



# BISHOPSWOOD School

## Welcome to our April 2022 newsletter

Dear parents / carers and friends of Bishopswood,

What a busy term we have had with so many fun and exciting activities taking place. I have enjoyed visiting the classes at both Primary and Secondary and have seen amazing learning. As a school we have been investing in resources and most of these have arrived. The pupils have enjoyed playing with new sensory toys and fun teaching equipment. Over the Easter holiday we will be decorating both sites and are keen to see how bright and clean everything will look.

Little Stars have made a very successful transition to the Primary site and have settled into the wider school community, making friends and playing with the other pupils.

We have enjoyed working with people from outside the school who have brought energy and expertise to our classrooms. These include Usports, a ukulele tutor, Relax Kids and Make Sense Theatre. The pupils have learnt so much from these experiences and these will all continue in the summer term.

Next term we will be having some fabulous whole school activities; Sports Day, the Secondary Summer production and a whole school trip to Camp Mohawk. It is so nice to be able to plan these activities that have not been happening due to Covid.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

### **New Staff**

We are very pleased to welcome back Kaitlin Collins to our primary department.

### **Staff Leaving**

Thank you to Febs Schulz, Esme Tiplady, Jenny Zolkwer, Stuart Martin and Chloe Martin for their commitment to our pupils and the school over the years and we wish them every success in their new roles.

We also say goodbye to Elaine Robinson from the office and wish her well in her new job.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Easter holiday and we look forward to seeing you all on

**Monday 25th April 2022.**

*Sharon Hickles*

Acting Headteacher

## Little Stars News

The Little Stars day starts with a warm and happy greeting before starting the 1:1 activities designed to help pupils achieve their targets. Once this is done then it's choosing time, Fahim likes number blocks, Mohammed may take a message to the office, Hossi will probably choose the sensory room whilst Upesh and Ujesh just love the garden with its swing and climbing frame.



Soon it's snack time with clear expectations for sitting and clearing away, using symbols or signs for choosing. To our pupils it's just snack time, but for the class team it's a learning time. Those glorious sunny days saw us take our lessons outside to explore how water and warmth help seeds grow. On snow days we chased the flakes to



catch them before they melted.

We have started a regular activity of finger gym, using scented playdough to develop our fine motor skills. Mohammed and Hossi



also excel at singing the rhymes.

We hope for more sunny days to come so we can explore the large field with its extensive Forest School area as well as the outside court for ball games, hula hooping or parachute games (always a favourite). Our favourite word is 'proud', and that is what we are; our little stars are fab.



Have a very lovely Easter time

From the Little Stars team.





## Aquila News

Hello from Aquila,



It's been a very busy half term this time around! We've been working on our emotional recognition and understanding through our zones of regulation sessions, enjoying some waterplay in the snippets of good weather, making sensory squish bags and symmetrical mirror paint art and practicing our independence through our new reoccurring cooking activity: making toast! All of this in addition to the fantastic Make Sense theatre, and Relaxed Kids sessions which the children are continuing to really enjoy.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break, I'm Looking forward to hearing all about it when everyone comes back!

All the best,

George and the Aquila team



## Columba News

Hello from a busy Columba Class! We started this half term by looking at our favourite books and celebrating World Book Day. Some wonderful artwork of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' was created and we also decorated rice cakes to look like 'Owl Babies'.

We moved on to looking at the story of 'The Little Red Hen'. The children enjoyed our sensory story which involved some tasting! We made breadsticks and then pizzas. We also created pictures of the Little Red Hen in different ways—with a shape collage, paint and pens.

The weather this half term has given us lots to think about and learn from. We had a chance to play with water out in the sunshine and then loved catching snow on our tongues the very next week (although we were a little disappointed that we didn't have enough to build snowmen!) Some brilliant pictures of rainbows were produced and we learnt a song telling us the order of the colours in a rainbow.

We have ended the half term by thinking about Spring. We played with Easter sensory bins that had maths challenges in them and practised our cutting skills. Our topic, in the Summer Term, will be 'How Does Your Garden Grow?' so we will have lots of opportunities to plant seeds, learn about minibeasts and be outside.

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





## Orion News

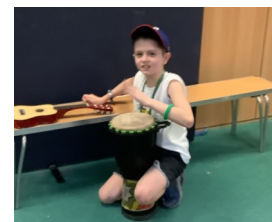
Hello from Orion Class

We've had a jam packed half term. We've continued to love our time with Make Sense theatre company—being cowboys searching for gold with lots of singing and sensory moments along the way. Some of us are now word perfect on the songs!

In maths we have been focussing on money and shopping. We can sort out our coins, identify different ones and count out how many we need. We've got really good at finding £1.50 so we can buy real things. We've been on coin treasure hunts, written and followed shopping lists and been shopkeepers and customers.

We've also practised our 'buying' skills visiting the library and borrowing books which has been lots of fun.

Our colour theme has continued through sensory play and outdoor school (where we've also started noticing signs of spring) - we loved finding natural things from the paddock to stick to our colour wheels. We've got really good at making porridge, some of us can now do it independently, and we have also enjoyed creating food to go with the Gruffalo story we've been focussing on— Gruffalo crumble anyone?



## Pegasus News

Hello from Pegasus



Happy Easter! This term has been another busy one in Pegasus, with learning opportunities and activities abound. We have had weekly visits from the Make Sense Theatre company and Pegasus have been lucky enough to have two sessions each visit. The first is an interactive performance and the second develops the children's communication and imaginative play skills through drama. We have also been making the most of the improving weather and playing lots of sport, from football to hockey to touch rugby, but the class favourite has to be our new soft archery set for target practice!

In the classroom, we have been learning all about money in maths and reading classic stories such as the three little pigs and Little Red Riding Hood, as well as learning about the Christian story of Easter.

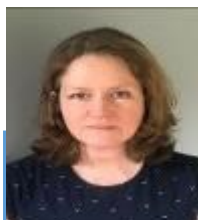
Looking forward to seeing everyone back after the Easter break,

Team Pegasus

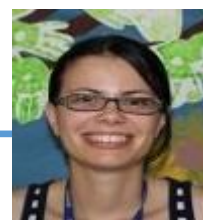




## Aquarius News



Hello from Aquarius!



This term we have been learning about Easter and made some yummy Easter treats. We enjoyed wrapping flowers for the Spring Gift Day to give to a family member. At Wittenham we saw the lambs (they were so cute) and played forest games. We put up the hammocks and had a go on the swing. We have been working hard at improving our rugby skills in P.E. We have been shopping to buy our ingredients and enjoyed visiting a café.

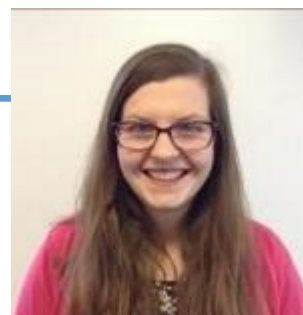
We hope everyone enjoys the Easter Holidays!



## Capella News

Hello from Capella

We enjoyed kicking off the term with Shrove Tuesday and making pancakes. Some of us also did really well using a proper crepe pan.



We have also had great fun making healthy smoothies and milkshakes this term.

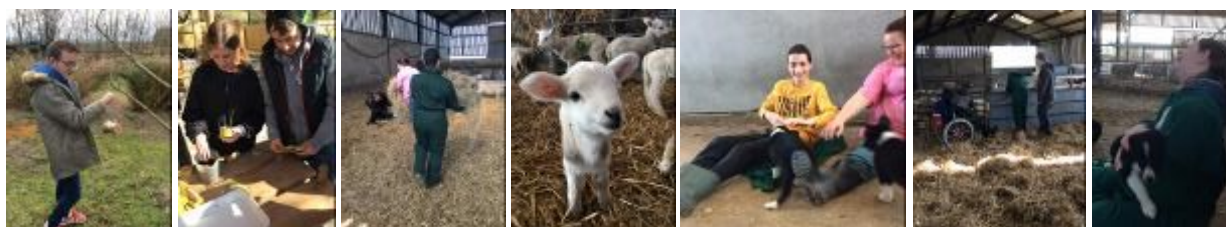


We have enjoyed creating artwork for the residents at Abbey Crest this term. We made Mother's Day/spring art which we delivered before Mother's Day and more recently, we made an Easter card for every resident. The residents were so grateful for their gifts.

We also had great fun getting messy while making biscuits as Mother's Day treats for our loved ones at home.



Spring time at Wittenham is always enjoyable as the flowers are coming out, the animals are in the fields and the sun is shining (sometimes!). This term we made bird feeders and planted seeds using homemade compostable pots. We also thoroughly enjoyed spending time in the lambing shed, the youngest lambs we saw were less than an hour old! We also spent time with the new puppies on the farm.

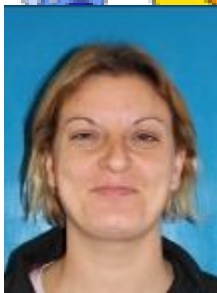


We enjoyed ending the term with a trip to South Street Arts Centre to watch a performance put on by Make Sense Theatre who we are fortunate enough to work with every Monday.

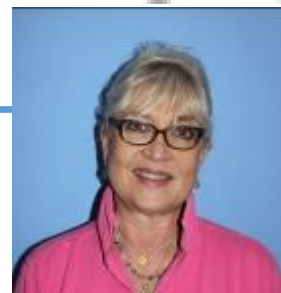
Have a wonderful Easter break.



## Perseus News



Hello from Perseus



It has been a very busy class this term with lots of activities, art and learning. We continued adding our art work on the Spring wall and made an Easter wall too. We made some lovely hanging mobiles and mother's day cards, and Easter cards to give to the Abbeycrest Nursing Home. There has been baking, making playdough and our snack lunches for our weekly trips to Camp Mohawk. One afternoon we were spoilt with a foot spa and bubbles. We continue with our Perseus Café making bacon and/or egg butties. We have been doing some daily exercises and the bicycles have been repaired, so it's great to be able to ride them again. We enjoyed lots of sensory activities and outdoor activities when there has been some lovely weather.

Have a lovely easter break everyone.



## Ursa Major News

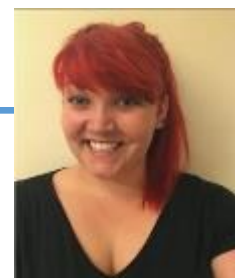
Hello from Ursa Major

Wow, this term has flown by! We have been enjoying the sunshine moments as well as the flurries of snow.

We have been practicing our fine motors skills, posting, shape puzzles, threading, peg puzzles and lots more as well as and sharing lots of stories together.

We sadly say goodbye to Stuart one of our LSAs this term, he was been amazing member of our team and will be deeply missed, but we wish him all the best in his future plans.

Wishing you all a lovely relaxing Easter Holidays





# BSA News

On Thursday 24th March, Bishopswood children enjoyed selecting and wrapping gifts to say thank you to parents, carers or anyone selected by your child!

Many thanks to Chantal & Ruth (BSA committee) for arranging the Spring Gift Day.

## SPRING GIFT DAY



## Update

**Welcome!** to Steph Glynn who has joined the BSA committee

**Many thanks!** to Sally Sharman who has decided to step down from the BSA committee after many years of fantastic support. You will be missed!



Sally Sharman with Bishopswood student receiving flowers



## Bishopswood student Cycling 10 miles to raise school

With the support of Charlotte's tandems ([charlottetandems.weebly.com](http://charlottetandems.weebly.com)) and Marlow Wheels for All ([cycling.org.uk/locations/marlow-wheels-for-all](http://cycling.org.uk/locations/marlow-wheels-for-all)) Natty Dollar learnt to ride a tandem and then his own bike!

Please sponsor Natty:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nattycycleride>



### **Household Support Fund: support for families this Spring**

Ahead of the Easter holiday, families of eligible children and young people in Oxfordshire 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.

**£50 per child** is available for the two-week Easter 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.

**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.**





# Bishopswood School

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

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 25<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

*Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022*

*Half term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022*

*Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June H&S TRAINING DAY FOR STAFF ONLY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS*

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June to Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

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

*Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July INSET*

### Autumn 2022

*Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September INSET*

*Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September INSET*

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

*Half term: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022*

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October to Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Tuesday 20th December: Early finish 1.20 pm secondary, 1.30 pm primary



# WE'RE

# HIRING

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

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**FULL AND PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE:**

**TEACHING / LEARNING SUPPORT / CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS**

**TERM TIME ONLY**

**£10.81 - 11.93 PER HOUR**

**BASED IN SONNING COMMON**

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**BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOL**

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**[www.bishopswoodschool.co.uk](http://www.bishopswoodschool.co.uk)**

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