The Great Oak CE Learning Federation

Autumn Term
2026
Friday 16th October

Betley CE Primary School

'With Wisdom, Respect and Love we Flourish and Shine'

Our Vision

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*(Matthew 5:14-16)*

Our Harvest Service

On Tuesday, our school community came together in church for our Harvest Service, the first service of this academic year. It was a truly special and heartwarming occasion to see all of our children, from Nursery through to Year 6, coming together and taking part.
Harvest is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that we are thankful for, and this service was a beautiful reminder of the love, kindness and care that our children show towards one another every day. The way they support, encourage and look after each other is something incredibly special and precious, and we feel so proud to see these values shining through in our school family.
We were also delighted to welcome another amazing turnout of families, including so many new faces. Thank you to everyone who joined us to support the children and share in this special moment. Your presence means so much to us and helps to make our school community such a warm, welcoming and caring place to belong.
We left the service feeling incredibly proud and grateful, reminded of the importance of coming together, caring for one another and celebrating the many blessings in our lives.
Thank you to all the children and families who made our first service of the year so memorable.

Parental Meetings

A reminder that bookings for our parental meetings will go live on Monday at 8:00am. Appointments to meet with your child's class teacher will be booked through the Compass app.
If you are new to Compass or are unsure how to book an appointment, please use the helpful guide linked below, which will talk you through the process.

How to use Compass

We look forward to meeting with you and sharing your child's progress!



Star of the Week	
Marvellous Minibeasts	Seren & Dougie
Fabulous Flamingos	Alfie & Harvey
Perfect Penguins	Ava & Louis
Cheeky Chimps	Jamie & Bertie

Christian Value Certificate	
Marvellous Minibeasts	Jacob
Fabulous Flamingos	Angus
Perfect Penguins	Eli
Cheeky Chimps	Cosmo

Attendance	
Marvellous Minibeasts	91%
Fabulous Flamingos	97%
Perfect Penguins	90%
Cheeky Chimps	96%

Achievements outside of school

If your child takes part in an activity whether it be sports, helping animals or volunteering and you would like to celebrate this, please email me on: office@betley.staffs.sch.uk Well done to all of the children below for their achievements outside of school:

Cricket: Louis, Pippa, Charlie and Harry

Riding: Amelia

Maths Stars of the Week!

It is wonderful to see so many children engaging with NumBots and Times Tables Rock Stars at home and developing their maths skills!

A huge well done to Louis and Sophie, who are our Star Students this week! We are so proud of your hard work and dedication.

Keep practising, everyone and let's see who will be our stars next week!

Key Stage 2 children will be performing "Mr Humbug Sees the Light"

We are delighted to announce that our Key Stage 2 children will be performing "Mr Humbug Sees the Light" at St Margaret's Church on Thursday 17th December 2026.

This super-spooky musical puts a fun, school-themed twist on Dickens' A Christmas Carol! When Headteacher Mr Humbug bans Christmas, some ghostly visitors arrive to help him discover the true meaning of the festive season.

All children in Key Stage 2 will have the opportunity to take part if they wish.

Rehearsals will begin week commencing 2nd November. Children will need to attend after-school rehearsals on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 4:30pm. We will also run a Thursday lunchtime club to learn and practise the songs.

A sign-up form will be sent out next week for parents and carers to register their children for the production.

🗓️ Performance date: Thursday 17th December 2026

📍 Venue: St Margaret's Church

⏰ Performance times: 1:30pm and 5:00pm

We are so excited to bring this festive production to life with the children and look forward to sharing a very special Christmas performance with our families!

Royal Legion Appeal

In school we always support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Mrs Cooper is selling in the office the following:

Snap band £1.50

Stick on poppies 50p

Reflective poppy 50p

Pencil 50p

Bracelets £1



British Values

British Values Focus – Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Next week, our British Values focus will be Mutual Respect and Tolerance. We will explore the inspiring story of 11-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan, who became the youngest person ever to earn the Woman Grandmaster title in chess. Her achievement will encourage the children to think about how people of every age have talents, ideas and something valuable to contribute.







FOBS – Making a Difference Together!

🎬🍿 MOVIE NIGHT 🍿🎬

We are excited to invite children from Reception to Year 6 to join us for a fun-filled Movie Night on Thursday 22nd October 2026! 🎥

📅 Date: Thursday 22nd October 2026

⏰ Time: 3:25pm – 5:00pm (straight after school)

📍 Location: Betley Primary School

💷 Cost: £5 per child

🍿 What's included?

Every child will receive a delicious hotdog 🌭 and a drink 🥤 to enjoy while watching the movie!

🎟️ How to book:

Payment of £5 must be made in cash to the school office, where you will receive your child's ticket.

⚠️ Important: Tickets must be purchased by Monday 19th October 2026. Please ensure payment is made before this deadline.

🔥 Can you lend a hand at Betley Bonfire? 🔥

We would be very grateful for any volunteers who can help make this year's bonfire a success, especially on Saturday 7th November!

🦺 Saturday 7th November: Help on the gate, with traffic management or general stewarding, whatever suits you best!

🧹 Sunday 8th November: Help with the clean-up after the event.

On Saturday, volunteers are needed between 2:30pm and 10:00pm. You don't need to commit to the full shift; any time you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

If we have volunteers representing our school, we can apply for funding from the event to support our children, subject to the bonfire's success. Your help could make a real difference!

If you can help, please let me know or register your details here:

Volunteer for Betley Bonfire

Makaton sign of the Week



Each week we'll be sharing a new Makaton sign that the children are learning in school. Please ask your child to show you the sign—they'll love teaching you what they've learned! What is Makaton? Makaton is a way of communicating that uses simple signs and symbols alongside speech. It helps children (and adults) to understand and express themselves, especially if they find language tricky. You may have seen Makaton being used on TV, in hospitals, or in other schools—it helps make communication more inclusive for everyone. By learning Makaton together, we're giving all our children an extra tool to support understanding, confidence, and inclusion. This week it is the word: Blue

Betley CofE (VC) Primary School - Colour

Class Dojo Task

This week's Dojo challenge celebrates Black History Month.

Create a picture of an inspirational Black person from history or today. You could choose someone who has made a difference in science, sport, music, art, literature or everyday life. Add a few words to explain why you chose them.

You can bring your work into school or upload a photo to Dojo. We can't wait to learn about the amazing people you have chosen!

Return by Friday 23rd October for 10 Dojos.

4th	1st
3rd	2nd

Monday 19th October 2026	Thursday 22nd October 2026	Friday 23rd October 2026
Parental Meetings go live on Compass	Movie night 3:25-5pm Rec – Year 6	Rockstar Day!

Musician of the month

Our song for next week is:



- Nina Simone was an American singer and pianist. Her birth name was Eunice Kathleen Waymon.
- She began playing the piano when she was just three years old! She could listen to a tune and work out how to play it.
- Nina Simone recorded *Love Me or Leave Me* in December 1957, and it appeared on her album *Little Girl Blue* (1958/1959). Written by Walter Donaldson, who composed the music, and Gus Kahn, who wrote the lyrics, the song is a jazz standard that combines elements of jazz, swing and classical music.
- Simone's version stands out for her expressive, confident and distinctive vocal style, alongside an impressive piano solo that blends classical technique with jazz improvisation. She transforms the familiar song into a showcase for her extraordinary piano skills and musical originality, demonstrating her ability to blend different genres and create a sound uniquely her own.

Our School Prayer

Let our school be full of love and respect for one another,
Let us have the wisdom to understand our place and flourish as part of God's creation
But the courage to make the world a better place
With the help of your love may we shine
Amen

The Lord came and stood there,
and called as he had before,
"Samuel! Samuel!"
Samuel answered, "Speak; your
servant is listening."

1 Samuel 3: 10



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us different gifts and abilities.

Help us to listen to others, use our gifts wisely, and have the courage to make a difference.

May we encourage one another and make sure everyone has a chance to be heard.

Amen.

We will link this to the Bible story of Samuel, who was still young when God called him. In 1 Samuel 3:10, Samuel responds, "Speak; your servant is listening." The story reminds us that being young does not stop someone from using their gifts, being listened to or making a difference. We will encourage our children to respect and value people of all ages and recognise that we can all learn from one another.

Snacks

Children order snacks on a Monday for the week. If your child is absent on Monday they will be able to order on their return to school.

Snacks	
Toast	38p
Toast with Jam	44p
Toast with Cheese	49p
Bagel	38p
Crumpet	38p
Toasted Teacake	49p
Pancakes	49p
Flavoured Milkshakes	82p

Lunches

To go alongside the daily menu below, there is also Hot Tomato Pasta, Jacket Potatoes with Baked Beans/Cheese and a variety of sandwiches every day.

Lunches are £3.25 per day
Monday: Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges
Veg option: Rainbow Vegetable Chow Mein
Tuesday: Creamy Herby Chicken Pasta
Veg option: Garden Sausage with Mash & Gravy
Wednesday: Roast Chicken with Stuffing, Roasties & Gravy
Veg option: Sage & Onion Whirl with Roasties & Gravy
Thursday: Texas Beef Chilli Burrito with Crunchy Slaw
Veg option: Mac & Cheese
Friday: Crispy Battered Fish & Chips
Veg option: Cheesy Bean Whirl with Chips

Parents' Ultimate Guide to Smart Devices

Are smart speakers OK for kids? Should you buy smart home technology? What are the benefits of smart devices and what are the privacy and security risks?

More than six in 10 parents say their young kids interact with voice-activated assistants. Are you one of them? If you're **weighing the pros and cons** of products such as smart watches, smart speakers, and even smartphones that track pretty much everything you do, read this guide that tells you everything you need to know about smart stuff for families.



This guide tells you all about smart devices -- what they are, **what they can do for you and your family**, **how to use them as safely as possible**, and how to protect your family's privacy in a world increasingly powered by data.

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-smart-devices



Important Dates

Monday 19th October 2026	Parental Meetings go live on Compass
Thursday 22nd October 2026	Movie Night 3:25pm – 5pm (Reception – Year 6)
Friday 23rd October 2026	Times Table Rock Star Day School closes for Half Term
Wednesday 4th November 2026	Individuals, family and siblings photographs
Friday 6th November 2026	Non-uniform day – donations of a bottle or a bar please (Christmas Fayre)
Monday 9th November 2026	Parental Meetings
Tuesday 10th November 2026	Parental Meetings
Friday 13th November 2026	Non-uniform day – donations of a colourful item please for the Christmas hamper Marvellous Minibeasts - red Fabulous Flamingos - green Perfect Penguins - silver Cheek Chimps- gold
Saturday 28th November 2026	Christmas Fayre 11-1pm Village Hall
Tuesday 1st December 2026	Christmas Tree Service 2pm St Margaret's Church (All parents are invited)
Sunday 6th December 2026	Christingle 4pm
Thursday 10th December 2026	EYFS/KS1 Nativity 1.30pm and 5pm
Thursday 17th December 2026	Key Stage 2 Drama Club Nativity 1.30pm and 5pm
Friday 18th December 2026	School closes for Christmas
Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January 2027	INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 5th January 2027	School opens
Wednesday 20th January 2027	Cheeky Chimps' Class Assembly and SATs information 9:15am and Cake Sale
Wednesday 20th January 2027	Whole school water safety assembly 1pm
Thursday 28th January 2027	Young Voices
Friday 29th January 2027	Half Termly Reports
Wednesday 3rd February 2027	Perfect Penguins' Class Assembly 9:15am and Cake Sale (Also meeting regarding MTC)
Thursday 4th February 2027	'Zoo 2 U' visiting Class 1 & Class 2 in school
Friday 5th February 2027	Timetables Rockstar Day
Friday 12th February 2027	School Closes for Half Term

Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027	Half Term
Monday 22nd February 2027	INSET (school closed)
Tuesday 23rd February 2027	School Opens
Thursday 4th March 2027	World Book Day Celebrations
Friday 5th March 2027	Reports out
Monday 8th March 2027	Parental Meeting go live on Compass
Tuesday 9th March 2027	Fabulous Flamingos' Class Assembly 9:15am and Cake Sale (Also meeting Phonics Screening)
Thursday 11th March 2027	Class 2 – Eureka Museum Trip
Wednesday 17th March 2027	Class 4 – Tatton Park Trip
Friday 19th March 2027	Odd Sock Day – no donation needed. World Down Syndrome Day 'End the stereotypes'
Monday 1st March & Wednesday 3rd March 2027	Parental Meetings (invites sent out via compass)
Thursday 25th March 2027	School closes for Easter Holidays
Friday 26th March – Sunday 11th April 2027	School closed for Easter holidays
Monday 12th April 2027	School opens
Wednesday 21st April 2027	Class 2 – Fire Safety Visit in School
Thursday 22nd April 2027	M&M theatre productions in school
Wednesday 28th April 2027	Marvellous Minibeasts' Class Assembly 9:15am and Cake Sale
Friday 30th April 2027	Photos - Y6 Leavers & Classes
Wednesday 5th May 2027	Class 1 – Wonderland Trip
Monday 10th May 2027	SATS week
Monday 17th May 2027	Cheeky Chimps- Keele Observatory 1:30pm- 3pm
Wednesday 26th May 2027	Sports Day 1:15pm
Monday 7th June 2027	INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 8th June 2027	School Opens
Wednesday 9th June 2027	Reserve Sports Day 1:15pm
Friday 11th June 2027	Non-uniform Day for Summer Fayre
Monday 14th June 2027 – Thursday 17th June 2027	Residential for Key Stage 2

Thursday 1st July 2027	Musical Celebration 2pm (All parents are welcome)
Thursday 8th July 2027	Prom and Disco 6-8pm
Wednesday 14th July 2027	1.30pm and 5:30pm Year 6 Leavers Play
Friday 16th July 2027	Reports out
Tuesday 20th July 2027	Leavers' Assembly 9:15am
Tuesday 20th July 2027	School closes for Summer Holidays
Wednesday 21st July 2027	INSET Day (School closed to pupils)