



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

Friday 28th November 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

Even though it is still November (just about!), we are now well on the way to Christmas. Everyday, as I walk around the schools, I see children who are enthusiastically practising for their Christmas performances, whilst their teachers are working very hard to get the children to sing, act, remember their lines or even just where to stand on the stage! From what I've seen so far, you're sure to be in for a treat when you finally get to see them perform! I know I can't wait to see their finished productions!

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 ...

Year R have been having a great couple of weeks finding out more about nature and our school grounds. We have read the books *Stick Man* and *Not a Stick*. We loved finding our own sticks



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and imagining what they could be. We made wands, fishing rods, swords, unicorn horns, hoovers and even our own stick family! We also used sticks for measuring, mixing potions and painting. We loved Outdoor Day, even though it was chilly. Tree hugging, leaf kicking and throwing, hiking through the school woods, peering up through the branches and rolling down the hill, all made for a fun day.

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

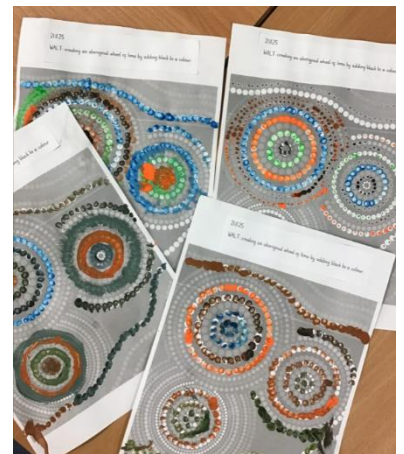


In Year 1, we have been learning about the four seasons and exploring the different signs that show us when the seasons are changing. The children have

enjoyed observing weather patterns and changes in nature, as well as creating colourful season wheels to show how the seasons change throughout the year. In English, we have been reading 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' and writing about what the owl looks like, using adjectives to describe his appearance.

Miss Wright & Miss Okey say ...

Year 2 have been really enjoying our Australia topic over the last few weeks. We have been looking at the weather in Australia and comparing it to here, and have learned about the physical and human features of Perth. In English, we



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have been writing information about an animal called a quokka. Did you know quokkas can only be found in Perth? In maths, we have been working hard practising addition and subtraction and in science we have been looking at habitats. In art we looked at aboriginal style paintings and had a go at doing our own. We used cotton buds to create the dot effect and added black to change the tone of the colours.

Mr Dale & Mrs Lamb say...



Year 3 had a surprise turn up in their classroom this week! A stone age cave appeared from nowhere! We have used this cave to inspire our new writing unit, which is to write a diary from the perspective of Stone Age Boy. The children loved

exploring the cave and learning about stone age life. We have also learnt about how Stone Age people lived after they settled and compared their homes to ours. In science, we have learnt about the different body systems and their purposes. Finally, we are continuing to learn our songs for the Lower School Christmas Play.

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

This week in Year 4, although it's still November, Christmas production practice is ramping up! We



have all been working hard, learning lines, projecting our speaking voices and fine tuning our beautiful singing voices.

There may have been blood, sweat and tears in this production but that's what makes the play so magical! We have also been doing some independent writing based on our writing topic of 'Rock, Paper Scissors', and are coming towards the end of our multiplication and division unit in maths. We are looking forward to sharing our production with you soon of 'The Amazing Advent Calendar'.

Miss Feather & Mr Sargeant say...



This week, Year 5 started reading and thinking about a new book, The Explorer by Katherine

Rundell (who Rundell class is named after!). In order to prepare for our unit, we took a trip aboard Bishopswood Airlines on a flight to Brazil, with an unfortunate disaster! Children then had to find as many different survival items as they could which had been hidden around the school site, before working in teams to decide the five most useful items to help them survive in the Amazon. The children showed amazing teamwork skills as well as logical thinking and most of them chose the best items to survive. We have also been



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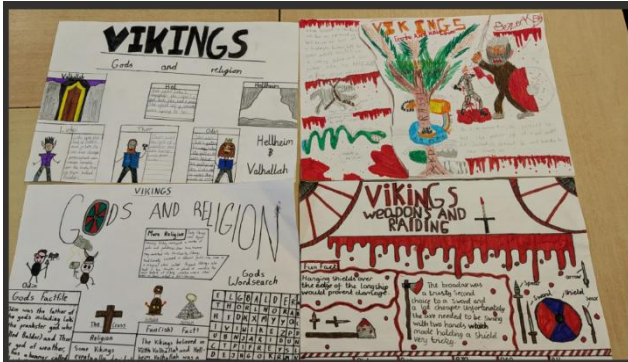
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continuing to learn about the rainforests of the world, including climate and weather patterns, and in art have begun to look at famous rainforest pictures before recreating them in our art books.

Mr Morris, Mrs Ouazzani & Mrs Dreelan say



Year 6 have had another great couple of weeks. They have been working really hard on Viking projects, where they are experts in an area of Viking history. The work they have produced is of amazing quality. In reading, the children have been completing work on the book *You Are Awesome!* by Matthew Syed. It is all about how they can change their mindset to go from 'Kid Average' to 'Kid Awesome'! Our writing work has taken us deep underground to the caves below Mam Tor, writing stories based around the legends of the Blue John caves. We have also, of course, started our Carols Around the Tree practice and the children have been belting out some Christmas songs!

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,

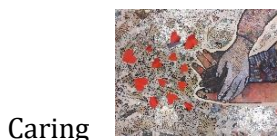
Choir

Our enthusiastic choir will be performing in a Christmas carol concert with Tadley band on Saturday 6th of December. This will be at 2.30 at Pamber Heath memorial hall. All are welcome to come along and support them and join in a sing-along with a great brass band. Tickets are £5 adults, children are free. They can be bought on the door or from the junior school office with the correct cash only please. Thank you for your support.



Coats

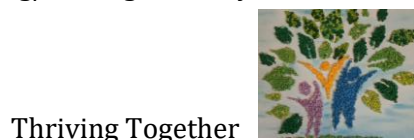
A reminder that all children need coats/waterproof jackets in school every day now as the weather can change quickly and it is getting colder. We always try to get the children outside for break/lunch time, even if the weather is less than ideal, however, if it is drizzling/raining and they do not have a coat,



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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 Tuck Shop

As a reminder, 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 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.** Please also check cereal bars as they often contain nuts of some kind.

Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe.

Please also remember that children **should not be bringing sweets or whole chocolate bars into school;** either for snack (junior school) or as part of their lunch. However, a chocolate biscuit or cake is fine.

We will shortly be reviewing the snacks available to buy in the junior school Tuck Shop, in order to promote healthier eating. More details to follow soon.

Thank you for your understanding.

Parking Reminder

As a reminder, parents are not permitted to use the inner school car park at all, including at the beginning or end of the day or when dropping off/collecting from breakfast or after school club. Thank you.



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.

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)

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.

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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

Dates for your diary:

- 5th December** – PTA Christmas Event with Santa
- 6th December** – Choir at Tadley Band concert
- 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
- 18th December** – Evening – Pantomime
- 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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THE FEDERATION OF BISHOPSWOOD INFANT SCHOOL & BISHOPSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Parent Governor Vacancy

Dear Parent/Guardian

We currently have an exciting opportunity for a parent/guardian to join the Bishopswood Schools Federation Governing Body as a Parent Governor. **No experience necessary!**

Bishopswood Schools Federation values the partnership it has with parents, which brings great benefits to the children. One of the best ways you can help is to volunteer to be a parent governor. Parent governors are highly valued members of the team. They play a vital role in ensuring that the governing body has access to parent perspectives and a greater knowledge of the local community.

More information can be found here - [What governors do | Education and learning | Hampshire County Council](#)

The role of a school governor is an important but rewarding one. It will enable you to meet new people and to work as part of a team. You will gain new knowledge and skills and will be able to bring a valuable perspective to the work of the board. You will be helping the school continue to improve and play a part in ensuring that pupils fulfil their aspirations

Full training and support will be available to help you develop into the role. This will include in-house mentoring and support, as well as access to external governor training. *Please note, that for the protection of children, all governor appointments are subject to an identity and DBS check.*

The governing body's main tasks are:

- to ensure that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction
- to hold the Senior Leaders to account for the educational performance of the school
- to oversee the financial performance of the school, making sure it's money is spent well

If you would like to **apply**, please contact Amanda Sims (Clerk to Governors) for an application form:

amandasims48@yahoo.com

The closing date for applications is **Friday 12th December 2025**.

If there are more applications than vacancies, we will hold a parent's election to determine the successful candidate.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

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Dear Sir/madam,

We are excited to announce Planet Ice Basingstoke has reopened its doors.

We have a variety of Lessons from Learn to skate, Hockey Excellence, Learn to Skate Advanced, as well as having Public Skating, Patch sessions and our ever-popular Group bookings.

We will also begin to offer Ice Skating Lessons during the week for School Bookings, Home Educated Children and Penguin club for children under 5 years old.

To make things even more exciting we have our new Sports Bar and Cafe. We now offer a wide variety of hot food and drinks suitable for everyone's needs.

We cater for not only children's Birthday Parties but also end of term trips, Christmas parties, and much more.

Need more information?

Visit our website www.planet-ice.co.uk for our Public Skate timings, Birthday Parties, all Events, and Ice-Skating Lessons we have to offer

For Information regarding any group bookings, Home Education Lessons and School Bookings please contact us directly at:

basingstoke@planet-ice.co.uk or alternatively contact us on **01256 355266**.

Kind Regards

Planet Ice Basingstoke

Scarlett's Smiles
SPOTLIGHT UK
Creating positive memories
Charity no. 1129258

The Big Christmas Give

Can you help Spotlight bring joy this Christmas by purchasing a toy for our Christmas toy appeal or making a small donation...

Use the qr codes below for ways to donate.

Amazon Wishlist



Give As You Live



Scarlett's Smiles
SPOTLIGHT UK
Creating positive memories

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

Donation Point
Donate new & unwrapped toys for children this Christmas
Deadline for donations 1st December

Nationwide Basingstoke

3/4 Clapham House, Basingstoke, RG21 7JN

For More Information:
07804880072 or michaela@spotlightuk.org
Spotlight UK registered charity 1129258

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