



THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

Bishopswood Infant & Junior School
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Tadley
Hampshire
RG26 3NA

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

Friday 14th November 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you had a lovely break at half-term and are fully settled back into the routines of school. The curriculum letters that have been sent out are hopefully helping to give an insight into just how busy your children are with their learning and other activities this half-term. As ever, however, please do always feel free to ask your class teacher if you need further information about anything in this regard.



Fireworks

Since the last newsletter, our wonderful PTA organised and ran a brilliant Fireworks Night on Sunday 2nd November. The evening went so well and there was such a lovely atmosphere – it had a real community feel.

The fireworks themselves were also spectacular, as I'm sure everyone who attended would agree.

This is our largest fundraising event of the year, and the monies raised are crucial in helping to provide extra resources for the schools, so it was fantastic that it was so well-attended – thank you to all of you who did attend!

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to the hardworking volunteers of the PTA for running such a successful event – as I am sure you can appreciate, these types of events take an enormous amount of organisation and preparation to ensure it is a safe and happy experience for everyone. Thank you also to the members of staff who volunteered on the night, giving up their own time to help the event to run smoothly and to be really successful. Thank you to everyone involved! It is so appreciated!

Curriculum

We will continue to be regularly sharing what the children have been doing in school. In this Festive half-term, the children are busier than ever! Here are some examples of what has been happening at Bishopswood in the last few weeks....

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



In Year R, we have been learning about different celebrations and exploring fireworks, Diwali and learning about Remembrance. The children have

enjoyed dressing up for our Diwali party as well as wearing some soldiers' uniforms. We have also introduced drawing club as a way of creating our own ideas, developing our drawing abilities and extending our vocabulary. It has been lots of fun!

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



Year 1 have had a fantastic start to this half term! We launched our new learning challenge with an exciting Outdoor Autumn Day. We had a great day, and the children

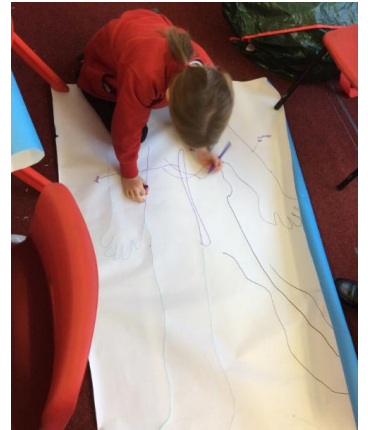
loved having a hot chocolate and marshmallows! In Science, we have been observing the signs of Autumn, and in Geography, we've started learning about seasonal weather patterns. In English we have been looking at the book Pumpkin Soup and used props to retell the story.



We have started a new geography topic, and we learnt all about the world's continents and oceans. We learnt a song to help, and we made paper plate world maps. In art we practised adding black to a colour to change the tone and will be using this skill over the next few weeks when we create an aboriginal style painting.

Mr Dale & Mrs Lamb say...

We have had a great start to this term, starting our topic by looking at life during the Stone Age. We have ordered events and looked at key things that happened and key changes during the Stone Age. In guided reading we have looked at Stone Age beasts, focusing on reading fluently. We have also been selecting and retrieving key information from the text. In writing we have composed our own adventure story based on the Woolly Mammoth. In science we have been finding out about the human skeleton including different bones and why we need a skeleton. We drew around our bodies and then wrote down all the different bones we could remember.



Miss Wright & Miss Okey say...

Year 2 have been busy since coming back from half term! We have been reading 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. We wrote the story in our own words, changing the main character to an animal of our choice. Then as a treat we spent the afternoon with Year R and read them our stories! In maths we have been working hard on our number bonds to 10 and 20 and have been using the quick-fire game 'Hit the Button' to help improve our recall of these.



Miss Price, Mr Mahony and Ms Thomson say ...

We have had a terrific start to the new half-term in Year 4. However, we have peaked this week when



launching our topic of sound. Together, we worked through two experiments, all focussing on how we hear. First, we made the

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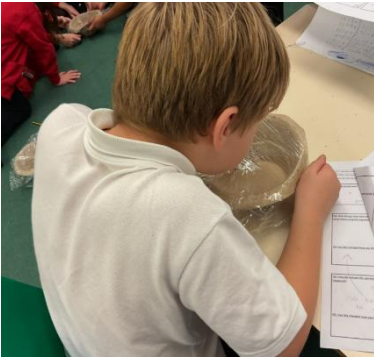
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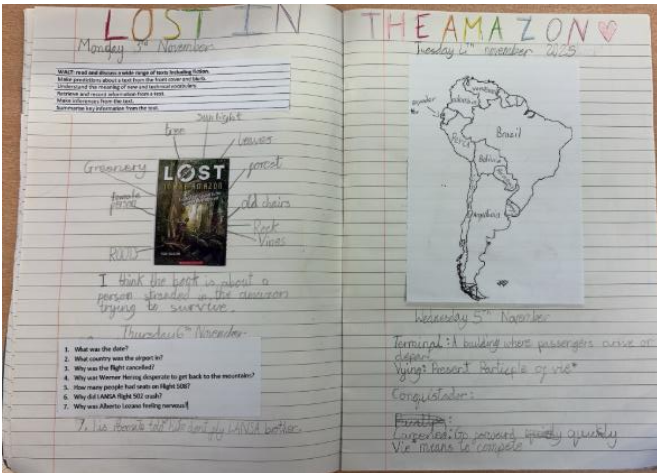
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classic toy, paper cup phones, before trying to think scientifically about how we heard someone's voice travel from one cup to another whilst going through some string. Next, we

enjoyed the 'dancing sprinkles' experiment. Through humming and changing the pitch of our voices we tried to make the sprinkles bounce up and down on the clingfilm. Not all of us were able to get the sprinkles to dance. However, we did enjoy the challenge. Keep a look out in coming newsletters to see how we delve into the world of sound!

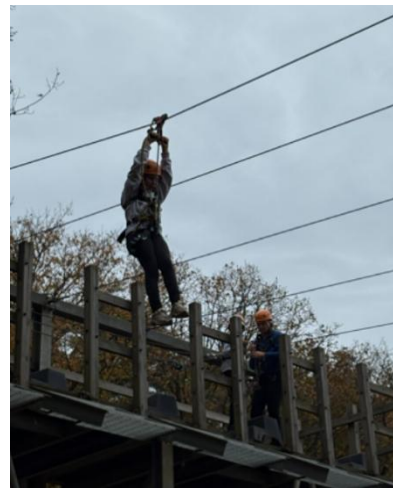
Miss Feather & Mr Sargeant say...



Year 5 has had a brilliant start to the new term! We have been learning all about rainforests and why they are important. We have been looking at where they are located in the world as well as exploring the different layers of a rainforest and understanding that different animals and plants have adapted to live in those layers. In guided reading, we have looked at *Lost in the Amazon* about a true story of a 17-year-old girl who survives a plane crash. The children are intrigued and are

looking forward to finding out what happens next. In writing we are writing a non-chronological report about an animal that lives in the Amazon Rainforest. Next week, we will be creating our own animal and writing an independent fact file about their chosen creature.

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



Wow! What an amazing start back after half term! PGL went so well - all the children made us proud, pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and coping with being away from home. We literally were busy

from dawn until well into the night doing lots of amazing activities. Those who didn't come to PGL had a lot of fun at school, working on different projects. Well done everyone!

Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Sock Day



This was an opportunity for us to remember that we are all uniquely different but still the same. It was lovely to see so many children and adults wearing odd socks. We took time in our classes and assemblies to think about what bullying is and how

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we can use our power for good in being kind and respectful. It was another opportunity to remember our own school values - caring, respecting and thriving together.

Remembrance Day.



On Remembrance day, Tuesday 11th November, all of the children took part in learning why we remember and silently reflecting. Our Junior School welcomed

Reverend Chris Knight who led a service in school for us. Many of our children helped as we especially remembered people from Tadley who were lost during the wars. This was a new and very different experience, and we were pleased to see how well our children responded to this. They were very respectful and a credit to us all. Our thanks to Reverend Chris and his team for giving us this new opportunity.

Children in Need

We have had a great day recognising this charity. Everyone looked great in their own clothes and Pudsey Bear accessories. Thank you for your donations to support vulnerable children in need.



Road Safety Week



This year the focus is '**Safe Vehicles Save Lives**'.

Through our assemblies, we shall remind ourselves how to stay safe by following the green cross code, wearing seat belts and using car and booster seats. On Thursday 20th November, we will remember how important it is to be seen out and about, especially in these darker months. Our JRSOs would like everyone to come to school wearing their brightest clothes. This will be a free non-school uniform day and is the children's '**Time to Shine**'.

Shoes Reminder

On non-PE days, shoes must be **plain black shoes with no colour or white on them at all**. Trainer-like school shoes are acceptable; however, they must **not have any coloured/white stripes, edging, or logos**. Please note that if they do not comply with the uniform expectations, you will be asked to send your child in different shoes as soon as you are able,

Coats

A reminder that all children need coats/waterproof jackets in school every day now as the weather can change quickly and it is getting colder. We always try to get the children outside for break/lunch time, even if the weather is less than ideal, however, if it is drizzling/raining and they do not have a coat, they will have to remain under the shelter or inside to prevent their clothes getting wet. We will always of course look at the weather each day to see if it is warm enough to go without coats. However, if it is raining at all, **coats must be worn**.

Lunches, Snacks and Chocolate spread

We have some children and staff with severe nut allergies in school. For their safety, we are a nut-free school.

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Please ensure your child **does not bring chocolate spread (for instance, on sandwiches or crepes) into school** as it may contain nuts, and **they will not be able to eat these if they have brought them in.** Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe.

Please also remember that children should not be bringing sweets or whole chocolate bars into school; chocolate biscuits or cake slices are fine. Thank you.

Parking Reminder

On the school site, we have two 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 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, and do not park on the zigzag or double yellow lines. 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. Information regarding future events will follow soon.

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!
Applying for a Place for Year R and Year 3 for September 2026

If you are applying for a school place for your child, or have a child transferring to a junior school, please note the following:

Applications are open from 1st November 2025 to 15th January 2026.

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)

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

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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

Dates for your diary:

- 18th November** – PTA Reindeer visit in school
- 18th November** – 9:00am – YR phonics talk
- 19th November** – Y1 Autumn Day
- 26th November** – YR Outdoor Day
- 5th December** – PTA Christmas Event (tbc)
- 8th December** – 2:30pm – YR Performance
- 9th December** – 9:15am – YR Performance
- 9th December** – 2:30pm – Rocksteady Concert
- 10th December** – 9:30am – Y3/4 Christmas Play
- 10th December** – 2:45pm – KS1 Concert
- 11th December** – 9:15am – KS1 Concert
- 12th December** – 2:00pm – Y3/4 Christmas Play
- 16th December** – Christmas Lunch
- 16th December** – 2:45pm – Y5/6 Christmas Carols
- 18th December** – 9:15am – Grandparents' Concert
- 19th December** – **LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM**
- 22nd December – 2nd January 2026** – **Christmas Holidays**
- 5th January 2026** – **INSET day**
- 6th January 2026** – **FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM**

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festival PLACE BASINGSTOKE

SPOTLIGHT UK

THE BIG GIVE!

15TH & 16TH NOVEMBER

Please help this upcoming weekend and donate new and unwrapped toys for this year's Christmas Toy Appeal.

Saturday 15th Nov 10:00-16:00 Upstairs by Hans Buffet	Sunday 16th Nov 11:00-16:00 Outside Santander
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COME JOIN US FOR...
entertainment from local choirs and dance schools throughout both days!

The Ambassador Club Presents

The Christmas Fair

22nd November * 11:00-15:00 * 50p Entrance

Over 20 craft stalls

Tea, Coffee and Cake available

Tombola and Raffle!

TICKET £5.00

All proceeds will go towards Alzheimer's Research UK
Ambassador Club, Hanger Road, Tadley

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