



BISHOPSWOOD INFANT SCHOOL

Bishopswood Infant School
Barlows Road
Tadley
Hampshire
RG26 3NA
Infant 0118 9812836

Executive Headteacher: Mr G Golding

Friday 18th September 2020

Early Years Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first Early Years Newsletter! The children are settling in well and seem to be really enjoying school, considering their unusual transition this year. We would like to thank you for your support, as some of the systems we have put in place this year are completely new to us, especially virtual home visits.

Throughout the year, the Year R team will send out half termly newsletters and information about our topics and how to help at home. This term our topic is "All about me", which will include us getting to know your children, and them getting to know us and our school. We will be incorporating a lot of nursery rhymes into this topic to support their language development.

Drop-off and Collection Information

As you know, to reduce congestion of adults at the start and end of the school day the times for collection and drop-off are staggered. Now that the Year R children are in school full times, this is just a reminder of the drop off and collection times for each class.

Year	Class	Start	End
Year R	Chestnut (Miss Russell)	8:40	3:10
	Willow (Miss Ledger)	8:50	3:20

P.E

Due to the current COVID situation we are having to timetable our school hall for P.E throughout the term. Each year group has a week slot and during this week the year group will be able to utilise the equipment and ensure it is safe for the following week's "bubble". During this week, please send your child into school wearing PE clothing that is suitable for both physical activities in the hall, as well as functional for a day in school, including free flow outside (e.g. tracksuits and trainers). If your child has pierced ears, please ensure they are wearing medical tape over their earrings to keep them safe when using the equipment. Year R PE weeks are listed below.

Week beginning: **28th September 2020**

Week beginning: **19th October 2020**

Welcome Meetings

Usually each year group holds a welcome meeting at the start of the academic year. This year we are unfortunately unable to meet you face to face but we will be posting our welcome talk on the school website. This PowerPoint aims to give you more information about Year R and our Foundation Stage Curriculum, as well as information about supporting your child at home with language and reading development.

Reading

Due to the risk of cross-contamination of the bubbles when sharing Reading Scheme books at school, we are unable to send home our reading scheme books for the foreseeable future. However, we do have enough supplementary books that support other elements of reading for each 'bubble', meaning these can be shared more easily, taken home to practice and quarantined regularly. Children in Year R will be introduced to a sharing picture book initially for you to read to them, which they will change regularly at school. This picture book is an opportunity for your child to develop a love of reading and increase opportunities to develop their language skills. They will then be introduced to "lilac" books (part of our supplemented reading scheme) which they will be able to "read" themselves. These books have no words in, just pictures to tell the story. More information about how we introduce children to reading will be part of our Welcome Meeting pack.

Class of 2019

To celebrate the first year of school, Year R will be having their photos taken by Newbury Weekly News and will be printed in a supplement on supplement on **Thursday 29th October**.

A few reminders:

Please make sure your child has a water bottle, wellies and a bag of spare clothes in school at all times, which all need to be named. The water bottle needs to be a separate one from the lunch bottle and contain just water please [not juice or squash]. At the moment we will be sending the water bottles home daily for you to clean and re-fill at home, but the wellies and spare clothes will remain in school. Following changes to the government guidance we are now allowing bookbags into school. This can be in the form of a schoolbook bag, a drawstring bag or plastic carrier bag. We would like to apologise for the confusion around this following our home visit discussions. Changes are being made regularly to government guidance for schools and we are trying to keep up as best we can.

Finally, we are trying to promote independence and would recommend that parents say goodbye to their children at the outside classroom gate. This will enable children to get used to our routines quicker. Please help your child learn to put their jumpers and coats on independently. We have shown them how to pull the arms of their jumper the right way through. We are not expecting your child to do up their coat yet, but please start to work with them to do up zips and buttons. As the days get colder please ensure your child has a coat in school.

Thank you very much for your co-operation. It has been a great start to your child's schooling at Bishopswood.

The Early Years Team