



THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

Bishopswood Infant & Junior Schools
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Executive Headteacher: Mr G Golding

Friday 8th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The first 3 years of a child's life are recognised as the most intensive period for acquiring language skills. By the age of 7 children can typically recognise and use around 10,000 words. Children need time and support to be able to acquire and develop their language. At Bishopswood we feel it is important to give children the support they need to develop their language skills and would like to share our ideas with you. We would also like to provide you with resources and activities to help your child at home.

Ways we help at school...

Songs and Rhymes

Every day we sing songs and rhymes with the class. It is well documented that children who can learn words from songs easily have strong pre-literacy skills and take to reading more effectively.

Language Link

Some children can naturally have gaps in their learning. Language link is a program that supports children in developing their language skills. All children will take part in a short activity with a familiar adult on a tablet to assess their development. Once we have assessed them, if appropriate, your child can join in with small group activities that are tailored to their language needs. If your child is going to take part in these activities we will inform you. We will be completing these initial assessments after half term.

Reading

This term we would love to celebrate the wonderful world of story books. Your child has been coming home with a sharing book, which can be changed as regularly as they like. We are reading these books with them at school too. Please find time to enjoy this book with them at home. In the next couple of weeks, your child will be introduced to a "lilac" reading book. This is a wordless book, which will encourage children to retell a story themselves, a key pre-reading skill. Anytime your child

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reads their lilac book to you please record a comment in their monkey book. As they begin to learn more letter sounds they will be introduced to books with words. We will send you further information about this after half term. Please make sure the sharing book, their reading and the monkey book stay in the book bags at all times. We will read with your child during the school week and change their reading book at this point.

Phonics

We have been introducing your child to our reading and writing system called phonics through daily sessions. Phonics helps them to learn the sounds the letters make and helps them to blend (read) and segment (spell). We will be sharing information with you in a phonics talk after half term.

Ways to help at home...

Songs and Rhymes

Enjoy a song and rhyme with your child, using our songs and rhymes book, included in your child's pack today.

Communication activities

This pack gives some quick and easy activities that you can incorporate in your daily routines. All of these activities support a child's language development.

Reading

Enjoy a bedtime story together, snuggle upon the sofa with their "sharing book" or explore a book when you are waiting for that appointment. Enjoying stories together is not only a great bonding time but can build your child's empathy, sense of humour, sense of excitement and interest in the world of books. Some more suggestions about sharing books are included in your pack.

If you have any further questions, please see your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your support
The Early Years team

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