



BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOL FEDERATION

Bishopswood Infant School
Barlows Road
Tadley
Hampshire
RG26 3NA

Infant 0118 9812836

Executive Headteacher: Mr G Golding
Executive Head of School: Mrs J Armes

Friday 12th September 2025

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. If you have not already please return their "All about me" sheets by **Monday 15th September** so that we can use them in class.

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 Mrs Hunter. 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: 22th 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 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. We will read this book with your child weekly, and it will be changed once a week. Our school expectation is that your child reads this book to you at least 3 times a week at home. As we progress through our phonics scheme your child will then receive books that include sounds, small words and then simple sentences. Additionally your child will bring 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! More information about the process will be shared during the phonics talk.



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.

Outdoor learning

Each half term Year R will be taking part in an outdoor learning days. This term we will be having an outdoor day on **Tuesday 14th 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, 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 2025

Over the next couple of weeks we will have a photographer visiting from Newbury News to take photos of the new "Class of 2025". The year group photo will be published in a special suppliant on **Thursday 20th 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. We will also be holding a parents phonics workshop on **Tuesday 7th October**. This will include a short talk for the adults and then your child will be invited to join you to do some phonics activities with you. We ask that all parents attend this talk as it will help support both you and your child with their reading and writing progress.

Class teachers

Throughout the week Mrs Hunter, Miss Russell and Mrs Evans will be the class techers. Below is information about who is teaching on which day.

Chestnut class

Monday – Miss Russell

Tuesday – Miss Russell

Wednesday – Mrs Evans (Miss Russell forest school throughout the school)

Thursday – Mrs Evans

Friday – Miss Russell

Willow class

Monday – Mrs Hunter

Tuesday – Mrs Hunter

Wednesday – Mrs Hunter

Thursday – Mrs Hunter

Friday – Mrs Evans

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 filled with water. 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
- No jewellery is allowed at school. If you child has pierced ears they can wear plain studs to school.
Please provide your child will medical tape to cover it over on PE days.

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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