



# 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  
Executive Head of School: Mrs J Armes

It has been an incredibly long term and everyone is definitely ready for their Christmas break which I hope will be filled with fun for everyone!

I would just like to take this opportunity to wish all of our children, families, staff and governors a very Merry Christmas, and a happy and peaceful 2025! We look forward to seeing you back in school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

**Friday 20th December 2024**



Dear Parents & Carers,

Well we've finally made it to Christmas! It's such a special time of year to be in school, although it is always incredibly busy. The schools have been filled with the sights and sounds of Christmas performances, music and festive fun.

We hope that you've been able to come along and enjoy seeing your child perform in one of the many Christmas shows we have had over the last 2 weeks.

We are very proud of all of the children and it was lovely to see them be able to show off just how fantastic they all are and how hard they have been working!

As ever, thank you for all you do in supporting the schools – we really do value working with you to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children.

## School Lunches

Next term the sandwich/picnic bag option will not be available. Children will still be able to choose from a meat or vegetarian hot meal, or jacket potato as usual, or they may bring a packed lunch in if they prefer sandwiches or a cold lunch from home.

## Uniform reminder

A reminder around uniform. You may be about to purchase new clothing or shoes for the new year. Like any other school, we kindly request that any new uniform adheres to our uniform policy, which as a reminder, says **black or grey trousers (no leggings)**, and only **completely black shoes or trainers** – both of these apply on all non-PE days.

**After Christmas we want all children to please be in the correct uniform**, which helps them to look and feel smart. Thank you for your support in this.

## Anvil

Yesterday evening, a group of staff took over 120 children from the junior school to the Panto in Basingstoke. This year's panto was 'Sleeping Beauty' and the children (and adults!) all enjoyed the show. They were especially delighted that our own Mrs Griffiths was chosen to press the 'golden buzzer'; sorry you ended up at the front Mrs Griffiths - you were a great sport! As always, the children's behaviour was excellent and they were a credit to the school. These events are not possible without the voluntary support of school staff so our thanks go to those who gave up their evenings.



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## Choir

On Saturday 7th December, the Bishopswood Junior Choir went to the Pamber Heath Memorial Hall to perform in a concert alongside Tadley Brass Band. The children sang beautifully and confidently. This was their first concert as a choir and some of the songs were quite tricky, having multiple parts and harmonies. There were some lovely comments from the band and audience. I was really proud of their both their effort and how well they conducted themselves. It was a great afternoon and a joy to see the children having fun watching the band as well as all the support from the families.

## Curriculum

Here are some examples of what has been happening at Bishopswood over the last few weeks....

### **Miss Russell, Mrs Bligdon and Miss Lees say...**

In Year R we have spent time learning about the nativity story and retelling it through our "Wriggly Nativity". The children were absolutely fantastic in this and we are very proud of how well they did performing in front of such big audiences! We are sure you are feeling very proud too. We have also been exploring all things Christmas, and doing lots of Christmas-themed activities, and Willow class have enjoyed exploring the woods in Forest School.



### **Miss Wright & Miss Creed say...**

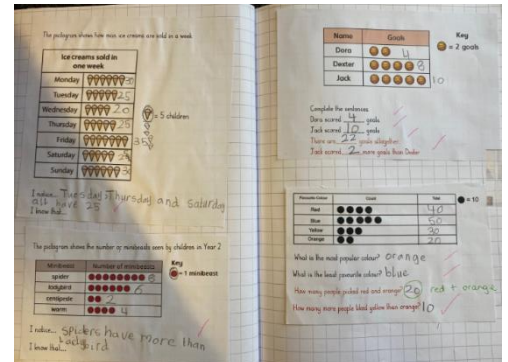


Year 1 have ended the term well and have been busy with lots of festivities! In maths we did some

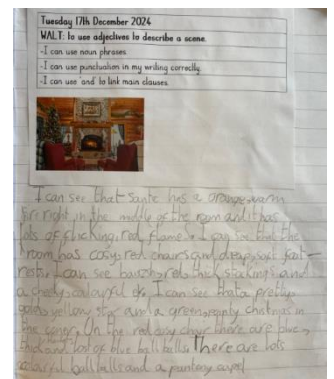
problem solving to apply what we had learned during this half term. In English we retold the story of Stickman in our own words and in music we composed a piece of music linked to the weather. In Art we have been looking at the work of William Morris. We practised sketching in his style, designed tiles and printed them using ink. We worked super hard on our KS1 concert and made all our teachers proud by singing beautifully! We also finished the term with a Christmas party because we earned all our animals in the class tree. Well done Year 1!

### **Mrs Cushing, Mrs Boyce & Miss Okey say...**

Year 2 have had a fantastic Autumn term and have continued to be working hard from their singing, to Christmas crafting, to data handling and even micro-habitat finding. The children have explored the micro-habitats within the school grounds and have identified the conditions each minibeast prefers to inhabit. In Maths, we have been looking at pictograms and tally charts.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring Santa's house in English. They took a tour and wrote a description; their favourite room was the toy room. If you would like to explore Santa's house again with your child, visit the link



<https://www.zillow.com/house/santas-house/?>

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas break and a Happy New Year!

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## Mr Dale & Miss Ralph say



We have had a fantastic half term learning about the Stone Age. Over the last couple of weeks, we have been designing and making Stone

Age houses using clay and have been finding out about different Stone Age tools and what they were used for. In writing, we have been using a book called 'The Santa Trap' to write instructions on how to create our own trap to catch Santa, using vocabulary such as, time conjunctions and imperative verbs. Finally, in science we have been learning about the different joints in our bodies and how they help us move. We did a fun experiment where we did different actions such as walking and talking to discover the different joints we used for these.

## Miss Frost and Miss Buchan say...



Year 4 have had a good term. We are so proud of their hard work and resilience they have shown especially while they have been learning lines and rehearsing for the Christmas play, as well as completing end of term assessments. They were absolutely wonderful in the school play and it was lovely to see so many children have their moment to shine and their effort pay off. On top of all this, we have been finishing off our DT lanterns, our circuits topic and completing an independent write. We hope they have a well earned break and happy Christmas.

## Miss Price, Mrs Dreelan & Mr Sargeant say...

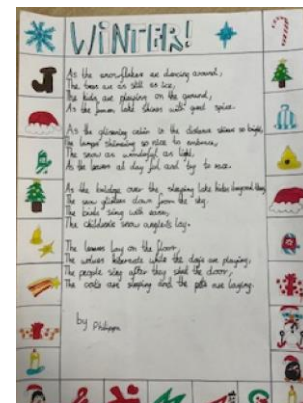


What a fun, busy, and exciting end to the Autumn term we've had!

Year 5 have been hard at work showcasing their creativity and perseverance by designing and making their very own money wallets. From planning their designs to sewing their creations, the children demonstrated exceptional resilience and brilliant artistic flair. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the wonderful results they achieved!

The children also completed a moving and imaginative piece of written work by writing their own versions of The Christmas Truce inspired by the incredible true story of the World War One Christmas Eve truce of 1914.

Their creativity didn't stop there as the children also concluded their brass instrument learning with a fantastic performance in front of the whole school. We are so impressed by how well they played and how much they have achieved in such a short time. It was a wonderful way to celebrate their hard work.



## Mrs Sullivan, Mr Morris & Miss Nicholls say....

Year 6 have continued to have a really successful term, creating a non-chronological report about a made-up creature and learning about refraction in science. We have finished the term with our wonderful carol

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concert and creating winter poetry. The children used a range of literary devices including alliteration, similes and metaphors to become poets in their own right. We are very proud of how hard our year 6 children have worked this term!

## Reminders and requests:

### Lost Property

A reminder that in the Infant school, there is a lost property box located in the entrance foyer that parents can access themselves. In the juniors we keep lost property in a room near the entrance so just pop into the office if you need to locate an item. As a reminder, please **name everything** to help lost items get returned to their rightful owner!

### Parking

Another reminder please to be respectful of local residents when parking near school.



### Coats

Please ensure that your child has a coat in school **every day**, as the weather can be so unpredictable. Without a coat, they will not be allowed outside in the rain, or if it is very cold, so please bring one!

### Applying for a Place for Year R or 3 for September 2024

If you are applying for a school place for Year R (Reception) or transferring to Year 3 (Junior School), applications are open from **1st November 2024 to 15th January 2025**.

### 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. How to apply:-

- Online at [www.hants.gov.uk/admissions](http://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 (9:00am to 2:00pm).

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Jo Armes  
Head of School

## Dates for your diary:

**20<sup>th</sup> December** – Last Day of Term

**23<sup>rd</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

**6<sup>th</sup> January** – First Day of Spring Term

**28<sup>th</sup> January** – YR Outdoor Day

**30<sup>th</sup> January** – Y5 WW2 Day

**4<sup>th</sup> February** – YR Bedtime Stories Day

**13<sup>th</sup> February** – Y1 Kings and Queens Day

**11<sup>th</sup> March** – School Readiness Course (new YR parents)

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## ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS

**Amplify their confidence!**

With Rocksteady Music School, your child can learn to play an instrument in their own band with no experience necessary. Our fun, inclusive in-school band lessons tune into children's creativity, amplifying their self-belief and igniting a sense of confidence that carries far beyond the classroom!

**BOOK ONLINE TO START LESSONS IN JANUARY!**

0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-9pm, Fri 8am-9pm, local rate) [rocksteadymusicschool.com](http://rocksteadymusicschool.com)

Is your child registered for **SCHOOL MILK?**

**Child UNDER 5** **Child OVER 5**

Every child under the age of five is entitled to free school milk. Simply register your child online.

Every child over the age of five is entitled to milk at a subsidised cost of around £20 per term. Register your child and pay online.

Children in receipt of benefits-based free school meals are eligible for free school milk. Speak to the school for further information.

Free milk for under 5s is funded by the Department of Health and milk for over 5s is subsidised by DEFRA.

## REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY

Register online  
[www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

Need help?  
Send us a message  
at [www.coolmilk.com/contact](http://www.coolmilk.com/contact)  
or give us a call on **0800 321 3248**

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**ROCK STEADY**

## LEARN TO PLAY MUSIC. A BAND FOR EVERYONE.

Choose from: Vocals, keyboard, drums, guitar or bass.

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<p><b>Hassle free!</b></p> <p>Takes place in school, instruments provided and no experience necessary!</p>	<p><b>Progress at their own pace</b></p> <p>Your child can achieve an exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity Music qualification!</p>	<p><b>End every term on a high note</b></p> <p>Watch your child shine as they perform in their end of term concerts.</p>

*It's great for building confidence and the memories they are making are magic!*  
Sharn

*His progression playing the keyboard has been amazing.*  
Neil

*I had tears watching her perform. Amazing skills that will help her for the rest of her life!*  
Amita

£42.75 per month (no payment in August). Money back guarantee for the first month. Cancel at any time.

0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-9pm, Fri 8am-9pm, local rate) [rocksteadymusicschool.com](http://rocksteadymusicschool.com)

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