



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 busy term, and everyone is definitely ready for their Christmas break which I hope will be filled with fun for everyone, including yourself!

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 2026! A reminder that we have an INSET day on Monday 5th January, so we look forward to seeing you back in school on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**.

Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,



Here we are, finally at the Christmas break! 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 able to show off just how talented 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.

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 (no white or colour at all)** – 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 100 children from the junior school to the Panto in Basingstoke. This year's panto was 'Aladdin' and the children (and adults!) all enjoyed the show. 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 I know you will join me in thanking those who gave up their evenings.

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.



THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

Choir



On Saturday 6th December, six members of the Bishopswood Junior Choir went to the Pamber Heath Memorial Hall to perform in a concert alongside Tadley Brass Band and children from Silchester choir at a concert in early December. They were excellent and enjoyed the opportunity of performing.

The choir will be back rehearsing by at the end of January in preparation for the concerts at the Anvil in June. If your child would like to be involved, look out for a letter in January.

Curriculum

We will continue to be regularly sharing what the children have been doing in school. In this Festive half-term, the children have been 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 loved practising and performing their 'Little Nativity' – a huge thank you to all of you who came and supported us. We hope you enjoyed it! Over the last couple of weeks, we have



been having lots of fun finding out why Christians celebrate Christmas by listening to the Christmas story. We had a challenge to make a Christmas tree using anything we could think of around the classroom or our outdoor area. Everyone was very inventive...

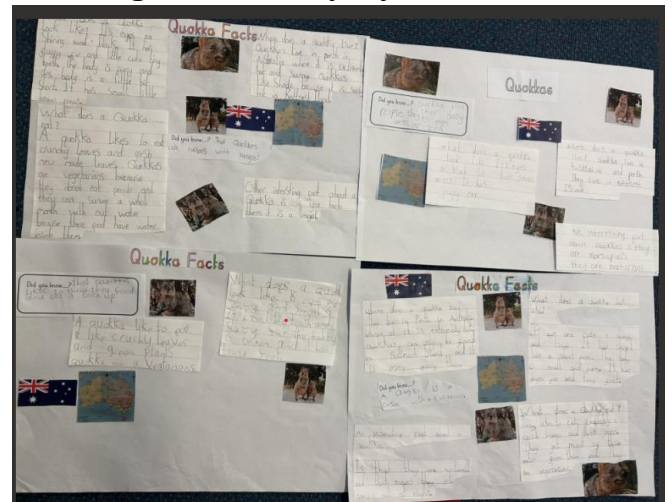
playdough, sticks, whiteboards, books, and bricks were all used. And also, this enormous one was made out of tubes outside! We are also trying to keep practising our reading, counting and phonics sounds. Enjoy your Christmas holidays!

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



Year 1 have enjoyed a very creative final week of term! They took part in both an Art Day and a Computing Day, where they explored different ways of creating artwork. The children learned about the famous artist William Morris and practised their printing skills inspired by his work. During Computing, they developed the skills needed to create an Autumn picture, exploring how to use a range of tools to make lines and shapes, as well as learning how to use features such as undo and redo.

Miss Wright & Miss Okey say...



Year 2 have had a fantastic end to the Autumn term. We have been busy practising for our carol concert, making Christmas crafts for our families and also practising for the Grandparent's concert too! In

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.



THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

science, we finished our topic by making paper plate habitats. In English, we wrote character descriptions about one of Santa's reindeer and also wrote information posters about an Australian animal called a quokka. We have really enjoyed our geography learning, comparing Hampshire and Perth in Australia. We have especially enjoyed learning about the difference in the weather and all the different animals they have in Perth. We had an exciting end to the topic with a video from some children in Perth. They told us all about life in Perth and asked us all about what it is like in Hampshire.

Mr Dale & Mrs Lamb say...



We have had a great last couple of weeks of the Autumn term in Year 3. We have carried on our Stone Age topic, making roundhouses in D.T. We designed our house, made it with clay and sticks and then evaluated it, thinking about how we could make it even better. This week we

have had our Stone Age Day; we looked at different artefacts from the Stone Age, created our own cave painting, and found out how things changed over time during the Stone Age. The children also looked amazing in their costumes! In Science, we have learnt about the different muscles in the human body and what they do. Finally, in writing, we have written an explanation text based on the story of Santa Trap. We have been using time conjunctions, adjectives and rhetorical questions to write how a Santa trap would work.



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

The past couple of weeks in Year 4 have been wonderfully busy, with lots of excitement in the run-up to Christmas.



A real highlight has been watching the children perform in their two Christmas plays – it was a joy to see their confidence and hard work come together on stage. Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported their children with learning lines at home; we truly couldn't have done it without you. In class, the children have been writing non-chronological reports about reindeer, focusing on how they help Father Christmas, as well as enjoying festive activities such as designing Christmas cards and solving Christmas-themed maths problems. It has been a fantastic end to a very productive term.

Miss Feather & Mr Sargeant say...



Year 5 have had a super finish to the Autumn term, culminating in their amazing performance at Carols Around the Tree. The children

sang beautifully and looked very festive in their Xmas jumpers and Elton John-themed specs! They have also produced some fantastic festive artworks, including some candy canes in which the children experimented with new techniques to add dimension and a 3D perspective. In their writing lessons, the children have been learning about the Christmas Truce of 1914 through the poetry of Carol Ann Duffy and have now started to compose some beautiful poetry



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.



THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

of their own about this amazing event. The poems are very descriptive and moving, and have been a joy to read. In maths, the children have continued to look at fractions and have tackled some very tricky ideas with great resilience and determination. We are so proud of everything they have achieved this term and hope they all have a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday. We look forward to seeing you all back in January.



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



Year 6 have had a brilliant final few weeks of term. The children have been writing about fictional mythical creatures, based on the book Skellig, and have come up with some amazingly creative ideas. They also performed brilliantly in their carols on Tuesday. Finally, we have ended the term

with some brilliant Viking inspired cooking. The children all chopped a variety of vegetables and have taken home pots of vegetable soup! Well done on a fantastic first term in Year 6. We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a restful break!



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 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.



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

Caring



Respecting



Thriving Together





THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

I'm sorry to say that recently, I have received several complaints from local residents, including in Elmhurst, concerning what they consider to be inconsiderate parking. We have residents who have had their driveways or access to their vehicle completely blocked off by parents' parking during drop-off and pick-up, meaning their own vehicle was inaccessible to them right when they needed to use it! That is understandably incredibly frustrating for them, and clearly should not be happening.

Please, please be considerate when you are parking locally, and never block access to driveways and/or vehicles. Thank you for your support in this.

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.

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:

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

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.



THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

WHAT'S ON September - December 2025

Southampton
City of Opportunity

SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL

Christmas Holidays

Dress for mess at all our workshops



Table Decorations for all ages with Victoria Goss

Saturday 21 December | 10.30am - 12.30pm
or 1pm - 3pm | SeaCity | £18

Art School Plus: Paint, Draw (and Breathe!)

(11 - 16 yrs)

Monday 22 December | 10.30am - 3.30pm |
Art Gallery | £26

Art for All: Gonk O 'Clock (5+)

Tuesday 23 December | 10am, 11.30am or 1pm |
Art Gallery | £6.50

Christmas at Hogwarts (7+)

Tuesday 23 December | 10am - 12 noon or
1pm - 3pm | Tudor House | £12

Art for All: Penguin Print Thank You Cards and More (4+)

Friday 2 January | 10.30am, 12.30pm
or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Discover Titanic

Friday 2 January | 10.30am, 12.30pm or
2.30pm | SeaCity | £8



 Drop off your young people

Christmas at Tudor House

Sat 6, Sun 7, Sat 13, Sun 14, Sat 20, Sun 21 and Mon 22
December | 10am - 5pm | Tudor House | £25

Join us in Southampton's oldest building for a special visit with Father Christmas in the Banqueting Hall. This festive experience includes getting creative with a fun craft activity, then unwinding with a sweet treat in our café.

Culture Club for Kids: Christmas Holiday Activity Days

(6½ - 12 yrs)

Week Theme - Polar Bears and Penguins

Mon 22, Tues 23 December

9am - 4pm (drop off from 8.45am) |
SeaCity | £35 per day £60 for both days

Get creative, explore our collections and learn new stuff while making really cool things at our themed activity days!



See venue websites for further details on events and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com

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.



THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

*Tadley's
Christmas Trail*



Sunday 14th - Wednesday 31st December

£2 per Map / per Family

*Maps available from Starbucks inside Sainsburys, Mulford Hill or
Morrisons at Giles Court*

Sponsored By  *Thriveology*
Mental Health, SEN & Wellbeing

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.



THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

Christmas

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

TADLEY | PAMBER HEATH | SILCHESTER

Sunday 14th 10am
Messy Christmas at St Paul's

Sunday 21st 3pm & 5pm
Carol Services at St Peter's

Sunday 21st 4pm
Nine Lessons & Carols
Service at St Mary-the-Virgin

Monday 22nd 4pm
Live Nativity Trail starting
at St Michael's, Bishopswood Rd

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th 2.30pm
Nativity Service at St Luke's

Wednesday 24th 4pm
Crib Service & Christingle
at St Mary's

Wednesday 24th 4pm
Crib Service at
St Mary-the-Virgin

Wednesday 24th 4pm
Crib Service at St Paul's

Midnight Holy Communion

Wednesday 24th 11.30pm
Midnight Holy Communion at
St Luke's / St Paul's /
St Mary's / St Mary-the-Virgin

Christmas Day

Thursday 25th 10am
Christmas Day Holy Communion
at St Mary's

Thursday 25th 10am
Christmas Day Holy Communion
at St Mary-the-Virgin

Thursday 25th 10am
Church on the Green Christmas
All Age at St Paul's

Later in the week

Sunday 28th 6pm
Benefice Carol Service
at St Mary's

Charity number: 1187062

You are welcome in all our churches and at all our services. Do join us again this Christmas.

More information:



@stpaulstadley | @st.marys.tadley | @silchesterchurch



THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

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.