



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

Monday 13th October 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

The Autumn Term is in full swing now, however the lovely, warm weather we have been enjoying recently has, at times, made it feel a little like summer in school – let’s hope it lasts a while longer yet!

Thank you

I’d like to take the opportunity to thank you for all of the wonderful, supportive emails and messages that I, and the school team, have received following the difficult events of last Monday afternoon. Putting the school into Lockdown is never a decision that’s taken lightly, and I of course recognise that in doing so, I would have caused you a great deal of worry and uncertainty. However, your messages of support and thanks, affirming your trust in us and our safeguarding procedures were so very appreciated by all of us. Additionally, I just want to say a huge well done to our wonderful staff - not only did they ensure pupils were safe, but as I knew they would, they conducted themselves in such a highly professional and calm manner that the vast majority of pupils had no idea anything was going on at all, which is exactly what we would all want of course! Whilst these situations are thankfully incredibly rare, it’s heartening to know our procedures are clear and robust and staff are well-prepared.



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Maternity

One of our Assistant Headteachers, Miss Adele Tashdjian, will be going off on Maternity Leave from October half-term. This is such an exciting time for her and her family, and I know you will join me in wishing her the very best and the happiest of times together. We hope to welcome Miss Tashdjian back sometime before the end of the academic year.

Curriculum

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

Miss Russell, Mrs Hunter and Mrs Evans say...

In Year R over the last 2 weeks we have been looking at seasonal changes. We have been harvesting seeds and looking closely at them. We have also



learnt the story of the Little Red Hen, and have retold the story through using small world toys, as well as becoming story tellers on our welly walk.

Mrs Boyce, Miss Stevens & Miss Daly say...



Year 1 have had a fantastic few weeks full of exciting learning and activities! During our Toy Takeover Day, the children explored toys from the



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past, baby toys, and modern electronic toys. They compared how the toys work, how they have changed over time, and even enjoyed some outdoor fun riding their bikes and scooters. In art, the children have been learning all about different types of lines and how these can be used to add texture to their drawings. They then put their new skills into practice by creating some wonderful teddy bear pictures.



Mr Dale & Mrs Lamb say...

We have had an amazing couple of weeks in Year 3, continuing to find out about volcanoes and earthquakes. We created our own volcanoes and then had lots of fun erupting them outside. We have learnt all about the different parts of a volcano, how they are formed and the impact they have on peoples' lives. In Art, we have created pictures of volcanoes using 3 different materials, which were sketching pencils, oil pastels and watercolours. Finally, in writing, we have written a newspaper article about a boy who was stranded on a volcanic island. We have learnt to use the 5 w's and have also worked hard to add speech and inverted commas into our work.



Miss Wright & Miss Okey say...

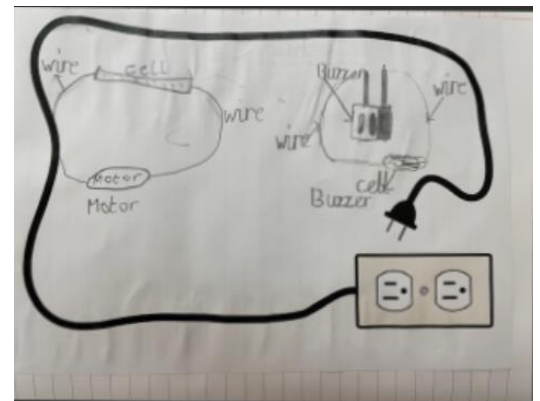
Year 2 have had a great few weeks and have been very busy! We have been reading The Twits by Roald Dahl and writing character descriptions of Mr Twit. In maths we have been practising partitioning numbers into tens and ones, using known facts to help us, and have started addition and subtraction. In science our topic this half term is materials and we have been investigating the best use for different materials. We found out that the best material for a rope to rescue Rapunzel from her tower would be tights because they are stretchy!

In Art we finished our BFGs in the style of Quentin Blake by using water colours. We think they look fantastic!



Miss Cushing, Miss Price & Mr Mahony say ...

Year 4 have been buzzing with excitement while investigating electricity and circuits! They started with a fun playground challenge, earning "electricity money" by racing around and showing off their kinetic energy.



Afterwards, they had to spend their hard-earned money wisely to buy the right components to build a circuit that would light up a bulb. There was so

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much excitement (and a few happy shouts!) when the bulbs finally lit up! In English, our guided reading and writing lessons have been inspired by *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. The children have been developing their reading fluency and comprehension skills, as well as rewriting parts of the story using some wonderfully ambitious vocabulary. We're so proud of their creativity and enthusiasm!

Miss Feather & Mr Sargeant say...

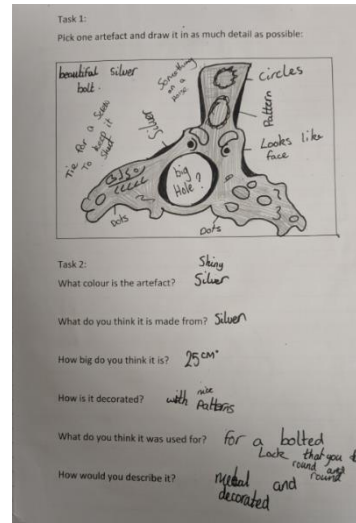


Year 5 have continued learning about the evolution of plants and animals and how they have adapted to their habitats. They have begun to

create their own animals that have adapted to the environment and climate, which they have chosen. In writing lessons, they have created their own suspenseful piece of mystery writing based around our current book *The Nowhere Emporium*. In music they have learnt a new note in lessons with Mr Chong as well as different musical notations. They have also started to play more complicated pieces of music.

Mr Morris, Mrs Ouazzani & Mrs Dreelan say....

In Year 6, the children have been enjoying being Viking leaders, writing their persuasive battle speech. They have made excellent leaders with their motivating and inspiring writing! They have also just begun learning about the mysterious Room 13 in Robert Swindell's classic book. In maths, we moved onto multiplication where the children's mental methods have been really challenged.



In their topic lessons they have been pretending to be archaeologists and investigating Viking artefacts, and we cannot wait to start making the dragon eyes from clay based on the children's designs! We are sure that they are going to be amazing!

Parents Evenings

This year, due to unavoidable calendar event clashes, we are having to run some parents' evenings on different days for some year groups, as follows:

Year R (both classes) – Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd October

Year 1 (Oak class) – Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st October

Year 1 (Sycamore class) and Years 2, 3, 4 and 6 (all classes) - Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd October

Year 5 (both classes) - Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th November

Sign-up sheets are available to book appointments now.

Uniform Reminder

As start a new year, we would like to remind you of our expectations and request your support. Our expectations on school uniform are explained in the extract below, taken directly from our prospectus:

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“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 school trousers or shorts, white polo shirt and red sweatshirt. Girls may wear grey or black trousers or school shorts, pinafore dress or skirt, white polo shirt, red sweatshirt or cardigan or a red and white striped or checked dress for the summer.”

On non-PE days, shoes must be plain black school shoes with no colour or white on them.

On PE days, children should come to school wearing their school PE kit and trainers or pumps, which can be any colour.

Please note:

- Chains, bracelets, wristbands and smart watches must not be worn in school.
- The only permitted earrings are **one pair of plain, small studs** which must be removed or taped for PE.
- Skirts and shorts must be of an **appropriate length** and not too short – ‘hot-pant’ types of cycling shorts are not acceptable.
- **Leggings are not acceptable as school trousers**, except on PE days.

Please make sure everything is named clearly!

No Make-up, Nail Varnish or Lip Balms

A reminder that no child should either be wearing, or bring in, any make-up or nail varnish. If your child has a medical need to apply lip balm during the day, please hand it to their class teacher for safekeeping – children are not permitted to keep them in their bag or on their person. Thank you for your support in this.

Water bottles

Please ensure your child brings a bottle of water, **not squash or juice**, for drinking throughout the day.

Nut-free Site

We have some children and staff with severe nut allergies in school. For their safety, we are a nut-free school. Please ensure your child **does not bring any nuts or nut-products into school**. This includes chocolate spread, peanut butter, and some cereal bars - we ask for your support in checking labels of these to ensure they do not contain nuts. Thank you.

Reminder about Dogs

For health and safety reasons, **dogs are not permitted** on the school site, even if carried. However we do also request that you **do not leave dogs unattended or tied up** outside the school gates. Whilst we understand many families love their pets, some children and adults feel anxious or scared around dogs, particularly when they are tied up and unsupervised. To help ensure that everyone feels safe and comfortable when arriving and leaving school, please make alternative arrangements for your dog at drop-off and pick-up times.

Thank you for your help and understanding in these matters.

Parking Reminder

On the school site, we have several disabled parking bays. These are **solely for use by individuals who have and are displaying a disabled parking badge**. Please ensure these spaces are kept available for those who require them. In addition to this, whilst parking at the



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schools can be difficult, please park within marked bays at all times. Please also be respectful of local residents' property when parking in the local area. Thank you.

School Facebook page

We are hoping to raise the profile of our school Facebook page and will be using it much more to post useful information and reminders for parents, as well as sharing all of the wonderful things going on in school.

Please follow our page and keep up to date:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565102531523>

Message from the PTA

Our friendly PTA are already working hard, organising fun events to raise much-needed extra funds for the schools, including our ever-popular Fireworks Show – please see the flyer further on in this newsletter with details of how to book. We are always looking for help so if any parents, relatives or grown-up can offer any time or assistance in anyway, or would like to join the PTA, please get in touch via Facebook or email Bishopswoodschoolspta@gmail.com



Come and make a difference for our schools!

Iron Sam Challenge

Thank you to all of our parents for supporting Sam Dunn and his IronSam marathon challenge.



Our children enjoyed an incredible time when Sam and his relay team joined us on Friday 3rd October. The whole school came out to cheer Sam on and run with him around our playgrounds. Despite the rain,

the cheering, the clapping, the encouragement and the smiley faces were phenomenal!



Nine of our children then joined Sam to run with the 'baton of hope' up to Burnham Copse. They were fantastic, and despite running uphill, implied they could have carried on running further! On Saturday, they continued their challenge by meeting Sam at Sainsbury's, and cycling to complete the marathon. They were amazing!

They were all incredible and we are so very, very proud of them, and everything that Sam is doing for our community. It really was a day full of pride and warm feelings.

Bishopswood managed to raise over £1000, money that can go directly to Sam's charity and his work in helping our children. Thank you!



What an incredible achievement! Well done everyone!



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Applying for a Place for Year R, 3 and 7 for September 2025

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 2025 start dates:-

- Starting school Year R (Reception) or transferring to Year 3 (Junior School): Applications are open from 1st November 2025 to 15th January 2026.
- **Transfer to Year 7 (secondary school): Applications are open until midnight 31st October 2025.**

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)

2026 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 two more sessions where parents can see the school in action, meet the staff and ask any questions they may have. These dates are:

- **Tuesday 21st October 2025 1:30 -2:30pm**
- **Tuesday 11th November 2025 9:15-10:15am**

Please see the information sheet at the end of this newsletter, or contact the school office for further information.

The Hurst School Open Evening and Mornings 2025 – for children in Years 5 and 6

Contacting Us

We do offer an open door policy at Bishopswood. However, should you have concerns regarding your child and would like to contact the school, unless you have been given a staff email address, please only use our **admin email addresses:**

adminoffice@bishopswood-inf.hants.sch.uk

adminoffice@bishopswood-jun.hants.sch.uk

Alternatively feel free to telephone the school office or pop in in person.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Jo Armes
Head of School

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Dates for your diary:

14th October – YR Outdoor Day

14th October – Harvest Donation Day

17th October – Individual Photos - Fraser Photos

20th - 21st and 22nd – 23rd October – Y5

Sustainability Trips

21st October – 1:30–2:30pm - YR 26/27 Open

Afternoon

21st October – Newbury News YR photos

21st & 22nd October- Parents' evening (Oak class - Y1)

21st & 23rd October- Parents' evening (Sycamore class – Y1. Also Y2, Y3, Y4 & Y6)

22nd & 23rd October- Parents' evening (YR)

22nd October – Year 2 Great Fire of Tadley Day

27th October – 31st October – **HALF TERM**

3rd – 6th November – Y6 PGL Residential

4th & 6th November- Y5 Parents' evening

11th November – 9:15–10:15am - YR 26/27 Open

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BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOL FIREWORK DISPLAY

SUNDAY
2ND Nov

GATES OPEN
5 PM
FIREWORKS AT
6.30 PM

ADULTS - £7

CHILD (4+) - £5

FAMILY OF 4 (2 ADULTS 2 CHILDREN) - £20

CHILD 3 AND 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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BISHOPSWOOD INFANT SCHOOL

Year R Open Days

Is your child turning 4 before 1st September 2026? If so, you have reached that time of looking at schools, which can be both exciting and daunting!

To help you make the all-important decision as to where to send your child, many schools host open mornings. This allows parents to make an informed choice.

At Bishopswood Infant School, our open mornings are:

Monday 6th October 2025 from 1:30 -2:30pm
Friday 10th October 2025 from 9:15-10:15am
Tuesday 21st October 2025 from 1:30 -2:30pm
Tuesday 11th November 2025 from 9:15-10:15am



These sessions are an opportunity for you to see the school in action, meet the staff, pick up a prospectus and ask as many questions as you like to our Executive Headteacher and Early Years Leader.

We appreciate that this is a huge decision for you so, if you would prefer, you can make an individual appointment to view the school and have a tour with the Headteacher.



Please phone the school on 0118 981 2836 to book your place on one of our open days or book an individual viewing.

The application deadline is 15th January 2026.

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Anvil Arts

THE MUSICATION STATION

TADLEY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

at The Link (Formerly Tadley Community Centre)
Sat 25 Oct / 11am-4pm

FREE

This free event from Anvil Arts welcomes you to have a go at a variety of musical instruments, from violin to scratching decks, with so much more in between!
Suitable for all ages and any skill level.



Scarlett's Smiles
SPOTLIGHT UK
Creating positive memories

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Last year we were able to donate over 3500 Christmas presents across Hampshire and Berkshire to children who are referred to us from schools and social workers and we hope to be able to do the same again this year.

To help us on our way, we are launching our Christmas raffle to raise money for this Christmas Toy Appeal. Tickets are £3 each.
JUST SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS

OVER 30 PRIZES INCLUDING
A four night caravan break to Somerset, A family trip to 4 Kingdoms christmas Experience, Tickets to a number of our activities including Ninja Warrior, Donutting and more.

Registered Charity 1129258



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Discounted Family Fun upto half price off

Ninja Warrior Flip Out Donutting
Atmosphere Trampoline Park Cinema trips

High Score Arcade Bowling
Clip N Climb Basingstoke Aquadrome

Days Out including Chessington, Legoland 4 Kingdoms and more
AND MORE...

Gold membership is £7.50 per person per year which gives activities at upto 50% off and then our charity funds the difference.
For more details please visit our website
www.spotlightuk.org or email activities@spotlightuk.org



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