



# BISHOPSWOOD

## School

### Welcome to our May 2022 newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers and Friends of Bishopswood,

I am delighted to be the Interim Headteacher of Bishopswood, I have received a very warm welcome from everyone since I joined after the Easter holidays. It was lovely to meet some of you at the parents meeting this week and to hear your views. I know that the Interim Executive Board and members of the Propeller Academy Trust are keen to keep those conversations open and we will share details of future meetings with you very soon.

It has been a very busy few weeks getting to know the school. The focus of the work undertaken has been largely on curriculum design and assessment. This work will continue on our INSET day on 6th June, after which my aim is to share the information with you all.

One thing I would like to explore more with you is how we can achieve effective communication with parents and I welcome any comments and suggestions that you may have. In the meantime, your child's class teacher will be getting in touch with you all individually to have an informal conversation about how things are going for your child at Bishopswood.

#### **Staffing news**

We are very pleased to welcome Lorraine Green as Interim Deputy Head based at our primary department and David Stevinson as Interim Deputy Head based at our secondary department. We are also pleased to welcome Kristina Papcunová as our new teacher in Little Stars.

We have recently had successful rounds of interviews for teachers and LSAs and once the finer details have been finalised I will let you know who will be joining us very soon.

Thank you to Andy Parry, our site manager/caretaker for the last 20 years who has definitely earned his retirement, and to Jo Steedman from Little Stars for their commitment to our pupils and the school over the years and we wish them both every success in the future.

Site staff from the Propeller Academy Trust have been supporting the school and will continue to do so in the coming weeks and months.

If you have any queries about your child at school, please do not hesitate to contact the school office in the first instance.

We hope everyone has a wonderful May half term and we look forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday 7th June 2022.**

*Stephanie Coneboy*

Interim Headteacher



## Little Stars News

Our days in Little Stars start with singing and greeting everybody. Then we do gentle exercises and play pass a ball with all the peers. Once we are finished

with the morning greetings, pupils learn about hygiene before eating snack. Snack time happens with clear expectations for sitting and clearing away, using symbols or signs for choosing.



Pupils like to spend time outside in the garden, exploring the nature, whether in the sensory garden or in the designated area Forest kids.



Our most popular activity is sensory play with shaving foam of all different colours, they especially like being fully covered in it :) Pupils like to experiment with paints, making emotional faces and writing down the names.



In the Little Stars we have been also incredibly lucky that an Iron Man visited us and showed the staff how to follow vertical/horizontal lines.



Little stars are just amazing.







## Aquila Class News

Hello from Aquila Class,

This term our topic has been keeping healthy and the children have been keeping very busy enjoying our new weekly PE slot in the mainstream hall, making healthy choice pizzas, watching the world around us change during our learning walks to the paddock and growing a small allotment of vegetables! These include, but are not limited to, tomatoes, potatoes, spaghetti squash, sun flowers, pumpkins and peas. All of which we will be planting into our raised planters at some point in the coming weeks. The children have all really enjoyed watching plants grow from seed to the stage they're at now and I've been so impressed by how diligently the children have been watering and repotting them! This term, as always, the children have wowed us with their observations and focus in the classroom and it has been our pleasure to watch them grow and develop.

Wishing you a very sunny half term

George and the Aquila Class team.







## Columba Class News

Hello from Columba Class! We have been extremely busy this term learning about plants and minibeasts in our topic *Gardens*. We have planted seeds and beans and are watching them grow. We planted broad beans in a clear bag so that we could see the roots and shoots coming out. The children have worked on two stories this term: 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We used these books to look at links between stories and talk about preferences.

Columba Class have gone for walks around Sonning Common Primary's grounds looking for different living things. They collected plant materials, turning them into natural crowns, and hunted for minibeasts. Continuing on from our work on 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', we looked after five caterpillars. We enjoyed seeing them grow quickly and create their chrysalides. We now have beautiful painted lady butterflies in our butterfly garden, ready to release before half term.

The class have enjoyed many sensory activities and fine motor control games. In maths, we have started using the mathematical language around addition.

Recently, we have started to learn about The Queen and her Platinum Jubilee. The children made gold crowns and decorated The Queen's silhouette with pictures of things associated with her and London. We are also planning a tea party to celebrate.

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







## Orion Class News



Hello from Orion Class!

We have had a lovely term exploring our theme of “keeping healthy”. We have listened to the story “Head To Toe” and practiced copying different actions and really enjoyed the sensory story “Tree”. This has helped us learn about the weather and the different seasons. We learnt about how dew forms and had fun using the spray bottle to create our own dew.

As always we have enjoyed cooking and are becoming fabulous at creating fruit kebabs and salads - our chopping, grating, threading and peeling skills are really improving. Pupils have worked hard at following the symbol recipes too.

We are focussing well on Waldon type tasks and are learning about “time” in maths; we are able to sequence events in the day and are starting to work on identifying o'clock times.

In art, we have learnt about surrealism and have enjoyed creating some unusual compositions and mixing themes using a range of media.

We are progressing well in phonics and always enjoy mark making in a range of sensory textures.

Have a fantastic half term!







## Pegasus Class News

Hello from Pegasus Class!

We can't quite believe another term is over already! This term we have been learning about recycling and have become more conscious of what we throw away and which things we can keep, reuse or recycle. In maths we have been developing our knowledge of fractions and in English we have read topical stories and developed our reading skills through phonics. My term highlight has to be our collaborative art work creating our own version of 'The Great Wave of Kanagawa' by Hokusai (pictured). It contains work from every child in Pegasus and now sits in pride of place in the classroom. We have also been getting very green fingered and have built a mini greenhouse and filled it with seeds that we have watched grow, as well as clearing a space outdoors to plant radishes and some squash plants.

Thanks for all your support throughout the term  
Team Pegasus.







## Aquarius Class News



Hello from Aquarius!

This half term has just flown by! Aquarius Class has been enjoying the warmer weather as we have continued to explore the outdoor learning opportunities at the Earth Trust. Sadly we say goodbye to our forest school leader, Hamish, who has provided many interesting and challenging tasks for us. We will miss him.

We are becoming much more independent in our Tuesday snack making session, in which we prepare or cook snacks to take to Wittenham. There are some budding chefs amongst us! Of course cleaning up afterwards is just as important.



Some of the class have been involved in a business enterprise project, having started a car wash business. During this process they created an advert, made flyers, worked hard as part of a team and learnt how to invoice, before having a trip to Reading to spend their hard earned funds at an activity of their choice.



In our current affairs lessons we have been learning about protecting our planet, with the students giving an excellent assembly on Earth Day to their peers on the secondary site. We have also been learning about the Greenpeace and Everyday Plastics campaign to find out how much plastic we are throwing away, by joining in with the Big Plastic Count. Results will be out soon!

Have a great half term from the Aquarius team.





## Capella News

Hello from Capella Class

This term has flown by!

This term we have been working on 'cooking from scratch.' We have been learning how to design a pasta or rice dish, cooking it, evaluating then trying again. Lots of us were great at trying new things in our cooking and adding vegetables that we wouldn't usually choose. All of these activities practice our literacy and maths skills.



At Wittenham we have been busy as always. We have helped to tidy the garden and planted bulbs and seeds. We have been really pleased to be able to go back in with the chickens again and feed the goats and their kids.

We have been busy preparing for our own jubilee party and we learnt all about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We made an assortment of treats including sausage rolls, vanilla cheesecake and Victoria sponge cake, carefully weighing out ingredients and working out how long things cook for. We even designed and made our own bunting.







## Perseus Class News

Hello from Perseus

Our students have been working very hard this term and have responded positively to the new and challenging activities that have been offered to them. We have been practicing our maths skills running the class café, learning about what happens at work by running a car wash and our Science project has seen everyone learn how to care for a plant. They also enjoyed tricky construction activities and rose to the challenge of balloon modelling!

Well done Perseus!





# Ursa Major News

Hello from Ursa Major

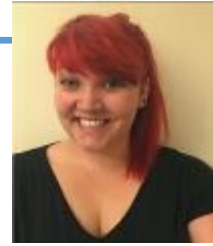
We have come hurtling into the sunny Summer term.

In Ursa Major we have been enjoying a new show from Make Sense Theatre on a Monday, all about an underwater King, which has been greatly enjoyed by all—even the adults. Relax Kids is always a hit and continues to be something we as a class look forward to on a Wednesday.

We have been learning about different temperatures and textures in Science, by taking part in sensory play with lots of different frozen vegetables.

“Grab and go” bags have been introduced, which are nice quick activities all boxed up and ready to go when there is a quiet moment. These have been well received by the pupils who have enjoyed producing some great work.

Have a happy half term from the Ursa Major team





## After School and Holiday Club News



Hello from After School Clubs and Holiday Club

We have had a busy term at after school club. Activities have included baking, water fights and enjoying new sensory equipment such as the roller slide. We have seen an increase in the number of children accessing club since Christmas, which means there is an increasingly fun and enjoyable atmosphere.

Planning is in process for after school club next term. The trampoline park is the venue of choice for a trip at Youth Club. A visit to, or from, the petting zoo is on the cards for our primary children attending after school club. Please keep an eye out for the consent forms for these if your child currently attends after school clubs.

We have a busy 3 days planned for holiday club over the May half term. Our trip this holiday club is to Beale Park where the children can play and explore, and meet the animals. Indoor and outdoor activities will be available for our days on site. Our theme will be the Queen's Jubilee. We will be thinking about all the things the queen has done, and creating art to celebrate these. Cooking activities will involve scones and jam; you can't get more British than that!

The dates for Summer Holiday Club are as follows:

- Week 1: 25th—28th July
- Week 2: 1st—4th August
- Week 3: 8th—11th August
- Week 4: 15th—17th August



Keep an eye out at the start of next term for the booking form which will be sent out via email, and made available on the school website. Summer is our busiest holiday at club and we run 2 trips per week. These will include to Camp Mohawk, TVAP, Thomley, Wellington Country Park, Beale Park and the Living Rainforest. We also plan to have visitors in to work with us on days we are at the school site. Make/Sense Theatre are a firm favourite for both children and staff!

Please also keep an eye out for the form about access to after school clubs in the 2022/23 academic year. This is needed to make plans to accommodate as many children as possible.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable May half term



**DONATE**

## BSA News

Many thanks to the WI for a recent donation in memory of Barbara Pike. Barbara previously taught at Bishopswood and her daughter

Lizzie attended the school

*Coming soon*

Term 6 dates for:

- > Coffee, Cake & Chat
- > Monday Quiz night

at the Rising Sun, RG6 5PF

Any questions, please email:

[bsa@bishopswoodschool.co.uk](mailto:bsa@bishopswoodschool.co.uk)

This year we are joining with Sonning Common primary school for a:



Sonning Common Summer Fair

**Sat June 18th 12—3pm,**

Sonning Common Primary grounds



Details of all coming events will be posted on the BSA facebook page:

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

Bishopswood student sponsored bike ride raises over **£1,500** for his school



Nathaniel (Natty) Dollar meeting up with friends as he completes his 10 mile sponsored cycle ride from Dorchester-on-Thames to Abingdon on Easter Sunday.





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

Ahead of the May half term 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.

**£15 per child** is available for the one-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.

**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

### 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 19<sup>th</sup> July: Early finish 1.20pm secondary department, 1:30pm primary department (including Little Stars)

*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 20<sup>th</sup> December: Early finish 1.20 pm secondary, 1.30 pm primary

*Please note the change for Little Stars pupils, they now finish for summer with the other classes at primary on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July (not Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July as originally published in September)*