



BISHOPSWOOD INFANT SCHOOL

Bishopswood Infant School
Barlows Road
Tadley
Hampshire
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Infant 0118 9812836

Executive Headteacher: Mr G Golding

Friday 8th September 2023

Early Years Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first Early Years Newsletter! Each half term you will be sent newsletters and information about our topics and how to help at home.

The children are settling in very well and seem to be enjoying school. We are grateful for your support in helping the children settle into school and getting them used to all the new routines. We are trying to promote independence and encouraging them to find their own belongings, as well as getting jumpers and coats on themselves. We have shown them how to pull the arms of their jumper the right way through. We are not expecting your child to zip up their coat yet, but your support with their independence is important.

Aspirations

As part of the reforms to the new EYFS curriculum since September 2021, schools are making changes to the way they plan and deliver their curriculum. At Bishopswood we are working with our collaboration schools Bramley and Whitewater to coincide with the changes. The main change will be to our “topic” approach to learning. Instead of having a specific topic such as “Pirates” or “Animals” the children will be working toward meeting 3 aspirations (goals) by the end of the year. These will be constantly evolving but we will be sharing more information with you over the coming weeks.

Welcome Meetings

We are holding our ‘Welcome to Year R’ Meeting on **Wednesday 4th October at 9:00am**. This meeting will give you a bit more information about Year R and the new EYFS curriculum, that the government has introduced from September 2021. We will also be sharing information about supporting your child at home with language and reading development.



Caring



Respecting



Thriving Together

Bishopswood Federation work together to develop kind and considerate children who are resilient, reflective and motivated learners, ready for the challenges that the future holds.

EYFS Baseline

Since September 2021, all Reception aged children are required to take part in "Reception Baseline assessments" (RBA). The children will take part in a short series of activities using a range of familiar objects and pictures, and will do so with either Miss Russell or Miss Creed. All schools are required to complete the baselines assessments within the first 6 weeks of children starting school, so we will be beginning our baseline assessment from **wb: 18th September**. Attached is a letter which gives you more information about it. If you have any questions please speak to your child's class teacher.

Reading

Every day your child will be bringing home a sharing picture book for you to look at with them. This is a book that you can share together, at bedtime, when you get in from school or anytime you fancy a story! Additionally your child will have their monkey book (to record when they read to you) and their first reading book which will have a lilac sticker on the side. This book will be changed weekly when they read with an adult at school. We will be sharing more information with you about reading over the coming weeks.

Outdoor learning

Each half term Year R will be taking part in an outdoor learning day. This term it will be on **Thursday 19th October**. Please can your child come into school dressed in outdoor clothes suitable for the weather conditions on the day.

PE

Just to confirm that our PE day will be Monday starting from Monday 18th, so your child can wear their PE kit, as long as it is suitable for a day at school including outdoor play. Children should wear a school jumper. Due to the fact your child will need to wear their PE kit all day, they do not need to bring an additional pair of plimsols, as a plain pair of trainers or school shoes will be suitable for a day at school. As we explained to you during our home visits, our plan moving forward, is to give the children in Reception the opportunity to practise changing independently at school. We will let you know when we will be starting this.

Class of 2023

On Thursday 29th September we will have a photographer visiting from Newbury News to take photos of the new "Class of 2023". The year group photo will be published in a special suppliant on Thursday 2nd November.

Monster phonics

Our phonics scheme at Bishopswood is called Monster Phonics, which is used to help children learn to read and write. There are lots of monsters that help the children with this and we will be introducing them over the coming weeks, as well as sharing more information with you during our welcome meeting and through information packs. Your child will be taking part in a monster phonics launch day on **Wednesday 27th September**.

Reminders

Just a few reminders about things that we spoke about during our home visits.

- Please name EVERYTHING!
- Water bottles need to come into school daily. No squash please.
- All children need welly boots and a spare change of clothes in school
- We discourage toys from coming into school. We would not want them to get lost or broken

Thank you very much for your co-operation. It has been a great start to your child's schooling at Bishopswood.

The Early Years Team



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