



# THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

Bishopswood Infant & Junior School  
Barlows Road  
Tadley  
Hampshire  
RG26 3NA

Infant 0118 9812836  
Junior 0118 9812738

Executive Headteacher: Mr G Golding

## Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have once again reached the half-way point of the Spring Term. I wish you all a good half term break and look forward to welcoming you into school next half term to share with us the wide range of activities that we have planned.

### Curriculum

It's been a very busy term in school. Below is a flavour of what the children have been exploring over the past two week.

#### **Mrs Benjamin and Miss Creed say...**

This week year r have enjoyed getting messy in maths, exploring different ways to make the number 8 using paint and our fingers. On Monday we had lots of fun watching the pantomime, in our first session we learnt all the songs so that when we watched the show in the second session, we were able to join in for all the singing! We have been doing lots of handwriting practice using sand trays to write the letter o.



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#### **Miss Wright and Miss Lees say...**

Year 1 have learning all about how to keep our bodies healthy in Science and in Maths we have been practising our counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have been continuing our Kings and Queen learning by writing reports about Queen Elizabeth II and all about Castles. We had a great finish to this topic by having our Kings and Queens day. We all dressed up, made jam tarts, had a royal banquet and even had a bouncy castle!



#### **Mrs Hunter and Miss Okey say...**

Year 2 have been programing and making characters move using the program Scratch junior. We enjoyed linking this in with our space topic and creating a rocket race! We have also been thinking scientifically, learning about things that are alive, not alive and have never been alive. We really enjoyed an unusual exhibit show where we had to think about all the things and which category they went into. It was interesting to see the African land snails. The paper prompted lots of discussion as it definitely wasn't alive but was once on a living thing!



#### **Mr Dale and Miss Ralph say...**

We have had an amazing half term learning all about Ancient Egypt, finishing this week with our Egyptian Day! We made Egyptian masks and we had fun



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mummifying a tomato. Finally, we learnt some Egyptian dance moves and had a try putting them to music. In maths, we have been learning about different units of measurement including mass and time. While in writing the children have had a great time creating poems using different techniques such as rhyme and personification.

## Mrs Buchan, Miss Price and Miss Frost say...

Over the last few weeks, year 4 have been working hard at learning and getting faster at times tables. They have been completing tasks and playing different games to help them learn! In art, they have been creating a skyscape ready to turn into a city skyline at the end of the week. In writing the children have been exploring poetry. We have been looking at the poet 'Joseph Coelho' and recreating poems using his work as inspiration.



## Miss Feather and Miss Nicholls say...

Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed the WW2 topic this half term and have immersed themselves in all areas including evacuation, rationing and the Blitz. WW2 day was a great success and offered children the opportunity to experience German, the lindy hop, rationing, WW2 games and they further produced some fantastic pieces of art inspired by the Blitz. This half term has also seen the children designing sculptures inspired by artist and sculptor Henry Moore as well as learning all about rap music.



## Mrs Sullivan, Mrs Dreelan & Miss Dadral say...

The past two weeks year 6 have been writing a survival guide to Camp Green Lake. The children have been practicing an informal style of writing and have thoroughly enjoyed embodying Stanley Yelnats. As a treat we watched the film and compared it to the book. It has been lovely to see the children so engaged in reading. The students who participated in squash during our PE sessions portrayed model behaviour and us teachers feel super proud of them! One of these pupils was king of the court in their final squash session last week - but which one?



## Holiday Club

Next week is half term. **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February.** We will be providing a half term holiday club during this break. If you would like to sign up please contact Mrs Sandra Phillips. Her email address is [s.phillips@bishopswood-inf.hants.sch.uk](mailto:s.phillips@bishopswood-inf.hants.sch.uk)

## Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all of you who attended Parents' Evenings this week. We hope you found it useful meeting with your child's class teacher. If you were not able to attend for any reason, please contact the school office or speak to your child's class teacher to make an appointment next half term.

## Sporting Events

This half term has seen some Bishopswood sporting success! Our Year 5 and 6 Girls Football Team won 3-2 against Marnel Junior School. They also played Bramley C of E Primary, one of our collaboration schools. They lost 3-0, but showed great resilience! Well done girls. Our Year 6 Boys Football Team, played Castle Hill Junior School and lost 1-0. Again they showed determination and super



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sportsmanship. Well done boys! Our Year pupils also took part in the Indoor Sports Hall Athletics. They won overall with 302 points, tipping Sherborne St John who had 301! They are now through to the Basingstoke final in March. Great job Bish!



## Safer Internet Week

This week the children have been learning about internet safety. Our assemblies have been themed around this and we celebrated 'Safer Internet Day' on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February**. The **National Online Safety team** have produced a guide which outlines how youngsters' mental wellbeing can be boosted by an (arguably) unexpected source: video games. Many children view gaming in the same way that they regard reading a book or watching a movie: a way to relax and unwind. Gaming not only helps young people to de-stress and gives them a valuable sense of satisfaction when they succeed in their game – it can also develop their essential life skills (such as problem solving, co-operation and social interaction) without young gamers even realising that they're learning things. We have attached the guide to this newsletter or you can view it on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety>

Following on from this the NSPCC have a useful website for parents, offering tip and advice for keeping children safe online.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

## World Book Day

Reading regularly is an important way you can support your children's learning at home. To promote an interest in reading and to encourage reading for pleasure we will be celebrating World Book Day with a whole week in March dedicated to reading, books and different authors. World Book Day will take place on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 24**. We invited the children to dress up as their favourite book character. A separate letter has been sent out with the following information.



## Book Café

Starting on the **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**, we will be opening the junior school hall up for our Bishopswood Book Café, where a grown-up can accompany their child to visit our school library and share reading books together. Refreshments will be available. The Book Café will run on the mornings of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8.10am until registration time.

## Book Fair

We will be hosting the Scholastic book fair. The children will be able to use their World Book Day £1 tokens (**which will be handed out on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February**) towards the cost of a book. Payments for books will be contactless as we do not accept cash payments at school.

Day	When
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Before school from 8.25am
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	After school from 3.30pm
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	After school from 3.30pm
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	After school from 3.30pm

The book fair will be run in the junior school hall and will be open

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## Red Nose Day - Friday 15th March

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March we will be having a 'non-uniform' day to support Red Nose Day. We invite the children to 'dress for joy' Pick a theme, don the best home-made costume ever, go red



from head to toe or simply dig out your brightest socks! Wear something that makes us smile, in return for a donation to Comic Relief. By donating to Comic Relief you support vulnerable people and communities in the UK and internationally. If you have a 'red nose' and would like to wear it you can but it would be wise to write your name in it!

**On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> so will wear non-uniform.**

## Admissions

The closing date for applications to both Year R and Year 3 for September 2024 has now passed. We are very pleased to say we have once again had a high number of children apply to start at Bishopswood Infants. You can still apply online at: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/admissions.htm> although all application forms received from now are considered late and are processed separately. If you need any help with the application process, please contact us, we will be happy to help.

## Staff Vacancies - Lunchtime Supervisory

### Assistant - Infants or Juniors

We are still looking for enthusiastic, dedicated and flexible people to join our friendly team of lunchtime Supervisory Assistants. The successful candidate would work between 12:00pm and 1:15pm 5 days a week, working at either the infant or junior schools. For more information and an application form please ask at the school offices.



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## Uniform Reminder

Our last newsletter outlined our uniform expectation in more detail. As we start a new term can we please remind you all to ensure your child is in the correct school uniform.



## Lost Property

Please ensure that all your child's uniform and other property – especially water bottles and lunch boxes – are clearly marked and that you check them on a regular basis. Many items that make their way into lost property have clearly been marked at some time but have become illegible! All named items will be returned, any unclaimed and unnamed items will be recycled or disposed of at the end of each half term.



## PTA

The PTA will be hosting a Roller Disco at the Hurst Leisure Centre. The event will take place on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 24** between **11:00am - 3:00pm**. Further information will follow and booking will open soon.



## Half Term Activity Ideas – February 24

- 10 Feb 2024 – 18 Feb 2024 - Visit Milestones for fun and games! Play giant board games, take in the fun of the fair and enjoy traditional pub games in a fun-filled week for the whole family!





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- Theatre Royal Winchester – The Amazing Bubble Man – 11th February 2024. Jewry Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8SB -



- Tadley Leisure Centre. Looking for some activities to do with the kids while school is out? Then look no further. Our holiday activities are the perfect opportunity to keep your kids active, entertained and having fun! Half Term Dates: Monday 12th - Friday 16th February
- Why not visit your local library for some fun and exciting events!  
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/kids-zone/events>



**Hampshire  
Libraries**

As always, the following page shares upcoming dates for your diaries. If you have any questions about anything in the newsletter please contact the school offices.

Many Thanks  
From the Senior Leadership Team

Mrs Amy Chapman  
Mr Mark Morris  
Miss Adele Tashdjian

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## Dates for your diary:

**INSET DAYS for 2023-24 Academic Year:**

**Monday 19th February 2024**

**Monday 22nd July 2024**

**Tuesday 23rd July 2024**

**12th - 16th February- HALF TERM HOLIDAY**

**Monday 19th February- INSET DAY**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Year 6 SATs Parent Information Evening

7th March- World Book Day

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Red Nose Day (more information to follow)

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Year 4 Legoland Trip (more information to follow)

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Year 2 Seaside Museum Trip (more information to follow)

**1st – 12th April- EASTER HOLIDAYS**

15th April – First day of Summer Term

**Monday 6<sup>TH</sup> May – May bank Holiday**

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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalonline.org.uk](http://nationalonline.org.uk) for further guides, facts and tips for adults.

## Top Tips for...

# MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

### GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do; the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

### TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

### GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

### AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

### HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

### BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

### 'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

### SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

### TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together; playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

### SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

### WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

### Meet Our Expert

Mindy, a mental health and wellbeing expert, will deliver the UK's only specialist programme using mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering tech leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



## DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

[@natonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/natonlinesafety)

[@national\\_online\\_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

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## 10 INTERNET SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

**1** Don't block all access to technology. Help your child learn to use tech **safely** and **positively**.

**2** Take an **interest** in your child's favourite apps or sites. Co-view or co-create at times.

**3** Be the parent. You're in charge. Set **boundaries** and consider using filtering software.

**4** Create a family media **agreement** with tech free zones such as cars, bedrooms, and meals.

**5** Teach your child what **personal information** they should not reveal online (YAPPY acronym).

**6** Help your child learn to **filter** information online and navigate fact from fiction.

**7** Navigate digital **dilemmas** with your child. Avoid using devices as rewards or punishments.

**8** **Balance** green time and screen time at home. Focus on basic developmental needs.

**9** Don't support your child to sign up for sites with **age restrictions** (e.g. 13+) if they're underage.

**10** **Learn more:** Explore reliable resources for parents so you can educate yourself.

@kathleen\_morris



www.kathleenamorris.com

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