



BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOL FEDERATION

Bishopswood Infant School
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Hampshire
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Infant 0118 9812836

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

Monday 14th September 2026

Early Years Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Each half term, we will send home a newsletter with information about our current topics, what the children are learning, and ways you can support them at home.

The children are settling in wonderfully and are already enjoying school, along with all the exciting new learning opportunities and challenges. We would like to thank you for your continued support in helping them adjust to school life and become familiar with the new routines.

In school, we are focusing on developing the children's independence. We encourage them to look after and find their own belongings, as well as practise putting on their coats and jumpers by themselves. Your support with this at home would be greatly appreciated.

EYFS Baseline

Since September 2021, all children in Reception have been required to take part in the **Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)**. The assessment consists of a short series of practical and interactive activities using familiar objects and pictures, which will be completed individually with either Mrs Bellemere or Miss Daly. All schools are required to complete these assessments within the first six weeks of children starting school. We will begin carrying out the assessments from **16th September**.

Please see the attached letter for further information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Reading

We will be providing your child with a reading diary to record any reading completed at home. Please ensure that the reading diary is kept in your child's book bag every day so that we can also record when we read with them in school. Over the next week, your child will bring home their first reading book, which will have a lilac sticker on the spine. To begin their reading journey, we will start with a wordless book. These books help children develop their imagination, storytelling skills and confidence in talking about what they can see. Throughout this half term, we will be teaching Phase 2 phonics sounds and how to blend sounds together to read simple words. As the children develop these skills, they will progress on to books containing words. We will read with your child each week in school, and their reading book will be changed weekly. Our school expectation is that children read, or are read to, at least three times each week at home, with this recorded in their reading diary. Thank you for your support in helping to develop your child's love of reading.

Caring



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PE

Our PE day will be **Wednesdays**, with our first PE lesson taking place on **Wednesday 23rd September**. On PE days, children should come to school wearing their normal school uniform, although they may wear trainers. We will support the children in changing into their PE kits and back into their school uniform, while encouraging them to develop their independence and dressing skills. To help us return any misplaced items quickly, please ensure that all clothing and belongings are clearly named. We would also be very grateful if you could practise changing in and out of school uniform with your child at home, as this will help build their confidence and independence. To make changing easier, we kindly ask that children do not wear tights or formal shirts on PE days. As we encourage children to dress themselves independently, there may be occasions when clothing is put on inside out, back to front, or slightly differently than usual. We celebrate and praise children's efforts to do things for themselves and, unless something is causing discomfort or shoes are on the wrong feet, we will not routinely correct these mistakes. Developing confidence and independence is our priority, and these small mishaps are all part of the learning process!

Class of 2026

Over the next few weeks, a photographer from **Newbury News** will be visiting the school to take photographs of our new "**Class of 2026**". The Reception year group photograph will be published in a special supplement on **Friday 20th November**. We will also be taking a class photograph to submit to the **Basingstoke Gazette** for their "**Class of 2026**" feature, which is due to be published on **Thursday 5th November**. We will use the photo permissions you have already provided. Any children whose parents or carers have requested that they are not included in photographs will not take part. If you would like to discuss this further, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Monster phonics

Our phonics scheme at Bishopswood is called Monster Phonics, which is used to help children learn to read and write. There are lots of 'monster' characters that help the children with this and we will be introducing them over the coming weeks. We will also be holding a parents' phonics workshop in which we will share with you how phonics is taught in school and how you can further support your child at home. Details of this will be sent out over the next few weeks.

Reminders

A few reminders from our home visits:

- Please ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly named, including clothing, shoes, water bottles and lunch boxes.
- Children should bring a water bottle filled with **water** to school each day.
- Every child needs a pair of welly boots and a spare set of clothes to keep in school.
- We kindly ask that toys are not brought into school, as they can easily become lost or damaged.
- Jewellery should not be worn to school. Children with pierced ears may wear plain stud earrings. On PE days, please use medical tape to cover your child's earrings safely **before they come to school**.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. We have been delighted with how well the children have settled into school, and it has been a fantastic start to their journey at Bishopswood.

The Early Years Team

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.