THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

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Early Years Newsletter

Tuesday 10th November 2026

Dear Parents,

EYFS curriculum

We would like to share how the Early Years curriculum is structured at Bishopswood through three key aspirations that underpin children's learning and development. These aspirations are woven throughout the year and are explored through a range of smaller topic areas each term.

Aspiration 1 – Who am I and where do I belong in the community and the wider world?

This aspiration helps children develop a strong sense of who they are by building their confidence, understanding their emotions, and encouraging them to talk about themselves, their families, and their experiences. As their understanding grows, they begin to explore the world around them, starting with our school community and extending to the local area and beyond.

Through a range of projects within school and the wider community, children learn about the lives, experiences, and cultures of others. They are encouraged to think about their place within the school, Tadley, the United Kingdom, and the wider world.

We work closely with members of our local community to provide children with meaningful opportunities to meet a wide range of people and learn about the valuable roles they play. Through visits, visitors, and first-hand experiences, children explore different careers, responsibilities, and places within the community, helping them to broaden their knowledge, develop their curiosity, and gain a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Aspiration 2 – How can I grow my own food and create a tasty recipe?

This aspiration begins with children exploring where food comes from through the discovery of seeds, plants, and the natural world. They will plant and care for their own seeds, observing how they grow and learning what plants need to thrive. As the seasons change, children will explore the impact of these changes on the world around them and develop an understanding of the journey from seed to table.

Throughout the year, children will have opportunities to harvest and taste foods grown both locally and from around the world. They will grow produce within the school environment and use their harvests to create simple recipes, helping them develop an appreciation for healthy eating and sustainable food choices.

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.

This learning is enriched through the exploration of traditional tales, where stories come to life through hands-on experiences. Children will bake, cook, and taste foods inspired by familiar stories, such as gingerbread from *The Gingerbread Man*, porridge from *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, bread from *The Little Red Hen*, and beans inspired by *Jack and the Beanstalk*. These experiences encourage curiosity, creativity, and a deeper understanding of food, nature, and the world around them.

Aspiration 3 – Little people, big ideas.

This aspiration encourages children to become curious, confident learners who are eager to ask questions, explore new ideas, and discover more about the world around them. Through meaningful and engaging experiences, children will be supported to follow their interests, develop their talents, and build the skills that help them thrive both now and in the future.

The interests, strengths, and passions of the children will play an important role in shaping this aspiration. Alongside this, children will be introduced to a wide range of careers, talents, and skills that contribute to our communities and make the world such an interesting place. We will work closely with members of our local community, inviting visitors into school to share their professions, hobbies, and expertise. This will provide children with valuable opportunities to learn about careers and experiences they may not encounter in their everyday lives.

Our aim is to create rich and inspiring learning opportunities that broaden children's horizons, nurture their aspirations, and equip them with lifelong skills alongside their day-to-day learning.

If you, or someone you know, have a career, skill, hobby, or talent that you would be willing to share with our children, we would be delighted to hear from you. Your support can help inspire the next generation and enrich the learning experiences we provide.

This half term

This half term, our learning will focus predominantly on **Aspiration 1**, as children continue to develop their understanding of the community around them. Through experiences such as visits to our local library, children will learn more about the important places and people within our local area. We will also be welcoming members of our community into school, including local nurseries and care homes, to share in our Nativity performances. These opportunities help children build meaningful connections and develop a sense of belonging within their wider community.

Alongside this, our learning will also link to **Aspiration 3**, encouraging children to explore and celebrate the rich diversity of the world around them. Through learning about festivals and traditions such as **Diwali**, **Hanukkah**, and **Christmas**, children will develop an understanding of different cultures, religions, and beliefs. These experiences will promote curiosity, respect, and appreciation for the traditions that make our communities unique.

Reading

Please continue to read regularly with your child and record each reading session in their Monkey Book. We ask that children read at least **three times each week**, as regular reading plays an important role in developing confidence, fluency, and a love of books.

To celebrate and encourage this commitment, every child who has read and recorded their reading three or more times during the week will be entered into our weekly raffle, with the chance to win a brand-new book. We look forward to celebrating our enthusiastic readers and sharing in their reading journey throughout the term.

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Christmas

We are delighted to announce that this year's Nativity performances will take place on 8th and 10th December. Further information regarding individual roles, costumes, and any lines that children will need to learn will be shared with families shortly.

As part of our commitment to strengthening links with the local community, we will also be performing a special community Nativity performance for local nurseries and care homes on Monday 7th December.

Our family performances will take place as follows:

- Tuesday 8th December – Nativity performance for Chestnut families.
- Thursday 10th December – Nativity performance for Willow families.

To enable more family members to attend and enjoy the performance, we have arranged separate performances for each class. We hope this provides greater flexibility for families and allows more loved ones to share in this special occasion.

We are very much looking forward to celebrating this wonderful time of year with our children, families, and the wider community.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's learning journey. We greatly value the strong relationships we have with our families and appreciate all that you do to support learning at home. We are looking forward to another exciting and successful half term, filled with wonderful opportunities for the children to learn, grow, and thrive.

Kind regards,

The Early Years Team