



THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

Bishopswood Infant and Junior School
Barlows Road
Tadley
Hampshire
RG26 3NA
Juniors: 0118 9812738
Executive Headteacher: Mr G Golding
Executive Head of School: Mrs J Armes

Monday 14th September 2026

Year 5 – Autumn 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you had a fantastic summer break. We are delighted to welcome the children to upper school. They have already begun the year looking very smart in their new school uniform. We have very much enjoyed our first week together and are looking forward to the year ahead.

Learning Challenge

Our first learning challenge of the year is ‘**Why is life on Earth so varied?**’. In this topic, the children will be investigating fossils in science and learning about Charles Darwin. The children will study evolution and inheritance, thinking about how things may have evolved over time. At the end of our topic, they will be applying their learning to design their own species of animal. They consider how their creation has adapted to survive in its environment.

Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing completely plain, black shoes. Long hair should be tied back. All uniform should be clearly labelled to avoid a build-up of lost property. Please check uniform regularly to ensure your child has the correct jumper. As the weather gets colder and wetter, please make sure your child has a waterproof coat in school.

PE

PE this term will be on a **Tuesday** afternoon. Please ensure your child attends school in the appropriate school P.E kit. PE kit consists of the following: black shorts; black joggers; white round neck t-shirt/t-shirt in your child’s house colour; school jumper or cardigan and trainers. Earrings should be taken out for PE (or taped – adults in school **will not** be able to help with this, so they need to be able to do it independently). Hair should be tied back at all times.

Homework Diaries

We hope you find the homework diaries helpful and that they encourage the children to be more independent in their organisation. The information page of the diary can be used to give us information, but anything of a sensitive nature would best be written in a letter to the class teacher or discussed face to face. If you wish to speak with your child’s class teacher, please let the office know. Homework diaries need to be signed (by an adult) and handed in **every Friday**. Their diaries should show: when they have read, the title of the book, and the page numbers. In your child’s homework diary, you will also find the spellings for each week. These will be given out every Friday.

Homework

As you know, Year 5 is a very important year as children are in Upper School and are taking more responsibility for their own learning. It is important your child sets up a good routine for doing homework, as this will help them when they move to Year 6 and beyond. The expectations for homework are listed below.

- read 3 times a week (written and signed in homework diary by Friday)
- practise their weekly spelling words (handed out on a Friday)
- 20 minutes Times Table Rockstars
- one piece from the learning challenge homework grid (due in every Monday)

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Dreelan, Mrs Ouazzani-Yusein and Mr Hayden

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.

At Bishopswood, we offer a rich and diverse curriculum that engages all children. Enriched activities that motivate children, enhancing their life opportunities is something that is very important to us.

Year 5	'Why is life so varied?'
Subject	Areas Covered
Reading	This half-term, children will develop a range of reading skills, including retrieval, summarising texts, understanding how authors use language for effect, and making inferences. They will learn to justify their answers and opinions using evidence from the text.
Writing	In writing, our narrative work will be inspired by <i>Darwin's Dragons</i> . Children will create vivid setting descriptions, focusing on writing accurate and engaging sentences. They will also develop their persuasive writing skills while continuing to strengthen their understanding of grammar. Alongside this, children will revisit Year 4 National Curriculum spelling patterns and rules to improve their spelling accuracy and confidence.
Mathematics	In Mathematics, children will build upon their understanding of place value by comparing and ordering numbers. They will develop mental strategies for addition and subtraction, including redistributing, compensating, and using known number facts. Children will also focus on multiplication and division, applying known facts to solve calculations efficiently. Throughout the half-term, children will regularly take part in problem-solving and calculation activities designed to deepen their mathematical understanding in real-life contexts and improve their fluency with times tables.
Art	In Art, children will develop their observational drawing skills through a project focused on leaves and plants. They will begin by exploring tone and practising different shading techniques to create depth, texture, and form in their sketches. As the unit progresses, children will use watercolour paints to carefully observe and represent natural objects, experimenting with colour mixing and brush techniques to produce detailed botanical artwork. This work will encourage creativity while developing key artistic skills in drawing, painting, and observation.
Computing	In Computing, children will develop their digital skills through sketching and presentation work. They will learn about the importance of e-safety and how to stay safe when using technology. Children will also build their PowerPoint presentation skills, learning how to create clear, engaging, and informative presentations.
Science	Our Science topic this half-term is Evolution and Inheritance. Children will explore how living things change over time and learn about plants and animals that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. They will investigate animal adaptations and discover how these adaptations help species survive in different environments. Children will also learn about the process of evolution and how living things have changed over generations.
Physical Education	In PE, children will take part in netball lessons, where they will develop their passing, footwork, attacking, defending, and shooting skills. They will also participate in multi-skills activities that focus on catching, throwing, travelling, and stability, helping to improve their overall coordination, balance, and teamwork.
PSHE and RE	In Religious Education, children will explore the question: "What does belonging mean to me and others?" They will discuss the importance of belonging within different communities and consider how beliefs, values, and experiences help shape identity.
Spanish	Across four sequential lessons children will learn a selection of the key phonemes to facilitate accurate and authentic pronunciation as part of their language learning experience. Each of the lessons is accompanied by a song that children will be encouraged to actively participate in, as well as a mouth mechanics guide video.
My Happy Mind	The children will learn to celebrate their own qualities and those of others. They will be celebrating differences and finding commonalities between themselves and others.
Music	This half-term, the Hampshire Music Service are teaching the children to play a range of brass instruments – what a fantastic opportunity! The children will build their note reading skills and their ability to keep time.

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