

BISHOP RIDLEY



Issue #1 | 11th September 2026



Messages from Mr Keep

A warm welcome back to everyone, particularly those families joining our school for the first time. We hope that your children make many happy memories during their time with us and we look forward to supporting them with their learning in the years to come. We always want to encourage open communication, so if you experience any problems or have any questions, please come and speak to your child's class teacher at the end of the school day, or to Mr Catchpole, Mrs Coles or me on the front playground.

We are delighted to announce that we are now officially part of the Aquinas Church of England Education Trust. We are very much looking forward to working alongside the other academies within the Trust, embracing the opportunities to collaborate, share best practice and learn from one another. In the coming weeks, you may notice that some of the signage around the school will begin to be updated but, as we discussed during the consultation process, our school will retain its name and individual identity. At the heart of everything we do is our vision of being **'One Community, Learning and Growing Together, Sharing the Love of God'**, and we look forward to continuing to live out this vision as part of the Aquinas family, while celebrating all that makes our school such a special community.

Another exciting development this year has been the launch of The Nest, our Special Educational Needs Inclusion Base. Miss Donaghey and her team within The Nest have been working hard over the summer and during this first week to set up the room and have enjoyed meeting their first intake of children and their families this week. Our thanks to Miss Donaghey, Mrs Singh, Mrs Elahi and Miss Cook for all their hard work.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend,

Stuart Keep

Headteacher

Upcoming Events

- 14th September - Bible Club begins
- 15th September - Elm class swimming begins
- 21st September - NSPCC PANTS week
- 24th September - Year 6 TFL Workshop
- 25th September - National TA Day
- 25th September - European Day of Languages



Birthdays

As a school, we are committed to promoting healthy choices and supporting the wellbeing of all pupils. For this reason, we ask families not to send food-based treats into school for birthdays. This also helps us manage allergies, dietary requirements and fairness for all children. We would also ask that party bags or small gifts are not sent in for children to hand out at the end of the day, as staff are not able to support with distributing these while children are lining up or being dismissed.

If your child would like to mark their birthday in school, you may instead wish to donate a book to the library or wet-play game for their class to enjoy.

Thank you for helping us to keep birthday celebrations healthy, inclusive and manageable for everyone.



Volunteer Readers

We are delighted that so many of our previous volunteer readers have returned to the school this year and some have already started reading with classes!

If you are able to give up some time on a regular basis to hear children read, please see Mr Catchpole. We are particularly looking for people to read in Reception and Key Stage 1. All volunteers will need to undertake safeguarding training and be subject to a DBS check before starting in school. We would be so grateful for your support.

'Being a Parent' Course

Bexley Moorings are delivering a free 8-week course on empowering parents. They plan to cover topics including being a parent, feelings, valuing children, play, listening, understanding children's behaviour and discipline.

For more information about the course, or to reserve your place, please email jayne@bexleymoornings.co.uk, call Bexley Moorings on 0208 304 9609 or scan the QR code below.



Bexley Voice – EBSA

Bexley Voice are hosting an online session about Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) on Wednesday 16th September from 1pm until 2:30pm. This will be an informative session focused on EBSA and Bexley's current approach.

Bexley Voice will be joined by Tamsin Cox, Bexley's Principal Educational Psychologist, and Hollie Danby, a Senior Educational Psychologist. They will provide an update on local practice and introduce the new EBSA parent toolkit, offering valuable guidance for families. Please be aware that the session is designed to share information and updates, rather than to provide individual support; however, there will be an opportunity to ask questions during the Q&A section. Advanced booking is required as the session will take place on Microsoft Teams. To book your place, visit the Bexley Voice website [here](#).

Bishop Ridley Church

Please be aware that the Falconwood Community Fun Day will be taking place on Saturday 26th September from 10am until 2pm, in the Falconwood Community Centre and grounds.

Come along for bouncy castles, face painting, games, arts and crafts and a tombola.

There will be a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses, and all proceeds from the raffle will be donated to Zarach, a charity working to end child-bed poverty in the UK by ensuring as many children as possible have a bed of their own to get a comfortable night's sleep and the chance to thrive. If you are able to donate any prizes to the raffle, please email

info@brchurch.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you there!



Attendance

100%

Attendance continues to be one of our top priorities as we continue through the year, and we are still aiming to meet our end of year target of 96%. For a child to have met this attendance percentage, they cannot afford to have more than 5 days off in the school year. Please support your child's education by ensuring that they only miss school if they are too unwell to attend.

For more information on this, visit the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Attendance League

Our whole school attendance this week was **97.7%**



Points

1st = Ash	12
1st = Cherry	12
1st = Redwood	12
1st = Willow	12
5th – Olive	8
6th – Maple	7
7th – Oak	6
8th – Elm	5
9th – Cedar	4
10th – Pine	3
11th – Hazel	2

Four classes had 100% attendance this week!

The class at the top of the Attendance League at the end of term will receive a movie and popcorn afternoon!



Let's celebrate!

Kindness

*The first Kindness Award of the year goes to Georgie in Year 5. Georgie always has a smile on her face and is polite and kind to everyone. She is the perfect embodiment of our Christian value of Friendship.
Well done, Georgie!*

Pupils of the Week

Hazel – Whole Class

Olive – Whole Class

Cherry – David

Willow – Nusaybah

Ash – Malachi

Maple – Rae

Pine – Wylan

Cedar – Yoga

Elm – Isabelle

Oak – Max

Redwood – Tyler-John

Blossom – Alara



Have a great weekend!



50 Reads

Each week, our amazing teaching assistants count up how many times a child has read at home and when a child has achieved 50 reads (this needs to be done on 50 different days!), they get to visit our Book Vending Machine to choose their very own book!

Congratulations to the following children who earned their 50 reads this week:

Year 2 – Ada, Lara, David, Ethan and Fatima

Year 6 – Evie and Ayaan

House Points

Normans

1

Romans

2

Saxons

0

Vikings

1

