing cohort of children and we are going to miss them so much!

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing the children in September!

Mrs Burgess
Headteacher



LETTERS HOME

Lyra Welcome - Select

Pegasus Welcome - Select

UPCOMING DIARY DATES

19th July - Choir River Festival Performance -
Please come and see us!

3rd September - BACK TO SCHOOL - YEARS 1-6

We are delighted with our SATS results yesterday which saw us above national average in all subjects again!

Well done to all the children and staff for their hard work!

Reading 76% National 75%
Maths 76% National 75%
Writing 78% National 73%
GPS 80% National 74%
Combined 67% National 63%



Thank you for supporting our breakfast and after school clubs, we always have a great time getting creative! We look forward to seeing you in the new school year! Mrs Donnelly & team :)



OPERATION ENCOMPASS
In every force. In every school. For every child.



Bedfordshire Police
Compassionate | Courageous | Inclusive | Professional | Proud

Year 5

YEAR GROUP UPDATE

Just like that, we are at the end of year 5! We have completed another exciting project—and what an incredible journey it has been!

Throughout the last term, we travelled back in time to explore the fascinating world of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Our stunning start saw us welcome John the Viking Man into school, where the children spent the day handling Viking weapons, discovering fascinating facts about Viking life, and being introduced to the exciting world of SAGAs, which became a key thread throughout our learning. We also revealed our key text for the project, *Riddle of the Runes* by Janina Ramirez, which has inspired our reading and writing throughout the term.

Throughout the project, we explored the concepts of power, settlement, legacy, and change as we reflected on the lasting impact the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings had on England. During our marvellous middle, the children transitioned from learning about the Anglo-Saxons to discovering the Vikings by decoding ancient runes and taking part in a range of hands-on activities. They created beautiful Viking long ship line drawings, made delicious Viking stew, and investigated the question: Did Vikings only raid England, or did they change it forever?

In geography, the children developed their map skills by using six-figure grid references to plot Viking raids and settlements. They also located important rivers and coastlines, helping them understand why the Vikings chose particular places to settle and how geography influenced their journeys across Britain.

All of our wonderful learning built towards our fantastic fab finish. Families were invited to step into our very own Viking camp, where the hall was transformed for the occasion. The children proudly performed the SAGAs they had written across all four blocks of the project, each sharing their story in a unique and creative way. To round off the celebration, they performed a lively Viking song, showcasing not only everything they had learned but also the confidence, creativity and teamwork they have developed throughout this memorable project.

Mr Price, Miss Turnbull and Miss Gamby



Year 6

YEAR GROUP UPDATE

What a superb year we have had, starting with a trip to Hilltop and Paxton Lakes, we've travelled back in time with the Ancient Greeks and finally learnt lessons in crime and punishment with a trip to the Tower of London, a stop off at SATs and Legoland along the way!

Our final project of the year saw us finding out all about the state of Texas and its culture. This led us to question what crime and punishment was like during the past compared to the present day. We continued reading Holes ending on our Fab Finish at the Royal Courts of Great Denham where Mr Sir was found well and truly guilty!

Finally, we completed our year with an amazing Leavers' Assembly where the children sang their hearts out and reminisced on their time at Great Denham Primary School and concluded with a party to end all parties!

We have had the most amazing time with the children and wish them all the very best as they move on to their secondary schools. We hope that they will always remember and cherish their time here at Great Denham Primary School as we will remember and cherish our memories of them. Boys and girls – it's been a blast!

Finally, we wish you all a fantastic summer and send a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for your continuing support – we couldn't have done this without you!

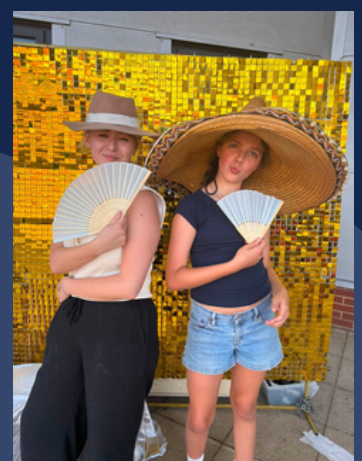
Year 6, over and out!

The Year 6 Team





Year 6 Leavers' Party





READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading Challenge 2026

THE
READING
AGENCY

UNIVERSAL
UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP
UNITED KINGDOM

Join the **Summer Reading Challenge 2026** at Bedford Borough Libraries and earn stickers and rewards for reading books over the summer.

Saturday 11th July to Saturday 5th September 2026

Visit your library this holiday and enjoy free crafts and activities for children every day during staffed hours.

www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries

Illustrations © Harry Woodgate 2026. Read to the Beat © The Reading Agency 2026

Culture & Heritage
Bedford

BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



GO
ALL
IN.

National
Year of
Reading
2026

Funded by
UK Government

SUMMER Family Fun Activities

At Bunyan Meeting Church
Mill Street,
Bedford MK40 3EU

Tuesday 4th & 11th August 2026

10:00am-12:00pm

Crafts

Fun



Games



For Primary age children (*accompanied by an adult*)



Drop in between 10:00am and 11:30am.
Register in the church foyer coffee shop.

01234 213722

bunyanmeeting@gmail.com
www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk

In conjunction with

Impact
Supporting Schools, Exploring Christianity

SUMMER CRAFTY THURSDAYS 2026

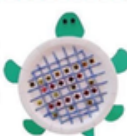
£2
per child



Join us every Thursday in August from 11am to 3pm for drop in Arts and Crafts. £2 for every participating child. Suitable for age 4+.
Last entry 2:30pm.

6th August

Under the Sea



13th August

Clay Week!



20th August

Tube Art



27th August

Animal Magic



Howard 300: Celebrating the Pioneering Prison Reformer. Visit our free summer exhibition from the 6th August to the 5th September.

For more information visit our website:
www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk/museum





GREAT DENHAM VILLAGE FETE

30TH AUGUST
12pm - 7pm

BAR, FOOD TRUCKS	MUSIC, SPORTS, GAMES, BOUNCY CASTLE, CAR SHOW, DOG SHOW AND MORE!	FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
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ORGANISED BY GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMPS

GET SET FOR ULTIMATE SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN!

Exceptional activity camps for children aged 4.5 to 14 at
Bedford Modern School, Bedford

[ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK](http://ultimateactivity.co.uk)

SEE ONLINE FOR LATEST OFFERS



SCHOOLS OUT FOR SUMMER

KIDS DISCO

AT GREAT DENHAM COMMUNITY HALL

FRIDAY 17TH JULY

6PM - 8.30PM

NOW... GOING INTO SUMMER HOLS WITH A BANG!

LET'S CELEBRATE THE START OF SUMMER AND KICK OFF THE HOLIDAYS IN STYLE!

THE GREAT SWAN POP UP PUB
OPEN FOR PARENTS & CARERS DURING THE DISCO!

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT • ALL CHILDREN REMAIN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THEIR PARENT/CARER

The Wixamtree Trust

Supporting the communities and people of Bedfordshire



Multi-Sport Holiday Camps!

Free multi-sport summer camps delivered by Cricket East supported by The Wixamtree Trust. Aimed at 8-13 year olds boys and girls.

20 - 22 JULY



Stockwood Park Academy, Luton, LU1 5PP



9am - 3pm

27 - 29 JULY



Challney Boys School, Luton, LU4 9TJ



9am - 3pm

24 - 26 AUGUST



Allen Park, Bedford, MK40 4LY



9am - 3pm

For more information please contact Brad Matthews:
Brad.Matthews@cricketeast.co.uk

Sign up today via the QR
code - scan or click it!



Splash & Swim

SUMMER HOLIDAY

Crash Courses



Week 1: 27th-31st July - 4pm 4.30pm or 5pm

Week 2: 10th-14th August - 4pm 4.30pm or 5pm

Location: Pilgrims Pre-Preparatory School

Price: £12.80 per session or £60.80 for week

All ages and Abilities

Limited Spaces Available

Book Now



www.splashandswimltd.co.uk



Free Parent Information Sessions/Workshops

- ✓ Managing stress & overwhelm
- ✓ Understanding children's behaviour
- ✓ Building calmer family routines
- ✓ Support from experienced facilitators



SCAN TO REGISTER
IN 30 SECONDS



Early Help workshops are FREE (fees may apply to others)

Online / Local sessions available

"Right support Right action Right time"



SUPER SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT THE HIGGINS BEDFORD



LEGO® Build & Talk

Tuesday 21 July, 11am-4pm,
Free, Drop in, Suitable for ages 6-9

This free drop-in event features four mini activities for children and their carers to collaborate and create using LEGO bricks. LEGO® Build & Talk events help families spark playful conversations around gaming and wellbeing. No booking required but, if the room is busy please wait a short time until there is space.



Medieval Castle Craft

with Atiya Vohra
Wednesday 22 July,
Free Drop-In Session from 12-3pm,
suitable for 5-12 years

As part of the annual Council for British Archaeology Festival, we are hosting a free crafting session inspired by the medieval kiln display and our proximity to the former Bedford Castle. Have a go at creating a heraldic shield design, make your own small clay pot, brass rubbing or calligraphy to produce your own illuminated letter in a medieval style.



Tiny Gardens

with The Goodlife Garden
Thursday 23 July, £6.05 per child,
suitable for ages 5-12

Workshops 11.15am-12.15pm, 12.45-1.45pm and 2.15-3.15pm
Create a tiny garden to take home, perfect for fairies and elves to live in.

Archaeology Detectives Part 2

with Helen Ohlsson
Tuesday 28 July, £3.90 per child,
suitable for ages 5-12

Workshops 11.15am-12.15pm, 12.45-1.45pm and 2.15-3.15pm

After the success of our first Archaeology Detectives, we have added more hands-on activities whilst retaining the pot reconstruction and the excavation pit.



Felt Portraits

with Anne-Marie Abbate
Wednesday 29 July, £6.05 per child,
suitable for ages 5-12

Workshops 11.15am-12.15pm, 12.45-1.45pm and 2.15-3.15pm

Have great fun watching wool turn into felt. Create a self-portrait using the wet felting process.



Pressing & Printing

with Katie Allen
Thursday 30 July, £6.05 per child,
suitable for ages 5-12

Workshops 12.45-1.45 pm and 2.15-3.15pm
Have a go at plasticine printing. Be guided by artist Katie Allen to press plasticine into a range of textured surfaces like shells, leaves, Lego bricks and then make a series of prints.



Meet the Egyptians

with Helen Ohlsson
Tuesday 4 August, £3.90 per child,
suitable for ages 7-12

Workshops 11.15am-12.15pm, 12.45-1.45 pm and 2.15-3.15pm
Find out facts about the Egyptians, their Gods and the pyramids. Make a sarcophagus for a mummy plus lots of other Egyptian inspired craft.

Drop-In Craft Session with Atiya Vohra,

Higgins staff and volunteers
Tuesday 4 August, Free, 2-4pm,
all ages welcome
Make your own Victorian toy or create some bug inspired craft!



Rocket launch

with Little Science Labs
Wednesday 5 August, £6.05 per child,
suitable for ages 5-12

Workshops 11.15am-12.15pm, 12.45-1.45 pm and 2.15-3.15pm
Inspired by the Artemis Rocket voyage? Why not create your own rocket with the help of Little Science Labs? You will design your own craft whilst receiving lots of advice about how to optimise your rocket's flight performance and then launch it and see how high it flies.



Covent Garden Circus Skills

Thursday 6 August, £6.05 per child,
suitable for ages 5-12

Workshops 11.15am-12.15pm, 12.45-1.45 pm and 2.15-3.15pm
Session leader, Tabatha is a former Covent Garden Street Performer with over 25 years experience in the performance and entertainment industry. She invites all the family to try their hand at a variety of circus skills and have lots of fun along the way!



Puggle Club

Friday 7 August, Free,
drop in, 10.30am-12 or
1-2.30pm at The Higgins

Wednesday 26 August 11.30am-1.30pm
at Bedford Central Library

Puggle Club is the perfect chance to get creative, have fun, and socialise offering free art & craft activities, stories and sensory play for children aged 2-5 years with their parents and carers. Pop in between 10.30am-12 or 1-2.30pm. Siblings are welcome to attend. No booking required but, if the room is busy please wait a short time, until there is space.



Teaching Talons

Tuesday 11 August, £6.05 per child,
suitable for ages 5-12

Workshops 11.30am-12.30pm,
1-2 pm and 2.15-3.15pm

Enjoy meeting the awesome animal ambassadors of Teaching Talons.



Stone Age Session

with Helen Ohlsson
Tuesday 11 August, £3.90 per child,
suitable for ages 7-12

Workshops 11.15am-12.15pm, 12.45-1.45pm and 2.15-3.15pm

There was more to the stone age than just stone! Explore Prehistory through hands on activities relating to the archaeology of the time. Create your own cave art, try your hand at flint axe making or grinding wheat to make flour.



Shaving Foam Marble Cards

with Lisa Tilley
Wednesday 12 August, £6.05 per child,
suitable for ages 5-12

Workshops 12.45-1.45 pm and 2.15-3.15pm
Come and have a go at paper marbling and make your own marbled cards. This technique is even more fun in that we use shaving foam instead of oil and is suitable for all. Younger children will need support from their adult.



Clay Keepsake Holders

with Anne-Marie Abbate
Thursday 13 August,
£6.05 per child,
suitable for ages 5-12

Workshops 11.15am-12.15pm, 12.45-1.45 pm and 2.15-3.15pm
Construct a three-dimensional clay niche to display all your favourite and precious keepsake items. Add imprints and patterns to make your niche truly unique.



Dino Planters

with The Goodlife Garden
Tuesday 18 August, £3.90 per child,
suitable for ages 5-12

Workshops 10-11am and 11.30-12.30pm
Using recycled materials, make your own Dino plant pal for your windowsill where you can watch your plant grow, plant included.



Fire Tiles with Little Science Labs

Wednesday 19 August, £6.05 per child,
suitable for ages 5-12

Workshops 11.15am-12.15pm, 12.45-1.45pm and 2.15-3.15pm
Create your own beautiful tile using the magic of flammable inks. Children will learn about the fire triangle as well as how to light a fire safely in this unique and exciting fire workshop.

Storytelling in the Gallery with Belinda

Sunday 30 August, Free, 2.30pm,
suitable for ages up to 7

All workshops last an hour.
All children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking is essential unless stated otherwise. Adults do not need to book a place.

To book a place for children on all holiday activities, visit the website

at www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk/Book_Online, call the Box Office on 01234 718044 (open Wednesday - Saturday, 10am-4pm) or scan this QR code. Please use the promotional code HIGGINS30 to avoid paying a transaction fee.

If a booked place is no longer required for any of our workshops, please let us know so that it can be made available to another family.

SCAN ME



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UK Government

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