



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

Friday 15th September 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a pleasant and relaxing summer holiday! Sadly, we did not quite get the weather we had last year, but hope that you enjoyed having time away. Typically, the sunshine seemed to make an appearance the week we headed back into school!

The children are all looking very smart and have settled incredibly well into their classes. It has been a pleasure to walk around the school. Every time I have walked around, it has been wonderful to see so many smiles from both pupils and staff. It has also been lovely chatting to the children and hearing about some of the memories, they have made during the holidays.

We look forward to an action packed Autumn Term and I know staff have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure the children have a term full of fun and engaging learning activities.

A Big Welcome

Last week, we welcomed the latest additions to the Bishopswood School Family as our new Year R children joined us for their first sessions. The home visits have gone very well and both the children and the parents have been brave in taking their first steps into primary school life. We very much look forward to watching them grow and develop as they journey through the school. We have also welcomed a number of pupils from Year 1 to Year 6



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to our school who either have moved into the area or have relocated from other schools, as well as some new adults who have joined the team. They have all started the year remarkably well and settled very quickly into life at Bishopswood.

Curriculum

This year, we will be regularly sharing what the children have been doing in school. From maths and spellings, to school trips and visitors, the children are always very busy!

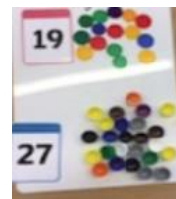
Miss Russell & Miss Creed say...

What an amazing start the Year R children have had at school. We are so proud of how well they have settled in and adapted to life at school. The children are full time now, which means lots of exploring of the classroom environment. We have been reading lots of stories about settling into school and have particularly enjoyed "The Colour Monster Goes to School".



Miss Wright & Miss Lees say...

Year 1 have settled well and have already been working incredibly hard! We have been practising our numbers to 50 in maths, ordering them and using objects to represent these. In English, we have been learning how to write a list and we made a great start to our topic learning by sharing pictures of our favourite toys!



Mrs Hunter & Miss Okey say...

Year 2 have had a great start to the term and have been doing some fantastic writing based on books by Roald Dahl. Alongside this, we have looked at the illustrator Quentin Blake and his great drawings of the BFG. We have been working hard on place



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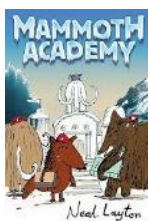


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value in Maths, using dienes to partition two digit numbers. In our History Learning Challenge, we have started to learn about using clues to find out what happened in the Great Fire of London. Science has been fun. We have explored different materials, discussing what they are made of, sorting them and thinking about their properties.

Mr Dale & Miss Ralph say...

Wow! What a fantastic start to Year 3 it has been! The children have settled in really well and we are looking forward to an exciting first half term. We have been reading the story Woolly Mammoth and using adjectives to describe the Mammoth. We have also enjoyed starting our science learning, finding out about different types of rocks and being able to explain how to classify them.



Miss Price, Mrs Buchan & Miss Frost say...

The children have settled in well to their new classes. They have had fun experimenting and exploring how sound travels by making and experimenting with paper cup telephones. We have also been discovering how our words have power and how they can affect the people around us by saying kind and unkind words to an apple! In writing, we have started a new narrative unit based on a short animation about Rock, Paper, and Scissors. We have been impressed by the children's vocabulary choices and are looking forward to reading their writing as the week's progress.



Miss Feather and Miss Nicholls say...

Year 5 have had a fabulous start to the term and keenly embraced their new topic of exploring evolution. They have practised their skills as palaeontologists by



'excavating' chocolate chips from cookies! They have also already produced some fantastic writing in their retellings of the book 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne.

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

What an amazing start to the year Year 6 have had! We opened our Viking topic by competing in a longboat relay whilst battling the heat and created our very own dragons to write a non-chronological report. It has been a pleasure teaching them the past 2 weeks and we are looking forward to more.



Uniform reminder

During the last few years, we have had periods where school uniform has not been required and we have not focused our attention on reinforcing our Uniform Policy. However, as we start a new year, I would like remind you of our expectations and request your support. Our expectations on school uniform are explained in the extract below, taken directly from our school prospectus:

"We believe wearing school uniform is practical and smart and contributes to a sense of belonging and school pride. Much of our uniform can be bought in the high street shops, but school specific items are available from our school offices and Skoolkit (in Basingstoke). Our uniform for boys comprises grey or black trousers or shorts, white polo shirt and red sweatshirt. Girls may wear grey or black trousers, pinafore dress or skirt, white polo shirt, red sweatshirt or cardigan or a red and white striped or checked dress for the summer."

We have noticed this year that a number of children are wearing the following items of clothing/accessories:

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- Trainers instead of school shoes
- Smart watches and Fitbits
- Earrings other than studs

On PE days, some children are coming to school in a range of branded sports kit when they should just be wearing their school PE kit.

Attendance

Regular school attendance is important since, without it, all the efforts of our teachers come to nothing. Children need to attend regularly if they are to enjoy the educational opportunities provided within the school and make progress. Absence can lead to educational disadvantage for a child and place them at risk of not achieving. As part of our duty of care and the Government's drive to raise Standards in schools, we are required to monitor attendance regularly and will be writing to parents if their child's attendance falls below 90%. The government has released new guidance for schools to support improving attendance rates following the pandemic.

Please find attached to this newsletter our leaflet 'Parents Guide to Attendance at Bishopswood'.



2023 Starters Year R Open Days

This year we are once again able to give prospective parents the opportunity to come and experience life at Bishopswood. We will be having four sessions where parents can see the school in action, meet the staff and ask any questions they may have. These dates are:

Monday 9th October 2023 – 9:15 – 10:15am

Wednesday 11th October 2023 – 9:15– 10:15am

Tuesday 17th October 2023 – 1:30 – 2:30pm

Thursday 2nd November 2023 – 1:30 – 2:30pm

Applying for a Place for Year R, 3 and 7 for September 2024

If you are applying for a school place for your child or have a child transferring to junior or secondary school, please see application form availability and deadline dates for applications listed below for September 2024 start dates:-

- Starting school Year R (Reception) or transferring to Year 3 (junior school): Applications are open from 1st November 2023 to 15th January 2024.
- **Transfer to Year 7 (secondary school): Applications are open until midnight 31st October 2023.**

If you have any queries on your child's transfer to Year 7, please call into the junior school office.

Year 3 transfer: although we are a Federated School, you do still need to apply for a place at Bishopswood Junior School. If you have any queries on your child's transfer to Year 3, please call into the junior school office.

How to apply:-

- Online at www.hants.gov.uk/admissions or
- A paper application form will be available from the infant or junior school office.

Call the Hampshire Admission Helpdesk on: - 0300 555 1377 (opening hours daily 9.00am to 2.00pm)

Harvest

This year, our Year 1 children will lead our harvest celebration. Our Year R and Year 2 children will have an opportunity to share a celebration with their parents later in the year. As this assembly is just for Year 1 parents, we will only host one performance. This will take place on **Thursday 12th October at 9:15am**. Siblings are welcome to watch this performance, but please be aware pushchairs will need to be left outside the hall due to space.

Across the Federation, we will all celebrate harvest in our assemblies during the same week. Please note these assemblies are not for parents.

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At both schools we will be collecting donations of food for Basingstoke Food Bank, whereby food is distributed to local people in need. Please follow the link below for suggested donations. Could we please ask you/your child to bring your donations into school from **Monday 9th October**.

<https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Lunchtime Assistant Role

We have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant working across the two schools from 12:00-1:15pm Monday-Friday. No experience is necessary for this role, as full training will be given, just an enthusiastic and caring approach to our children. If you would like the opportunity to join our team of friendly and dedicated staff, please see attached advert or email the school office.

Message from the PTA

The PTA have returned to meetings and are currently planning the next amazing events for the school.

We are hoping to do our usual spooky disco and this year the first ever Bishopswood fireworks will be taking place

on 5th November. Tickets are on sale now at

<http://www.pta-events.co.uk/bishopswoodpta>

Christmas prep is also underway!!

Again, if any parents or relative or grown-ups can offer any time or assistance in anyway please get in touch via Facebook or email

Bishopswoodschoolspta@gmail.com



Lost Property

Please ensure that all your child's uniform, 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.

INSET DAYS for 2023-24 Academic Year:

Friday 20th October 2023

Monday 19th February 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Please find below dates and times of future events this Autumn Term, including any PTA events. Our Christmas dates will be shared in the end of half term newsletter.

Many Thanks,

Mrs Amy Chapman

Executive Deputy Headteacher

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Dates for your diary:

25th September- Year 6 Viking Day

27th September – Year 1 ‘Terrific Toys’ Day

4th October – Current Year R – Welcome to Year R Meeting

4th October – Year 6 Residential Parent Meeting 6:00pm

10th October –Year 1 Harvest Festival 2:45pm

5th October – Year 1 Wheeled Toys Day (information to follow)

9th October – Year R 2024/2025 Open Morning – 9:15 – 10:15am

11th October - Year R 2024/2025 Open Morning – 9:15 – 10:15am

17th October Year R 2024/2025 Open Afternoon – 1:30– 2:30pm

17th October – Parents’ Evening

19th October – Parents’ Evening

20th October – INSET DAY

23rd -27th October – HALF TERM

30th October– 3rd November – Year 6 Residential

2nd November -Year R 2024/2025 Open Afternoon – 1:30– 2:30pm

5th November- PTA Fireworks Event

9th November – School Photos

15th December – Last Day of Term

18th Dec – 1st Jan – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

2nd Jan – First Day of Spring Term

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**BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOL
FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER
GATES OPEN 4.30PM
FIREWORKS AT 6.30PM

Adults - £7
Child (4+) - £5
Family of 4 (2 adults 2 children) - £20
Child 3 or under - Free

On the gate prices - Adult £8 / Child (4+) £6 / Family of 4 (2 adults 2 children) £25

To Book Please Visit
www.pta-events.co.uk/bishopswoodpta

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