The Great Oak CE Learning Federation

Autumn Term
2026
Friday 23rd 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)*

End Of Term

Well, that brings us to the end of our first term, and what a busy and wonderful term it has been!

Thank you for all your support throughout the term and for helping us settle the children back into school routines. It has been lovely to see the children grow in confidence and get back into the swing of school life.

As we look ahead to next term, things are certainly going to get busy! As always, if you have any questions, worries or concerns, please do get in touch. We truly value working in partnership with our families, and by keeping communication open, we can work together to find solutions and ensure the very best for our children.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to the parents who have so kindly donated books, a new football goal and a range of sporting equipment this term. These generous donations are greatly appreciated and will make a real difference to the children's learning, play and enjoyment at school. Thank you for thinking of us and helping to enrich the opportunities we can offer our children.

We hope you all have a lovely, restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term!

After School Collection

Just a little reminder.

If your child needs to attend Roosters after school, please could you book directly with Roosters, as we are unable to confirm their availability or check their staffing ratios.

Please also ensure that all Roosters registration forms have been completed before your child attends, as they will be unable to access the provision without these in place.

For our own after-school clubs, all children must be signed up at the start of each term. Unfortunately, we are unable to add children to clubs on the day, as we need to ensure that we are meeting the required staffing ratios and keeping all children safe.

Thank you so much for your understanding and cooperation. We really appreciate your support in helping us to ensure that all our children are safe and well cared for.



Star of the Week	
Marvellous Minibeasts	Juniper & Olivia
Fabulous Flamingos	Riley & Harvey
Perfect Penguins	Grayson & Miles
Cheeky Chimps	Alfie, Amelie, Tessa & Marloe

Christian Value Certificate	
Marvellous Minibeasts	Jayin
Fabulous Flamingos	Sophie
Perfect Penguins	Tabby
Cheeky Chimps	Jack

Attendance	
Marvellous Minibeasts	96%
Fabulous Flamingos	94%
Perfect Penguins	99%
Cheeky Chimps	95%

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

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 Phoebe, Sophie, Tabby and Cosmo 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

This week, our British Values discussion focuses on Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance.

Children will be exploring the news that nine new emoji characters have been approved, including a pickle, lighthouse and monarch butterfly. We will consider how emojis allow people to express their thoughts, feelings and personalities, as well as how a wider range of emojis can help different people and experiences feel represented.

At home, you could continue the conversation by asking: If your family could create a brand-new emoji, what would it show? You could also talk about the different ways we communicate without

using words.
These discussions help our children make meaningful links between our British Values, Christian values and the world around them.



🔥 **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

Moses and the Burning Bush

In the Bible story, God spoke to Moses through a bush that was burning but did not burn away! Moses listened carefully and took off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground.

Your task: Draw, paint or make a collage of Moses and the burning bush.

Add a sentence or some labels explaining what happened in the story.

Think about: Moses showed respect by listening. How can you show respect when someone is speaking?

We look forward to seeing your thoughtful work!

Please return to school to Friday 6th November.

1st	3rd
2nd	4th

Monday 2nd November 2026	**Wednesday 4th November 2026**	**Friday 6th November 2026**
Reception and Year 6 - Height & Weight Checks	Individuals, family and siblings photographs	Non-uniform day – donations of a bottle or a bar please (Christmas Fayre)

Musician of the month



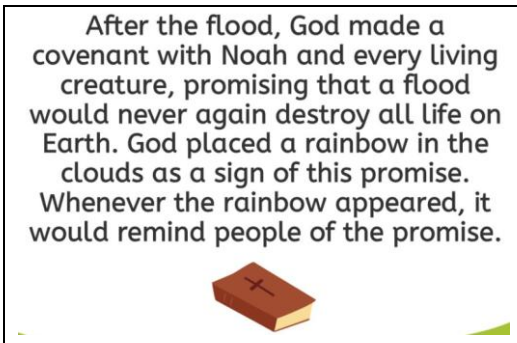
This month, we are learning about the incredibly talented Sir Elton John, a famous British singer, pianist and composer! Born Reginald Kenneth Dwight on 25th March 1947, Elton John grew up in Middlesex, England, and discovered a love of music from a young age. He is well known for his amazing piano skills, distinctive voice and colourful, flamboyant stage costumes. Elton John has enjoyed a music career spanning over six decades and has become one of the most successful musicians in the world. He is famous for hit songs such as *Rocket Man*, *Your Song*, *I'm Still Standing* and *Candle in the Wind*. He worked closely with lyricist Bernie Taupin, who wrote the words to many of his songs, while Elton composed the music. Together, they created one of the most successful songwriting partnerships in music history! Throughout this month, we will explore Elton John's music, listen carefully to his songs and discover how he uses his voice, piano and musical expression to entertain audiences around the world.

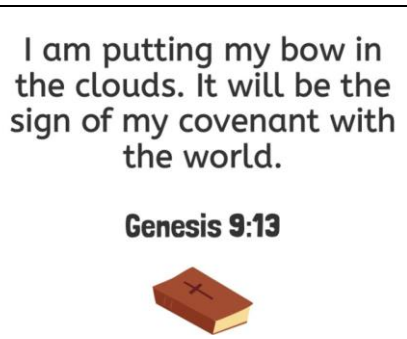
Our song for next week is:

Mass in D for soloists, chorus, orchestra and organ: Kyrie

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





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: Fajita Pizza with Purple Slaw
Veg option: Fiesta Beany Burrito with Rice
Tuesday: Penne with Beef Bolognese
Veg option: Creamy Cauli & Chickpea Curry with Rice
Wednesday: Classic Toad in the Hole with Roasties & Gravy
Veg option: Twisted Toad in the Hole with Roasties & Gravy
Thursday: BBQ Chicken Melt with Sunshine Rice
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 increasingly powered world by data.



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

Important Dates	
Monday 2nd November 2026	Reception & Year 6 Height & Weight Checks
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 MM, FF, CC
Tuesday 10th November 2026	Parental Meetings – all classes
Wednesday 11th November 2026	Parental Meetings – PP only
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
Wednesday 10th February 2027	Class 2 – Stafford Castle trip
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
Friday 28th May 2027	School closes for Half Term
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)