



Welcome to our February 2022 newsletter

Dear parents / carers and friends of Bishopswood,

It has been a very busy and fun-packed term. I can tell by reading the teachers' comments and seeing all the wonderful photographs that the children have really enjoyed their time in school. It has been a great pleasure visiting the classrooms and seeing progress and enjoyment in every class. Pupils have continued community based learning and have made visits to the local shops, the library, the Earth Trust, parks and playgrounds. We have enjoyed working alongside visiting providers such as Make Sense Theatre, Relax Kids and Usports. This has enabled us to provide enrichment activities and learning opportunities designed to stretch, challenge and bring joy to our pupils.

We have celebrated Chinese New Year and Valentine's day and completed wonderful art projects. Outdoor learning has been happening across the school and this also offers new and exciting play and study opportunities.

I have noticed lots of cookery happening across the school and the corridors are often filled with the smell of amazing breads, pies, biscuits and cakes.

I can see how hard our colleagues are working to improve our school and the positive effect this is having.

All members of our community are keen for positive and continued progress to be made, and I can tell you that this progress is becoming obvious. We want our school to be a safe and stimulating place for everyone and by continuing to work together, communicating with each other we will keep this progress growing.

Curriculum

We have continued to develop our new Equals curriculum, please see details here: <https://equals.co.uk/> This is tailor made for the needs of our pupils and enables them to learn in a very practical and functional way whilst stretching and challenging the children to do their best and progress by enjoying fun-based meaningful sessions.

COVID 19 Update

As many of you know, the impact of Covid-19 has continued to hamper our ability to deliver the high quality education that we want. Staff shortages due to COVID isolation have been an issue. However, almost all restrictions have now been lifted and together with the reduced need to isolate, we hope that any further interruptions to the school timetable will be limited.



New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome new LSAs Kim Tock and Irene Vasilache to our primary department.

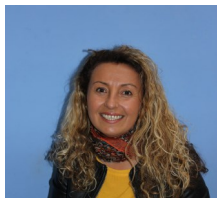
Staff Leaving

Thank you to Sandra St Clair and Elle Munro for their commitment to our pupils and the school over the years and we wish them every success in their new roles.

We hope everyone has a wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing you all on [Monday 28th February 2022](#).

Sharon Hickles

Acting Headteacher



Little Stars News



Our topic has been 'water, water, water' and, to enhance the experience, it's raining here today but this has never stopped us for long. Instead we are singing about rainbows, identifying the colours and dancing with ribbons. We have explored foam painting, watercolour painting and copious varieties of splashing in our water trays.



We are delighted with how every single one of our pupils is progressing. Hosi delights us with her singing and dancing and has learnt to sit for successful activity time and Mohammed is working on his mark making and delights us all with stories about parking tickets and traffic jams. Upesh uses Makaton signs readily at all the key times now and Fahim is doing so well at following instructions and learning to count on whilst Ujesh is building strong relationships and giving us amazing eye contact



and smiles. We work to build kind and thoughtful relationships with children playing turn taking games and games of sharing and helping. We encourage them to know their peers, to be friends, to develop a sense of belonging and community. This is their first experience of school and we focus daily on nurturing them as individuals with talents, abilities and self belief. We have said a temporary bye-bye to Bobby who has gone on her placement (lucky pupils) to continue her teacher training.



Come by and see us anytime, we are here celebrating the many successes of these amazing little stars.





Aquila News

Hello from Aquila Class,

This term we have been busy exploring the colours of the rainbow and familiarising ourselves with the changing seasons. The children have excavated multi coloured pulses from blocks of frozen ice, spun a lazy Suzan covered in paint to make fantastic colour mixing art, and decorated one wall of the classroom in rainbow stripes! We have also collected fallen leaves for sensory play and to make some leaf hedgehogs, driven all the cars in the classroom though paint and then down big cardboard ramps and explored the refraction of coloured light though water. It hasn't all been hard work though! This term we have had the Make Sense Theatre group visiting and the children have sat, listened and interacted with the story of Mortu the fox who across the last six weeks has climbed to the top of a mountain in a bid to release some captured colours of his own!

As always the children have inspired us with their resilience, creativity and willingness to learn.

I hope you all have a restful and safe half term,

George and the Aquila teaching team.





Columba News



Hello from Columba Class! This half term, we have been extremely busy with activities based around the story 'The Gingerbread Man'. The children really enjoyed cooking their own gingerbread men and adding decorations. However, their favourite part was eating them! They have had lots of opportunities to create pictures, as well as acting out and retelling the story in our *little old lady's kitchen* and with story maps.



In maths, we have continued to work on our understanding of numbers but have also looked at colour, shapes, length and position words. We sorted gingerbread men by their size and made a paper gingerbread man who is the size of the children!



Columba Class took part in lots of creative activities based around the Chinese/Lunar New Year and the year of the tiger. They decorated tigers, had 'the tiger to tea' in our home corner and made lanterns.

We have also had lots of opportunity to take part in our favourite activities around the classroom and school —playdough, dressing up, visiting the sensory room, sand play, parachute games, dancing, going on the trampoline and riding our bikes.



Next half term, we'll be doing lots of fun activities based on 'The Little Red Hen'. Have a go at logging into Google Classroom as we plan to upload fun activities and videos that will link to this topic.

Thank you for all of your support, the Columba Class Team





Orion News



Hello from Orion Class

Orion class have been listening to the story "The Colour Monster" - this has helped us explore our own emotions and identify what makes us feel certain emotions. We have also been answering questions about the story " Monkey puzzle" - its fun pretending to be the different animals.

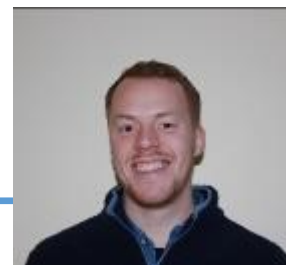
We have practiced our maths skills through cooking .Orion have all smelt or tasted healthy foods. Designing an alien sandwich was funny and we are building our independence making our own porridge. We've even enjoyed washing up!

We are creating our own artwork inspired by the artist Henri Rousseau. Orion have used different textured materials to create jungle animals and will paint with tea bags next. We have also experimented with colour mixing and have made some fabulous predictions! We have loved our time with the make sense theatre company each week and relax kids always helps us feel calm.

We hope you all have a great half term.



Pegasus News



Hello from Pegasus Class!

We have had another fantastic half term in the class. We have been able to resume our daily trips over to the Sonning Common Primary lunch hall which has been great. The children enjoy the opportunity to choose their own lunches each day. In class we have been learning about Chinese/ Lunar New Year and the Winter Olympics (pictures below of the children practicing their skills with chopsticks and making dumplings!). In maths we have been developing our understanding of time and some children have taken to letting staff know the time on each hour which is brilliant!

Thanks and have a good week from everyone in the Pegasus class team.





Aquarius News



Hello from Aquarius Class

This term we have worked on becoming more independent, focussing on road safety, shopping and preparing sandwiches and snacks to take to The Earth Trust on Wednesdays.

In the road safety lessons we have learnt to look in all directions, listen, make a decision and cross the road sensibly.



At the shop we have been buying healthy snacks, bread and a range of fillings to make our own sandwiches.



The pupils have chosen fillings such as cheese, ham, cucumber, tuna, cooked chicken and eggs.

At the end of last term we had a lovely morning out at Smelly Wellies, an animal therapy farm in the village of Woodcote. All the pupils enjoyed the experience and many of them grew in confidence, handling the animals and caring for them.





Capella News

Hello from Capella Class

This term, we have been looking at the importance of road safety and being aware of the potential dangers when we are out in the community. We have been busy spotting potential dangers whilst out in the village.



As always, we have enjoyed a variety of cooking activities. We have been looking at healthy eating and tried cooking a variety of vegetables. Lots of us were brave enough to try something we had never eaten before. We also enjoyed some themed cooking for Chinese new year.



This term at Wittenham, we have enjoyed tidying up the garden area, cooking popcorn on the fire, cutting willow and making bat boxes. We particularly enjoyed using a variety of tools this term including loppers, saws and a drill.



Perseus News



Hello from Perseus Class

Once again Perseus has been very active. Each morning we start the day with emotions bingo and very are getting very good at showing our emotions through words and Makaton.

We now go to Camp Mohawk weekly. Each pupil has their favourite activity, from the swings, to running around, the music, sensory room or the ball pit.

This term we have been baking Mary Berry's finger fork biscuits which are very tasty. We have been doing lots of art for our entrance to Perseus, which is an underwater theme. We have also done a Valentines wall.

We enjoy doing Cosmic Yoga for some relaxation and thoroughly enjoy our weekly sessions with the Make Sense theatre company and our Relax session with Fiona.

Have a lovely half term.



Ursa Major News



Hello from Ursa Major Class

Here we are in 2022, we have started the year with lots of fun sensory activities, including stories, art, music and drama. We also been looking at body parts through games and songs by labelling and pointing to them.

We love doing Soundabout sessions as well as Jessie's Fund on YouTube, experiencing different materials and fabrics, doing some call and response, fast and slow beats.

We have enjoyed experimenting with rice, ice and food colouring, watching them melt and colours mix together. We scientifically investigated reactions of vinegar and baking soda, watching the baking soda change colour, fizz and bubble.



Bishopswood School Association

Bishopswood School PTA charity is known as BSA (Bishopswood School Association) and has 2 principle objectives:

- > Organise fundraising activities to provide additional school facilities for the children
- > Encourage/host social event between parents/carers, staff and friends of the school

Fundraising

*Christmas
Auction*

Raised: **£1755**

Total sum raised from all
Christmas Fayre activities

£3070

Thank You
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Coming soon



Bishopswood student
sponsored bike ride

Social events



Term 4 date to be announced

*(Last coffee morning was held Tues 8-Feb
at 'The Rising Sun', 10am.*

*Please let us know if you have suggestions
for alternative venues, dates, times etc...*

Families Of Bishopswood Special School

Private group · 52 members



facebook 

BSA hosts a private Facebook group as
an opportunity for parents to network
and follow BSA activities.

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

Please get in touch via Facebook or
email (bsa@bishopswoodschool.co.uk)
if you would like to get involved or
have any questions.

Household Support Fund: support for families this winter

On 30 September 2021, the government announced that vulnerable households across the country will be able to access a new £500 million support fund to help them with essentials over the winter. This funding covers the period 6 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 inclusive. The Household Support Fund will be distributed by councils in England to directly help those who need it most.

Oxfordshire County Council sent us this information:

Ahead of the February half-term 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 expect this funding to cease after Easter 2022.

£25 per eligible child is available for the February holiday period. Your child's school will provide the support to you in the form of a supermarket voucher or equivalent.

Eligible children in schools are those entitled to a benefits related Free School Meal.

If you think you are eligible, please contact the school office.





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

Spring 2022

Term 3 finishes Friday 18th February 2022 (at normal time)

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

Monday 28th February to Friday 8th April

Thursday 7th April: Little Stars 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 TRAINING DAY FOR STAFF ONLY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Tuesday 7th June to Tuesday 19th July

Monday 18th July: Little Stars finish (at normal time)

Tuesday 19th July: Early finish 1.20pm secondary department, 1.30pm primary department

Wednesday 20th July INSET



WE'RE

HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM!

FULL AND PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

TERM TIME ONLY

£10.62 TO £11.53 PER HOUR

BASED IN SONNING COMMON

BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOL

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www.bishopswoodschool.co.uk

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