



BISHOPSWOOD School

Welcome to our December 2021 newsletter

Dear parents / carers and friends of Bishopswood,

This is such a wonderful and exciting time of the year. It is lovely to go into classes and see the excitement on the faces of the children as they make preparations for Christmas. Everyone looked forward to our class Christmas parties and a visit from the man in red!

Curriculum

Our new Equals Curriculum is now being used in every class and it offers many opportunities for children to develop communication and independence, areas that I know all parents and carers are keen to see progress in.

Weekly Activities

This term pupils have been enjoying trips and visits to experience learning in the community, these include visits to The Earth Trust, visits to the local shops, trips to the library and Camp Mohawk. Not to mention horse-riding and swimming, I hope that these can continue and be developed next term.

COVID 19 Update

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 at home.

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. I sincerely hope that Covid restrictions will not negatively impact on your family plans this year, fingers crossed.



New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome new teacher Amy Fletcher to Columba.

Staff Leaving

Thank you to Kaitlin Collins, Leanne Noble, Priti Patel, and Monika Kopycinska for their commitment to our pupils and the school over the years and we wish them every success in their new roles. We also bid farewell to Gail Yeats, Gail has worked at Bishopswood since 1997 and although we wish her well in her retirement, she will be missed. Also farewell to our School Nurse, Amal Birhan, we thank you for your support and wish you well in the future.

BSA

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Bishopswood School Association in their fundraising, especially to everyone who bought a raffle ticket and joined in with the Silent Auction. The BSA have raised over £700 in the raffle and £1700 in the Auction, thanks especially to hard working BSA committee.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all on [Thursday 6th January 2022](#).

Sharon Hickles

Acting Headteacher

Early Years News

Hello from Early Years class where we have revelled in the unexpected snow days to make igloo houses for our penguins and then we ran outside trying to catch the snowflakes on our faces. The rainy days don't hold us back either. We just put on coats and wellies and make hot chocolate in our Forest School area.



In class we have (shhh) been busy making Christmas presents. Our sort of 'making' is not tidy. We make mess with flour and glitter, glue and paint. We also use shaving foam and whipped cream, oh yes we really do! All this has a hidden purpose: to encourage our pupils to explore new and different sensations, to make choices so their voices are heard as well as encouraging sharing with their friends and listening to their teachers. All this with a sense of utter joy and celebration.



We wish you wonderful holiday days.

Aquila News

Hello from Aquila class,

It's been a very busy term in Aquila, the children have been enjoying preparing for Christmas. That's meant unwrapping numicon in maths to help create pictures of Santa and his sleigh, baking mince pies and Christmas cookies and of course making a little something they can take home at the end of term! As always the children have brought lots of joy and energy into the classroom and it's been lovely to meet with all of you and discuss their growth and learning.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas,

George and the Aquila Team



Columba News

Hello from Columba class.

We have been busy exploring shapes inside and outside the classroom. We even made some shape decorations to brighten up our classroom.

As the festive season is nearly upon us we have made a 2022 calendar which we hope you will enjoy at home. In addition we have used our maths skills to make an advent calendar matching numbers and writing numbers.

Thank you for your support,

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Sandra, Gayle, Amy, Imogen and Columba Staff Team





Orion News

Hello from Orion class

Orion have been exploring texts about food such as "Handa's Surprise" and "The Porridge Pot". We have sequenced events in the stories and taken part in key actions - thankfully we were able to make the magic porridge pot stop! We are also making great progress with our phonics.

Orion have had fun creating winter artwork. We have practiced weaving to create Christmas wreath designs and worked on our scissor skills, to produce some lovely snowflake decorations. We have explored shape by looking at Christmas tree decorations and length by making peppermint creams.

We really look forward to our Christmas party!

Have a brilliant Christmas break from Orion.



Pegasus News



Hello from Pegasus class!

This term has been another fantastic one in our class and the children have gone from strength to strength. In English, the children have focussed on developing their ability to build narrative through the telling and retelling of stories. They have acted out the story of the Little Red Hen, thought about how characters might be feeling and the reasons for their actions in Jack and the Beanstalk and, more recently, designed a sleigh for Santa after hearing the Christmas Collar story. In maths we have spent the term working on addition and subtraction skills.

Elsewhere, we have continued working on developing independence with weekly shopping trips and walks to the library, and have even started bringing our friends from other classes so they can enjoy these things too.

Have a very merry festive period from everyone in the Pegasus class team!





Aquarius News



Hello from Aquarius class

This half-term we have been very busy. We have been going shopping to the Co-op to get ingredients. We are getting better at measuring with the scales. We enjoyed making the cookies and cakes for Children in Need.

The class have been getting more confident with their swimming and in PE we are currently learning to play basket ball.

The pupils have been learning about the festival of Hannukah and made their own dreidels. They also sequenced the story.

Have a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Aquarius class!!!

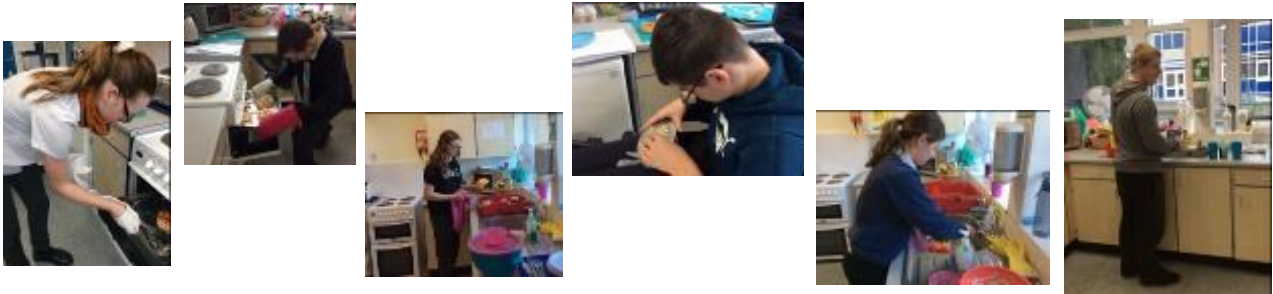


Capella News



Hello from Capella class,

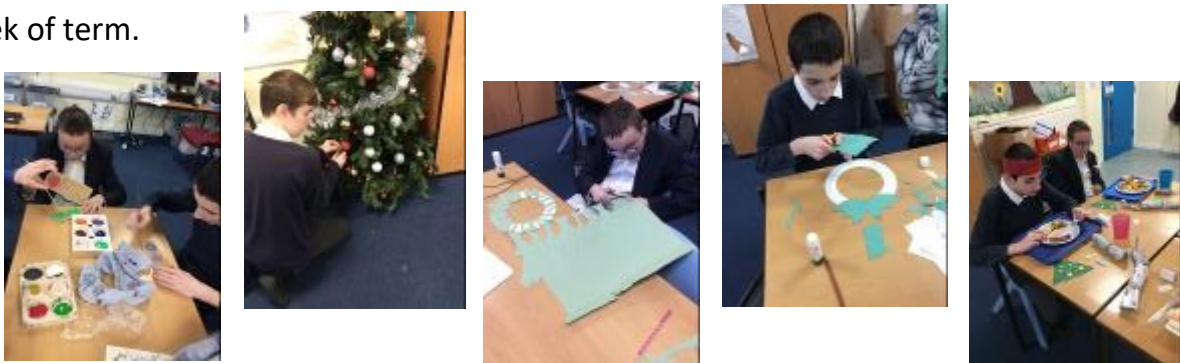
We have been doing so well with becoming more independent. We have all now successfully independently made a snack during break time, some of us found this very tricky but we have kept working hard until we could do the whole process independently. A particular favourite snack we have learnt how to make is the bagel pizza! Many of us have also been doing so much better with washing up after ourselves.



As always, we have had a great time at Wittenham this term. We have enjoyed a variety of garden activities and Christmas activities. We have continued to develop our skills using tools including saws and drills. We did a great job making hanging Christmas trees and reindeer out of logs.



We have really enjoyed a variety of Christmas activities at school over the last couple of weeks of term. We also enjoyed our Christmas dinner and thought it was great fun having Christmas crackers too! We are looking forward to the final festivities in the last week of term.



Perseus News



Hello from Perseus class

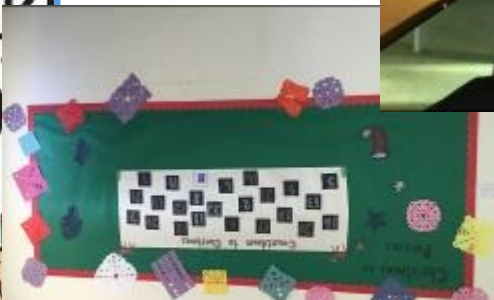
What a busy term we have had.

Perseus Café continues to be a great success and we have been enjoying trips to Camp Mohawk.

We're starting to get into the Christmas spirit in Perseus, lots of Christmas songs playing and decorations being made.

Everyone had great fun setting the table for our Christmas dinner.

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Hope everyone enjoys the Christmas break from all of Perseus.



Ursa Major News



Hello from Ursa Major class

We have been working hard doing our balancing and physio for some, while others have been working on their fine motor skills.

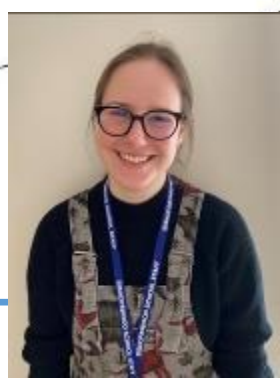
We have also been having great fun doing sensory music sessions every week with lots of musical instruments including shakes, drums, keyboard, bells and more. See some photos below.

Everyone enjoyed their Christmas party on Friday 10th, as well as looking forward to a well earned relaxing Christmas break.

Merry Christmas and Happy New year from the Ursa Major team



After School Club News



A very Merry Christmas from After School Club!

It has been a fun term at after school club. We have been on walks to the shops, learning how to budget and choose what we need to make snacks. Some children have helped to build and decorate a cardboard train. More recently we have been doing Christmas arts and crafts.

There is one primary space available for After School Club on Tuesdays, so please contact me on ellie.underwood@bishopswoodschool.co.uk if you are interested.

Holiday Club News

Half– Term holiday feels a long time ago now! We had a successful trip to TVAP and enjoyed Room on the Broom themed activities.

As usual there is no Holiday Club over the Christmas break. The next Holiday club to look out for is February half term. Any children from Bishopswood are welcome to join us, its always nice to see new faces amongst the familiar ones! The dates for the next holiday club are 22nd to 24th February 9am-3pm.







Household Support Fund: support for families this winter

Ahead of the Christmas holiday, families of eligible children and young people in Oxfordshire early years settings, schools and colleges will once again receive support with the costs of food during the holiday period, funded by the Department of Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund. As you will be aware, in normal circumstances funding is not available for food support outside of term-time and we now expect this funding to cease after Easter 2022.

Previously OCC provided £15 per holiday week per child or young person. This has been increased to £25 per week for the Christmas holiday to reflect the additional pressures families are experiencing this winter. Therefore **£50 per child** is available for the two-week holiday period. Bishopswood School will provide this support to you in the form of a supermarket voucher or equivalent.

Eligible children are those entitled to a benefits related Free School Meal. In Early Years, children accessing the Early Years Pupil Premium or funding for a 2-Year-Old Place are eligible.

If you think that your child could be eligible for benefits related Free School Meals, please contact the school office for an application form. All applications will be handled confidentially.



Christmas Fundraising activities:

Returning Covid risks resulted in Christmas Fayre activities going on-line for a second year

(1) Bids are coming in for the e-BID auction



27-Nov: On a cold, windy and wintery day, Derek the dalek joined the Sonning Common Primary Christmas Fair and helped us to raise £180. Many thanks to Lynne & John Nash to let us borrow Derek!

| TOTAL £1,422 | | 2021 CHRISTMAS FAYRE e-BID AUCTION | |  |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| PAYMENT : Preferred method bank transfer or PayPal | | | | |
| Vouchers: | | | | |
| GENERAL | | | | |
| Closing date: 11-Dec-21 | | | | |
| Email your bid to bsa@bishopswoodschool.co.uk | | | | |
|  | Lot 1-02 Value: £350.00 LSA Plumbing Ltd Gas Boiler |  | Lot 1-03 Value: £45 Personalised memory bear |  |
| Bid: £50.00 | | Bid: £15.00 | | Bid: £5.00 |

(2) Santa drew the Christmas raffle at the children's party



Raffle total: £720



THANK YOU
Many thanks to
Bird-in-Hand, Henley
who raised a total of
£3,800
for Bishopswood School!



From:
'the BSA committee'

bsa@bishopswoodschool.co.uk



Bishopswood School

EYFS Department at Valley Road: 9:00 until 3:00 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

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 2022

Tuesday 4th January INSET

Wednesday 5th January INSET

Thursday 6th January INSET FOR EARLY YEARS ONLY

Thursday 6th January (primary and secondary) / Friday 7th January (Early Years) 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 2022

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