



BISHOPSWOOD School

Welcome to our July 2022 newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers and Friends of Bishopswood,

I am delighted and proud to be writing to you as the Interim Headteacher of Bishopswood. It has been a challenging year for the school and one that has seen a great deal of change. However, we are very excited to be welcoming Priya Bhagrath as our new Head of School from September and we are thrilled that Bishopswood will become a member of the Propeller Academy Trust early in 2023. We will continue to support the school in the meantime. Our Trust has two other excellent SEND schools in Oxfordshire (Fitzwaryn in Wantage and Kingfisher in Abingdon) and we have huge experience in delivering outstanding outcomes for our pupils. We will be ensuring that we have the same expectations and aspirations for the pupils, families and staff at Bishopswood.

Even in the short amount of time I have been at Bishopswood, it has been a delight to work with such a dedicated staff team and wonderful pupils. The pupils have been a delight to work with and continue to make us smile and laugh on a daily basis. We will be relentless in the pursuit of their continued development in September and will be focusing on communication, independence and learning behaviours/skills.

You may have noticed that the class names are moving from constellations to trees from September for ease and to align with our BishopswOOD name. If you have any queries regarding class groups/teachers, then please contact the school office. With that in mind, a key priority for the new academic year is to improve our communication with parents/carers. We had a parent forum meeting this term and our new Head of School has sent out a parent survey this week. We will be feeding back on this in September. In the meantime, if there is anything you wish to discuss, please contact the school office in the first instance.

You will note overleaf that a number of much loved staff are leaving us. It should be noted that Julie Parkes Bowen and Nicky Bohem in our office team have served Bishopswood for 15 and 10 years respectively, quite some achievement! They are part of the Bishopswood fabric and will be sorely missed. Staff are always sad to leave Bishopswood (and the pupils in particular) and this is summarised perfectly by Bobby Lynch who noted; *'Sadly, it is a goodbye message from me but, it's also a thank you! Over the past 5 years I have had the pleasure of working across the whole school and have got to know almost all of the pupils here! I owe a massive thank you to each and every one of them, although I am the teacher, they have all taught me an unbelievable amount too!'*

Staffing news

We are very pleased to welcome Priya Bhagrath as our new headteacher, Richard Hine, Kathy Rice and Diana Petre as new teachers and Barbara Fonseca and Ingrid Sarson as new LSAs. We are also pleased that Georgie Lockett will take over as Office Manager, and Jo Winch as Administrative Assistant.

We say goodbye to two members of our Office team, both of whom are retiring after many years of service. Julie Parkes Bowen and Nicky Boehm will be missed and we wish you both happy retirements. We also say goodbye and good luck to teachers George Clarke, Bobby Lynch and Kirsty Sidorowicz who are moving to new schools in September and to three LSAs Charlotte Whayman, Nabila el Fassi and Kim Tockock.

Thank you everyone for your commitment to our pupils and the school over the years and we wish them every success in the future.

Finally, I wish you and your families a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing everyone again on **Wednesday 7th September 2022**.

Best wishes,

Tom Pegler

CEO, Propeller Academy Trust

Little Stars News



Hello from Little Stars

Our days start with a happy greeting before starting the 1: 1 activities designed to help pupils achieve their targets. Once this is done pupils like to spend sunny days outside in the sensory garden on the swing, trampoline, or engaging with other pupils.



Then in circle time we learn to take turns, be patient, play with peers, sing songs, but especially have fun!

Soon it's time to have a snack and we practice following clear instructions, tidy up after circle time and encourage pupils good hygiene habits. During snack time pupils use symbols to choose what they would like to eat.

During Maths pupils learn count to 5, some of them to 20. We use real objects for adding and subtracting numbers, or using peg clip cards, also to practice fine motor skills.



In English lessons we learn phonics, letter identification, trace the lines, and enjoy sensory story times.

Our pupils excel during Independent Living Skills. They make tasty orange juice, chocolate banana/orange dips or bake cookies.

Sensory science seems to be the most favourite lesson! As a group, pupils made smelly slime, planted 'Jack's Beanstalk', observed 'rain' in the jar and were having fun with 'jumping corn'.



During glorious sunny days we do obstacle play or sensory circuit, try scooter, play cricket or pass a ball.



Well done Little Stars!

Aquila News



Hello from Aquila Class,

This term the children have been learning about capacity and measure in maths, which has meant exploring floating and sinking, designing and building our own boats out of a range of different materials and measuring out our own ingredients for this terms cooking activity– Banana muffins!

The children have also enjoyed learning about sharing and emotions in our PSHE sessions and this has fed into our end of year celebration when we will be having a whole class picnic. For this we've practiced setting up a picnic for some Teddy bears, sharing our food equally across a number of plates and writing an invitation to everyone in the class. It's been a very busy term and I'm proud to say that all of the children have excelled at their learning and continued to impress the class team every step of the way!

Wishing you all a very happy and safe summer holidays,

George and the Aquila class team.



Columba News



Hello from Columba Class,

We have had a very busy half term, continuing our topic 'In the Garden'. The children have enjoyed weekly trips to the grounds of Sonning Common Primary School. They have hunted for minibeasts & plants and collected greenery to create pictures. In Science, we also talked about the parts of a flower. The children studied real flowers and recreated them with playdough.

Columba have looked at minibeasts in detail: learning the Makaton signs, listening to stories & rhymes, making models, with the features of each minibeast, and learning about their habitats. We started by studying spiders and learning about their webs. Then we read 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson and looked at how worms move.

In Maths, Columba have looked at the operations of addition and subtraction, particularly focussing on one more & one less. We played games, completed puzzles, ordered 'worms' by length and measured them using interlocking cubes. In PSHE, Columba discussed their special relationships. We drew our families and thought about our friendships in school, practising taking turns and sharing.

During PE sessions, Columba enjoyed dancing, yoga and learning ball skills. We have been moving like minibeasts, creating a dance by linking the movements together. We have also worked on our fine motor skills by playing with lots of equipment that develops those skills, such as squeezing clothes pegs, opening tiny cardboard boxes, threading and practising using zips & buckles.



Thank you for all of your support and enjoy the summer holidays,

The Columba Class Team



Orion News



Hello from Orion!

This term we have learnt about how to sequence stories and practiced role play after taking part in fabulous sensory stories such as “The Smartest Giant In Town” and “Oliver's Vegetables”.

Our healthy living theme has been continued in our cookery lessons. We have enjoyed following symbol instructions to create a range of fruit ice lollies and wraps. We’ve really appreciated sampling the lollies in the recent hot weather!

In maths we have learnt about capacity and measured out different sensory items into categories of “more”, “less”, “full”, “half full” etc. We have also learnt more about length by using a ruler to measure our model snakes. We are also making great progress with Waldon.

Attention Autism has been messy and fun and our concentration skills are really improving!

Have a fantastic holiday from the Orion Team



Pegasus News



Hello from Pegasus,

What a busy term! We have had plenty going on in Pegasus over the last six weeks. Horse riding with the Wyfold RDA has started again and been an absolute privilege to return to. This week the riders had an informal assessment so that they can finish the year with a certificate of their achievements. We have also had the opportunity to join in with Sonning Common Primary activities more formally, with a number of Pegasus taking part in forest school. Finally, we have had two trips up to the Bishopswood secondary department to start our transition to 'big school'. Despite some worries, this has been a roaring success and the class has proved to themselves that it's not so scary after all.

Have a fantastic summer and see you in September!

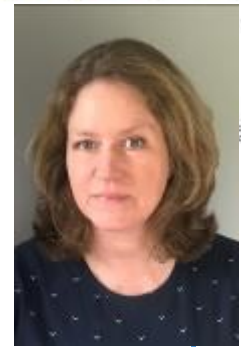
Pegasus class team.



Aquarius News



Hello from Aquarius



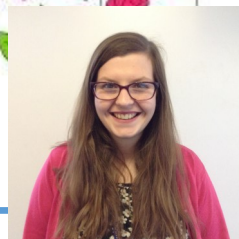
We ended last half-term on a high with our Jubilee Party. This term we have been enjoying learning how to play cricket with our USports coach. The pupils have been practising bowling the ball and hitting the it with the cricket bat. H ere are some pictures of us playing below. We have had a sports day to celebrate our achievements in sport.

The class have been exploring Old Copse nearby to put our Forest School skills in action. In Maths we have been making nets to learn about different 3D shapes and found out their properties. In Geography we researched different rivers on the computers and know how important it is to keep them clean. We painted some beautiful pictures of rivers in Art.

We hope everyone has a great summer holiday!



Capella News



Hello from Capella

We have had an incredibly busy final term!

We have been working so hard in preparation for our end of year production. We have learnt about how to play different characters and how to perform in front of an audience.



With our cooking this term, we have enjoyed learning how to make healthy snacks. One of our favourites has been learning how to use a blender to make fruit smoothies. We had great fun experimenting with different combinations of flavours! We also enjoyed learning how to make different wrap snacks, we particularly enjoyed wrap toasties and wrap pizzas.

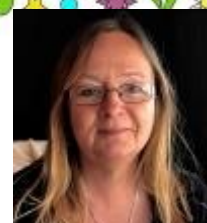
We have enjoyed learning how to look after a plant. We planted seeds in the first week or term and have tracked the progress of the plant week by week whilst carefully looking after them.



At Wittenham, we have been learning lots about trees. We learnt how to prepare the ground for planting and then how to look after the trees once they are planted. We also learnt about some different types of trees and what their leaves look like.



Perseus News



Hello from Perseus

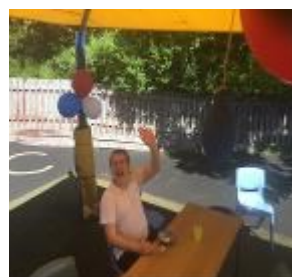
This term for maths and science we have been learning about the changing state of matter by freezing. The pupils have been making their own ice lollies with squash and fruit, cutting the fruit into halves or quarters and understanding how to share the fruit out evenly. They then have the fun of eating their lollies the next day!

All term we have been developing our cutlery skills using eating utensils to practise cutting, piercing and spooning the play dough.

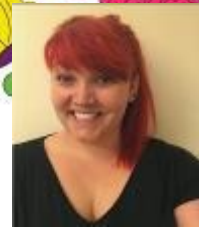
Each week we have a Book of the Week in story time where the learning intention is for the pupils sit and listen and understanding comprehension.

It's also time to bid farewell to a lovely year 11 pupil, Ned. We wish him all the best for the next chapter in his life.

And from all of us in Perseus class, we wish you all a wonderful summer break.



Ursa Major News



Hello from Ursa Major

What a lovely, but hot, summer term we have had.

We had a fun time doing the performance with Make Sense Theatre and all pupils on Mondays had a great time.

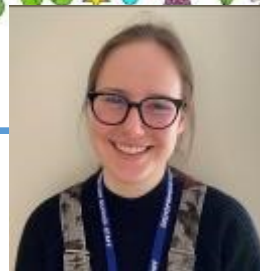
Summer term had been lots of sensory and art experiences as a class. We enjoyed painting our feet and hands making lots of mark making and even a little mess.

On a personal note, I will be leaving at the end of term and would like to say thank you to all those I have worked alongside, I have had a great time teaching and working with all the pupils at the school. Wishing everyone the best in the future.

Kirsty and Ursa Major Team



After School Club News



We have had a really enjoyable term at after school club. Thanks to the warm weather, we have enjoyed lots of water play and fruity frozen yoghurt at our after school club at primary. It is fair to say that when it comes to water fights, the children have much better aim than the adults!

At Youth Club we have been working on independent living skills by each taking a visit to the local shops in small groups. There too we have had cooling treats like ice lollies and ice cream, chosen by the children on their shopping trips.

To top it off, we have recently had an end of term trip to the trampoline park. Everyone had a great time, children and staff alike! I look forward to seeing some new faces at after school club next term, and I hope everyone has a great Summer.



Holiday Club News

We have a jam packed Summer Holiday Club Planned. As usual we are running for 15 days across the Summer.

We are running 2 trips per week for the 4 weeks we are running the service. These include trips to inclusive SEN play centres such as Camp Mohawk, TVAP and Thomley. We also have trips to wildlife parks like Beale Park.

For the days on the school site, we have a range of visitors coming in, and lots of activities planned. From a small animal visit from Smelly Wellies, to an interactive drama experience with Make/Sense Theatre, we have something for everyone. There will also be sensory activities and water play available (weather dependent!).

We are now fully booked for our Summer club, so please contact me urgently with any cancellations so that these sessions can be offered to other families.





BSA

Announcements

Interested in taking part in a
Bishopswood Bell Boat team?

Please let us know via:
bsa@bishopswood.school.co.uk

2021-22 Fundraising Total



£9,730

Top 3:

Birdstock (Bird in Hand)	£3,845
Online Xmas Fayre	£2,506
Bike Ride (Natty)	£1,509

> Sat 3rd



Regatta
for the
disabled
HENLEY

www.regattaforthedisabled.org

> Sept collection
(Details to follow)



> Term 1 dates to be announced for:

- Coffee, Cake & chat
- Monday Quiz night

at the Rising Sun, RG6 5PF

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

www.facebook.com/groups/275568519445120



Sonning Common Primary Summer Fair

..... BSA STALL MEMORIES!



Household Support Fund: support for families this summer

Ahead of the summer 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.

£90 per child is available for the six-week holiday period. (£15 per week). 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 2022-2023

Autumn 2022

Friday 2nd September INSET

Monday 5th September INSET

Tuesday 6th September INSET

Term 1 starts Wednesday 7th September

Friday 14th October INSET

Term 1 ends Friday 21st October (normal time)

Half term: Monday 24th to Friday 28th October 2022

Term 2 starts Monday 31st October

Term 2 ends Tuesday 20th December (normal time)

Spring 2023

Wednesday 4th January 2023 INSET

Term 3 starts Thursday 5th January

Term 3 ends Friday 10th February (normal time)

Half term: Monday 13th to Friday 17th February

Term 4 starts Monday 20th February

Term 4 ends Friday 31st March (normal time)

Summer 2023

Term 5 starts Monday 17th April

Monday 1st May Bank Holiday

Term 5 ends Friday 26th May (normal time)

Half term: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

Monday 5th June Staff training day

Term 6 starts Tuesday 7th June

Term 6 ends Friday 21st July (normal time)