



BISHOPSWOOD

School

Welcome to our October 2021 newsletter

Dear parents / carers and friends of Bishopswood,

It has been great to see everyone back to school in September, with exciting tales of what they have been doing in the summer, and we extend a warm welcome to everyone who is new to our school community.

COVID 19 Update

We started back with new government guidance for COVID-19. To reduce the risk of infections, a number of measures have been put in place and this will continue for the foreseeable future. You will be reassured to know our staff test on a regular basis and we thank our secondary parents for continuing to help their children test too.

At this time of year our children will be prone to getting more illnesses, like colds and stomach bugs. We appreciate your support in making sure that they only come to school if they are well.

Weekly Activities

We are pleased that horseriding and swimming at Gillots and SCPS are taking place and pupils are enjoying their weekly swim. Relax Kids is also a big success and pupils have also enjoyed a Soundabout session at primary. At secondary we are thrilled to continue Make Sense Theatre sessions, Usport and Ukulele sessions. Weekly visits to The Earth Trust are also continuing for two classes.

New Curriculum

Our staff have been busy introducing the Equals curriculum which allows us to break away from the differentiated National Curriculum and teach the things that the children need to learn, in a very child centred way.

If you would like to know more about this please visit the Equals website by following this link:

<https://equals.co.uk/>

There is also information about the curriculum on our school website.

New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome new Learning Support Assistants Sally Tallents to EYFS, Georgie Lockett to Aquila, Charlotte Whayman to Orion and Jessica Anscomb to Capella. We also welcome Sam Wall as a teacher for Orion and Pegasus (until Christmas) and Fiona Allnutt as our new bursar.

Staff Leaving

Thank you to Cara McNicholl Norbury, Katie Girdler and Marie Tolhurst for their commitment to our pupils and the school over the years and we wish them every success in their new roles.

BSA news

We were delighted to be part of the BSA picnic / BBQ at the end of September and we hope you enjoyed meeting up with new friends and old. The new BSA committee have been busy planning the **Christmas Fayre on Saturday 4th December**, so please put a note in your diary. If you work for a company who may be able to donate a raffle prize do please contact the BSA on bsa@bishopswoodschool.co.uk.

We are also delighted that the BSA have received donated funds totalling £3815 since the last newsletter, more details are on their page and on our website.

We hope everyone has a restful half term and we look forward to seeing you all in November.

Note from the School Office:

Primary parents :please note that the that the cost of a primary school lunch has increased by 5p at the beginning of the Autumn Term to £2.30.

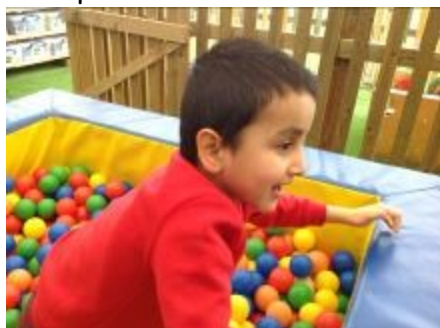


EYFS News



Hello from Early Years,

Oh how we wish you could all meet our new pupils and see how well they are settling in. Fahim has been joined by Ujesh, Upesh, Hossi and Mohammed. They are amazing individuals and, in these early days, they become the teachers. They teach us all about themselves, how they make choices and like to explore, what amuses them and what interests them. We play and play and play and, little by little, build a strong relationship based on individual communication, trust and understanding.



We have explored our Forest School, gathering conkers and leaves, learned that shaving foam is much more fun when you clap your hands together to see the bubbles fly and found our way round Valley Road school.



Over the next weeks we will be joined by Aston and then our class will be complete.

It's going to be a great year.





Aquila News



Hello from Aquila class,

This term our topic has been foods, festivals and Space. We've taken one small step by *papier-mâché*ing our very own planet earth and one Giant leap into cooking up tasty treats, as the children have been busy making flapjacks, tortilla moon pizzas, chocolate chip cookies and tuna pasta. Outside of cooking and topic we've been doing some out of this world work in maths creating equal groups and solving simple sums as well as sorting of all types! Later this term we're doing a Paint run to celebrate Holi (the Hindu Festival of Colour) and in English we've been creating Dr. Seuss style found nonsense poems. Its been a very busy start to the year but all the children have continued to impress us with the resilience and their continued willingness to learn! Hope that you all have a lovely and restful half term,

George and the Aquila class team.





Columba News



Hello from Columba class,

We have all settled into our new class and are continuing to learn our class routines. During group times Columba class have been sharing the story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. We have all enjoyed re-telling the story using actions and props.

This term during our cooking sessions we have had fun making bear biscuits and playdough. We measured the ingredients, stirred the mixture, used spoons and our hands to explore the different ingredients.

During our Relax Kids sessions we have enjoyed learning how to feel positive about ourselves and others. The sessions continue to help us to increase our self-confidence and build our self-esteem.

We have been making the most of being outside enjoying our lovely playground and joining in a Soundabout music group in the sensory garden.

Thank you for your support, Gayle, Sandra and Columba Class Team





Orion News



Hello from Orion Class!

We have had fun creating art inspired by Notting Hill carnival. We have enjoyed creating masks and hope to take part in a fashion show next term.

In Maths we have covered the themes of number, shape and measure through making a range of healthy snacks such as wraps and smoothies. It's been interesting exploring different materials of properties.

Orion have practiced mark making and have answered questions about the poem "spaghetti, spaghetti" and the story "Kitchen Disco". We have also shown some great kitchen disco dance moves!

Relax kids has been fabulous and we have been able to show greater focus as the weeks have progressed.

Have an excellent half term from Orion.



Pegasus News



Hello from Pegasus Class,

What a great start to the year! Pegasus have hit the ground running with a great attitude to learning and lots of happy children! We have been working on independence this term and are going to the shop once a week, planning our trip safely and buying ingredients that we can then turn into food. Ana, Reece and Alfie have joined the class this year and make a very welcome addition. The LSA team is the same (Angelina, Linda, Laura and Nabila) but with a new teacher, Joe Witcomb.

After the half term we will continue our independence mission with some trips up to the secondary site so we can all get used to what it is like there as we have a class full of year 6's.



Here's looking forward to another great year!



Aquarius News



Hello from Aquarius Class

We welcomed two new students to Aquarius class this term and we have embraced the many activities that have started up.

We have enjoyed going back to The Earth Trust at Wittenham and have engaged in a range of tasks such as making and using tools, making fires and team building.



Happily swimming lessons have resumed, with one group learning the strokes and techniques and the other group gaining confidence in the water. Some of the students are even learning to dive into the pool.



Other activities having included PE, drama, working on independence skills at the classroom.



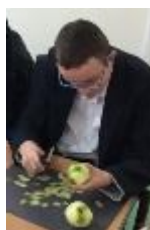
Capella News



Hello from Capella class!

What a busy first term back we have had!

We have continued to work on our cooking. This term we have learnt how to make fruit salad, flapjack and sausage & mash. We also made apple crumble and apple cake using apples that we picked at Wittenham. We have also been making a wider variety of snacks at break time including scrambled egg on toast, omelette and a new creation, the baked bean sandwich. We are also getting very good at remembering to wash up and tidy up after ourselves!



We had great fun doing presentations to the rest of the class about our interests.



We have had a great time as always at Wittenham this term. We have enjoyed some long walks, lighting fires, making apple juice, playing in the woods and making the most of the lovely weather while we have it.





Perseus News



Hello from Perseus class,

We have been very busy this term with the grand opening of Perseus cafe which was a roaring success.



We have also been learning independence skills including road safety, making our own packed lunches and how to do the washing.

Perseus has been enjoying trips to Camp Mohawk and walking to the local shops to buy supplies for our snacks and Perseus Cafe.

We hope you have a restful half term.

Collette and the Perseus team



Ursa Major News



Hello from Ursa Major class,

Welcome to the Autumn term, it has been lovely to be back to school after the long summer break.

We have been enjoying lots of sensory music sessions , as well as 'Make Sense Theatre' group coming in on a Monday to do an immersive drama session. This has been a big hit with all the pupils in Ursa Major.

We have also been trying to walk to the shops once a week to buy some snack and practicing being out in the community and walking round a shop.

Another activity that has gone down well is our Relax Kids session on a Wednesday with Fiona. These involve dancing, stretching, stories, games, breathing, affirmation and relaxation.

Have a lovely half term break from Ursa Major Team



After School Club News



After School Club this term has been very relaxed as we have all settled back in to school life. The children and staff have enjoyed making slime and sensory bottles to play with. We have been practicing making our own sandwiches and wraps, and some children have been to the shops to buy things for the group to share. The excellent behaviour of the pupils outside of school means we can look forward to lots more trips to the village when the weather allows over the coming months.

We have also celebrated a number of birthdays with parties, including cake and party bags!



Holiday Club News

What a joy it was to get back to some form of normality with Holiday Club over Summer. We enjoyed a number of trips, and activities at the school site too. The transition to Primary for a number of the Early Years children was aided by their attendance at Holiday Club for the first time.



We also had more children attending holiday club this Summer per day thanks to placement students and school staff who came to support us.



With October half term break coming up, it has been time to start planning activities. We have a trip to TVAP as this was the favourite trip from the Summer. MakeSense Theatre will also be visiting and of course Halloween is round the corner too, so expect spooky crafts!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE and AUCTION

When: Saturday 4th December, 1:30pm
(Auction starting: 3:00pm)

Where: Sonning Common Primary School
(Outside stalls & School Hall)

What: Santa's Grotto, Grand Raffle,
Cake & refreshments, Tombolas,
Bric-a-brack stall, Lucky Dip etc...



Please help with

- 1) Auction lots:** Letter available for approaching local businesses
- 2) Raffle Hampers:** Themed gifts
- 3) Cakes, prizes, gifts etc....**
- 4) Volunteers:** Required for running stalls and activities on the day!

Please get in touch via bsa@bishopswoodschool.co.uk

THANK YOU to:



- > All Volunteers, **£475** raised at this year's BBQ and a successful event!
- > John O'Donohoe, **£305** received from BBQ bucket collection
- > Alyson Martin, **£400** donation from her front garden plant sale
- > Whitchurch toll bridge staff, **£405** received via charity buckets
- > Bird-in-Hand, Henley, **£2,230** from Birdstock ticket sales!



Please join the private Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/275568519445120>

(Families of Bishopswood Special School)

Unwanted clothes
-> Cash for your school!
Collecting used clothes
Fri 19th November



PARENT GOVERNOR WANTED!

Although we have been successful recruiting one parent governor, we still have a vacancy for **one parent governor** to join Bishopswood School's governing body.

As many of you may already know, the governing body has an extremely important role to play in the running of the school: it is responsible for working strategically in partnership with the headteacher and staff to identify the most important aspects of the school that need to be improved, approving plans to achieve this, and ensuring progress. Governors individually have no power but when governors act together as a team they are a powerful corporate body.

All governors receive training to help them carry out their role. Oxfordshire Governor Services run special induction courses for new governors and we expect all our governors to attend this training.

Parents, or anyone who has parental responsibility for a pupil on the school roll at the time of the election, can stand for election as a parent governor or can nominate someone for election (please make sure you get their permission) and can vote in the election.

The governing body meets once a term, in the evening. If possible every governor joins at least one of three committees responsible for different aspects of the school. The committees are Finance & Staffing (including Pay committee), Premises, Health and Safety & Curriculum and Assessment & Training (CAT). These committees also meet usually once a term at times to suit the committee members. We also invite governors to come into school occasionally during the school day so they can understand how the school operates and see improvements for themselves.

Please let the school office know if you are interested in becoming a parent governor, or you can suggest someone who will do it well.

We need committed parent governors to make the governing body as effective as possible.





Bishopswood School

EYFS Department at Valley Road: 9:15 until 2:45 every day

Primary Department: 9:00 until 3:15 except on Wednesdays we finish at 2:45

Secondary Department: 8:50 until 3:05 except on Wednesdays we finish at 2:35

TERM DATES 2021-2022

Autumn/Winter

Wednesday 1st September INSET

Thursday 2nd September INSET

Friday 3rd September to Friday 22nd October 2021

Half term: Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2021

Monday 1st November to Friday 17th December

Thursday 16th December: Early Years finish at normal time

Friday 17th December: Early finish 1.20 pm secondary department, 1.30 pm primary department

Spring

Tuesday 4th January INSET

Wednesday 5th January INSET

Thursday 6th January to Friday 18th February 2022

Half term: Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February 2022

Monday 28th February to Friday 8th April

Thursday 7th April: Early Years finish at normal time

Friday 8th April: Early finish 1.20pm secondary department, 1.30pm primary department

Summer

Monday 25th April to Friday 27th May 2022

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022

Half term: Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Monday 6th June H&S DAY FOR STAFF ONLY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Tuesday 7th June to Tuesday 19th July

Monday 18th July: Early Years finish at normal time

Tuesday 19th July: Early finish 1.20pm secondary department, 1:30pm primary department

Wednesday 20th July INSET