



# 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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026**



Dear Parents & Carers,

Although the Christmas holidays seem a long time ago now, on behalf of everyone at Bishopswood Federation, we wish you a very Happy New Year, and hope you had a wonderful Christmas break.

Spring Term began in an exciting way, with snow falling on the first morning back! Even though there wasn't a huge amount of snow, the children had lots of fun building tiny snowmen and playing out in it. They were so excited, which was wonderful to see, and we tried to make the most of it, as we don't seem to get snow very much nowadays.

We are already busy learning lots in school, which we are excited to tell you about, both here and in our curriculum letters that go out every half-term. Hopefully you find these useful, but if you have any feedback on these, or would like other information, please email the school office and let us know.

## Uniform reminder

A reminder around uniform. Like any other school, we kindly request that any 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.

Please also ensure that your child has a coat in school every day – if it is warm enough they will be allowed outside without it, but we do ask that all children have one in school.

Finally, please remember that the only permitted jewellery are a watch and small stud earrings, and these must either be removed or taped up for PE lessons. Thank you for your support in this.

## Curriculum

We will continue to be regularly sharing what the children have been doing in school. In this Spring 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 Bellemere say...**

In Year R we have been enjoying the icy weather, and learning about ice, frost and snowflake poetry. It has been lots of fun exploring ice and using words to describe how it feels. Chestnut class thoroughly enjoyed their first day at forest school too, especially the mud kitchen and the snacks on offer.



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



Year 1 have had a busy start to the Spring Term. In English, we have been looking at the story of Cinderella. We have explored different adjectives and

used them in our writing when retelling the story. In computing, we have been learning how to program the Bee-Bots and have also discussed the importance of staying safe online.

## Miss Wright & Miss Okey say...

Year 2 have had a brilliant start back to the term. We have been learning about money in maths and have been counting different amounts in coins and notes. In English we read a book called 'Look Up' and used this book to practise our common exception words and the 'ed' suffix.



In science we have been learning about living, non-living and things that have never been alive.

We made our own pet rocks and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of them. We decided that even though a pet rock would be cheaper than a real pet, a real pet is better

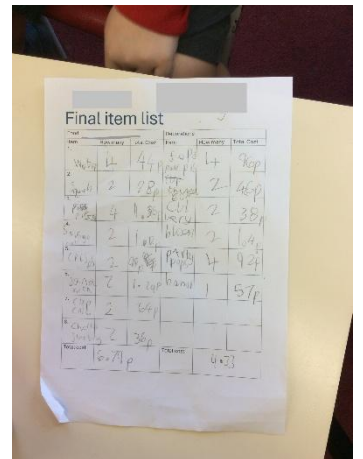


for cuddles! To start our topic learning we had an exciting space day! We took part in lots of activities to see if we had what it takes to be an astronaut. We did a fitness test, a gravity drop experiment and tried to build a Lego rocket. We also watched videos of astronauts in space and even tried real astronaut food! A great start to the term!

## Mr Dale & Mrs Lamb say...

Year 3 have settled well after Christmas. We have kicked off our new topic of Ancient Egypt with creating a timeline, looking at different Egyptian artefacts, and finding Egypt on a map. Our topic has also spilled into our writing!

We have been researching Cleopatra and using these facts to create an interview with her. In maths, the children have been working really hard on multiplying 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. To help them with this, they planned a sleepover party for themselves and three friends. They have showed a lot of resilience this week!



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

Year 4 have kicked off their learning in style with the help of Joseph Coelho's creative (and sometimes crazy) poetry. We have enjoyed diving into the skills of applying different tones, emphasising different words to change the impact of a sentence, and even trialling different accents when performing the poems to entertain our audiences. We have also been using this love of all things poetry to work on becoming poets ourselves using alliteration, similes, personification and trying to rhyme in an ABAB rhyme scheme.

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We have also started our term topic based on London. So far, we have been using our atlas skills to find and

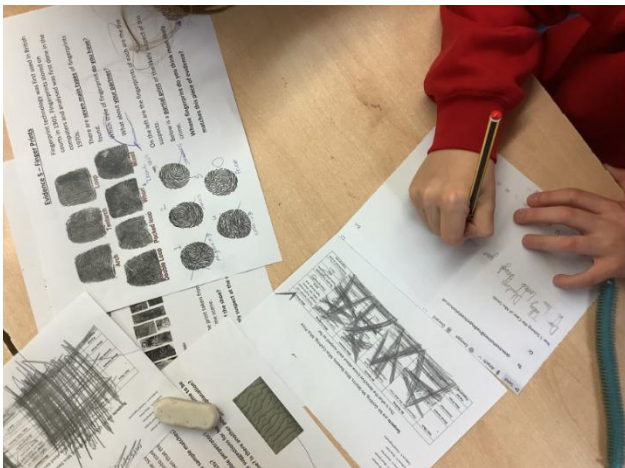


name the different countries of Europe as well as finding their capital cities. Up next, we will be investigating and creating posters for the capital cities of each of the countries in the United Kingdom (excluding London).

Finally, in science, we have been looking at states of matter: what makes a solid, liquid and gas? What are their properties? What is the same and different about their particle arrangement? We have a fun investigation planned next week, so keep an eye out in the next newsletter for pictures!

## Mr Morris, Miss Feather & Mr Sargeant say...

Year 5 have had an enthusiastic start to the new

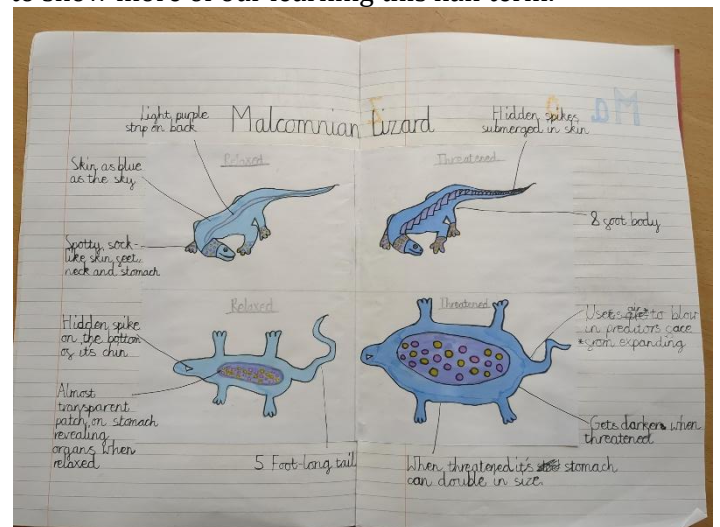


Spring term, diving headfirst into their topic about 'How Britain was affected by World War II'. So far, children have learnt about the key events that happened, who the leaders were, why the war started and how The Blitz affected the people of London and other cities. Children have begun

making posters advising the people of London on how to stay safe during an air raid. In English lessons, children are enjoying reading a range of books set during World War II, including Letters from the Lighthouse, and have written descriptions of the train stations where scared children were being evacuated. In Science, children are thinking scientifically this term. So far, they have studied and tested the theories of Leonardo Da Vinci, and this week they solved a murder cold case using forensic clues and evidence to eliminate potential suspects and discover the perpetrator!

## Mrs Ouazzani & Mrs Dreelan say....

Year 6 have settled back in after the Christmas holidays really positively. We have started our first writing unit, which is all about the fantastic book Holes, by Louis Sachar. They have all created their own species of lizard which they are now writing about. Some of the designs are absolutely incredible. We have also started our topic work about the Mayans. The children have completed some map work all about where they came from in Central America. We have also started looking at the Mexican Artist, Frida Kahlo, and the children are beginning to replicate her self-portrait style. We have had a super first 2 weeks back and can't wait to show more of our learning this half term.



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## The Hive

We have had a great return back to "The Hive" after Christmas. The children and adults have started daily Occupational Therapy sessions, which they are loving! We have been enjoying lots of fine motor skills activities, and working as a group to get these done. Our topic this week is "weather", so we have been learning how it can change often. The favourite sensory tray this week has been exploring hot chocolate powder and diggers! Fun!

## 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.



Please also 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](mailto:Bishopswoodschoolspta@gmail.com)

Come and make a difference for our schools!

## Dates for Your Diary

**30<sup>th</sup> January** – Year R Outdoor Day

**3<sup>rd</sup> February** – Year R Bedtime Stories Day

**5<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 5 WWII Day

**12<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 1 Kings and Queens Day

**16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February** – **HALF-TERM**

**23<sup>rd</sup> February** – **INSET Day**

**24<sup>th</sup> February** – Book Fair arrives

**26<sup>th</sup> February** – Height and Weight checks – Year 6

**3<sup>rd</sup> March** – Year 5 STEM workshops

**6<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 6 STEM workshops

**30<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April** – **EASTER HOLIDAYS**

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Explore - Discover - Record!

# BIOBLITZ

TADLEY COMMON  
6 JUNE 2026

**SURVEY WILDLIFE!**

**IDENTIFY SPECIES!**

**LEARN WITH EXPERTS!**

**FUN NATURE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!**

Hosted by Turbary Charity  
and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF WILDLIFE DISCOVERY!**

**Sport In Mind**

**FREE!**

## Sport & Games - for Youth Mental Wellbeing

**Time** Tuesdays at 4.30-5.30pm (Ages 10-14)  
**Term-time session**

**Venue** Hall A, The Link, Newchurch Road, Tadley RG28 4HN

**Description** Fun, free and interactive session to enjoy different games & activities and help improve the mental wellbeing of young people. A great way to help build confidence and self-esteem and meet new people!

This group is provided **FREE** by mental health charity Sport In Mind for the benefit of local young people. Any questions email [youth@sportinmind.org](mailto:youth@sportinmind.org)

[@sportinmind](https://www.instagram.com/sportinmind) [info@sportinmind.org](mailto:info@sportinmind.org) [www.sportinmind.org](http://www.sportinmind.org) 03001021400

Supported by the **McCreesh Legacy**

Working in partnership with **NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

supported by **Basingstoke and Deane**

Attendee sign up

Scarlett's Smiles  
**SPOTLIGHT UK**  
Creating positive memories

**RAFFLE £3 PER TICKET**

**WIN A WEEK FAMILY BREAK TO BUTLINS THIS MAY HALF TERM**

Scan here or email [activities@spotlightuk.org](mailto:activities@spotlightuk.org) to enter

The money raised will support local children affected by loss, children in care, young carers, children with long term disabilities or terminal illness, children affected by domestic abuse

Charity No. 1129258

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