



June Newsletter 2026

Dear Families

What a busy and memorable few weeks it has been at school!

It was lovely to welcome everyone back after the half-term break and to hear all about the children's adventures. Although the glorious sunshine from earlier in the term soon became a distant memory, the weather certainly kept us all guessing with sunshine, heatwave, showers and even thunderstorms. Thank you for continuing to send children in prepared for all weather conditions.

Celebrating Learning and Achievements

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the outcome of their *From a Tiny Seed* project. We were amazed by the wonderful variety of plants the children brought into school and the enthusiasm they showed throughout the project. It was a fantastic way to bring their learning to life.

Year 2 began their swimming programme and have continued attending sessions each week. It has been wonderful to watch their confidence grow in the water as they develop this important life skill. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are already disappointed

that the programme will soon come to an end. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the additional adults who have given their time to support the sessions—we are incredibly grateful for your help.

Our new Reception families attended a very successful Parents' Evening and we were delighted to welcome so many new members into our school community. Since then, our Stay and Play sessions have taken place, helping our September starters become familiar with school life. It has been lovely to see both the new children and our current Year R children enjoying these sessions together.

School Life

Assemblies have continued to be full of excitement. Children learned about the FIFA World Cup and enjoyed supporting the countries allocated to their classes. Staff also took part in Sensory Circuits training, alongside colleagues from neighbouring schools, helping us to further develop our practice and support all learners.

Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic geography trip to Southsea, where they explored both human and physical features in a real-life setting. The visit to Portsdown Hill provided a wonderful bird's-eye view and was a particular highlight.

Our Year R children had a memorable visit to Staunton Farm, returning full of exciting facts and stories about the animals they met. Staff at Staunton were full of praise for the children's enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent behaviour.

We were also delighted to welcome Thomas from the NED Show, who travelled from Virginia to visit us. Through incredible yo-yo tricks and magic, he shared the important message of:

- **Never give up**
- **Encourage others**
- **Do your best**

These values continue to be at the heart of everything we do in school.

Sports Day Success

One of the highlights of the term was undoubtedly Sports Day. Despite the extremely warm conditions, the children demonstrated fantastic resilience, determination and sportsmanship throughout the day. They supported one another brilliantly, celebrated each other's successes and showed excellent attitudes from start to finish.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended and created such a wonderful atmosphere with their encouragement and support. We would also like to thank Miss Turner, our staff team, CM Sports and our PTA volunteers for helping to make the event such a success.

Coping with the Heatwave

The record-breaking June temperatures certainly presented challenges for everyone. Staff worked tirelessly to adapt plans, assess risks and ensure that children and staff remained safe and comfortable throughout the period of extreme heat. Classroom temperatures were monitored carefully and wellbeing remained our priority at all times.

We would like to thank parents for their support and understanding during this unusual period. The experience has certainly given us plenty to consider when planning for future summers.

Community News

It was with immense sadness that we shared the news of the passing of Aaron Cook, known to many as "Coach Cook". Aaron was a hugely respected member of the local football community and inspired countless children through his coaching, encouragement and example. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Our thoughts remain with Aaron's wife, children, family, friends and the wider Dynamos community. We hope many local teams will be able to support the *90 Minutes for Cookie* fundraising initiative in his memory.

Catering Success

We were delighted to receive a highly successful Catering Audit this term. Particular praise was given to our new chef, Laslo, whose commercial catering experience has brought a wealth of expertise to our kitchen team. We are incredibly fortunate to offer such a varied menu and a reminder that school meals remain free for all infant-aged children. Laslo and his team have been fantastic, even during the heatwave, and we would like to say a big well done and thank you!

Looking Ahead to July

As we head towards the end of another successful school year, we have several important events to look forward to:

Transition Morning

Children will take part in Transition Morning, where they will meet their new teachers and spend time in their classrooms ready for September. Our new Year R children will also have the opportunity to stay for lunch and experience another part of the school day.

Open Afternoon – Wednesday 8th July

Our Open Afternoon will take place between **2.00pm and 5.00pm**. Parents and carers will be able to collect their child's Record of Achievement and celebrate the wonderful progress made throughout the year-this is for current children only.

Children are also welcome to pop in and meet their new teacher if they have not already done so. Once families have enjoyed looking through learning and achievements, children may be taken home directly from the event.

Year 2 Swimming

Year 2 swimming sessions will continue until **9th July**. The children have had a brilliant time and have made fantastic progress throughout the programme.

Year 2 Leavers' Performance

Our Year 2 Leavers' Performance is planned for **Thursday 16th July at 1.45pm**. If we experience another spell of extreme hot weather, we may move the performance to the morning when temperatures are cooler. Any changes will be communicated as early as possible.

Year 2 Leavers' Disco

Also on **Thursday 16th July**, our Year 2 children will enjoy their special Leavers' Disco. They will return to school in the evening for a chance to celebrate together, dance the night away and make some final infant-school memories. Thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising this special event.

Farewells

The end of the school year will also mean saying goodbye to several valued members of staff.

- **Mrs Penny Campone** will be retiring. There is a collection in the school office for anyone wishing to contribute, and cards are very welcome.
- **Mrs Louise Graham** will be leaving after an incredible 18 years at the school to pursue a new chapter now that her own children have completed their education.
- **Mrs Julie Briscoe**, who has provided valuable one-to-one support for many children, will also be leaving, although she has kindly agreed to remain available if needed in the future.

We will miss all three members of staff enormously and thank them for their dedication, care and commitment to our school community over many years.

Last Day of Term

The last day of school will be Wednesday 22nd July.

☀️ **Staying Safe in the Sun (and Rain!)**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a fantastic June filled with learning, achievements and special memories. We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events as we celebrate the final few weeks of another wonderful school year.

With warmest wishes

Mrs Riches

Headteacher



1 - Laslo, Pauline and Carla from Cleverchefs

Governor Update

Governor Visit Update: Celebrating Our Wonderful School Community

I was absolutely delighted to spend some time at Bishops Waltham Infant School recently, experiencing a slice of school life both at lunchtime and in the classrooms.

My day began at lunchtime, and I was so impressed by how well-behaved and polite the children are. The school hall was beautifully orderly, with children eating together and speaking so kindly to one another. They were incredibly proud to show me their well-established routines (including exactly where to clear their plates!) and were bursting with excitement to tell me all about their learning. Some of our Year 2 pupils eagerly shared details about their brilliant pirate projects and even treated me to a rendition of the song they had sung in assembly that morning! It was also fantastic to see books made readily available on the playground, encouraging a love of reading even during break times.

Moving into the classrooms for the afternoon, the wonderful atmosphere continued. In Year R, I watched some fantastic letter formation work, where children were focused, enthusiastic, and responding beautifully to gentle, individualised guidance from staff. The positive relationships between the children and the adults are a joy to watch, and I was so pleased when the children confidently told me how safe they feel at school and how well they are looked after.

In Key Stage 1, creativity was in full swing. Year 1 pupils showed me some incredible art projects linked to their writing about Grace Darling, demonstrating a real pride in their work. Meanwhile, Year 2 were busy rehearsing for their upcoming pirate show. The energy in the room was fantastic, and the children are responding brilliantly to the high expectations and wonderful encouragement of the teaching team.

It is clear that our school is a safe, vibrant, and ambitious place for our children to grow, and I left feeling incredibly proud of both our pupils and our dedicated staff!

Daryl Moth (Governor)

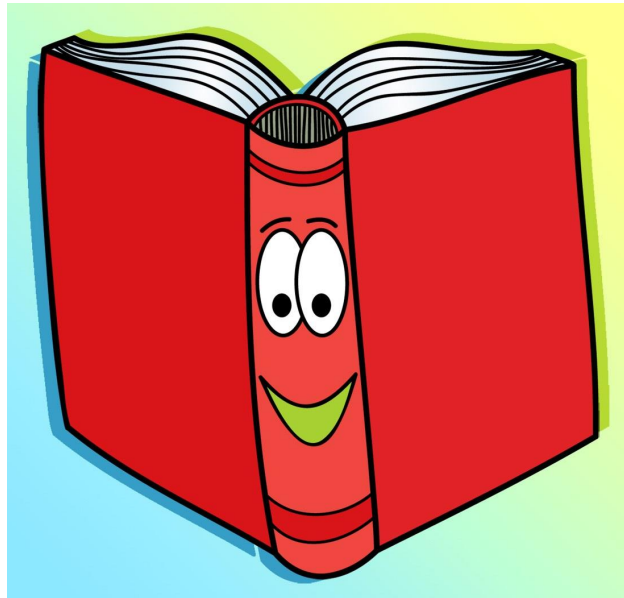
Early Bird payments

Please ensure payments for Early birds are made before the end of term so your child's account is not in negative balance. The club operates as a top up system so please ensure you keep enough funds in your account for the sessions you have booked.

If you receive universal credit you can claim back some childcare costs. Link below has more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/universal-credit-childcare-costs>

Books



Please ensure all library and school reading books are returned before the end of term. Many thanks

Reading



Unusual Reading Spots

We have loved seeing all the wonderful photos of our children enjoying books in the most unusual places! So far, we've spotted children reading up trees, on trampolines and even while horse riding! It has been fantastic to see such enthusiasm for reading beyond the classroom.

Please keep the photos coming! We're looking forward to creating a special display to celebrate our children's love of reading and to inspire others across the school.

School Library Service

We were delighted to welcome the School Library Service, who recently visited us to refresh our school library. Our shelves are now filled with lots of exciting new books for the children to discover and enjoy during the final weeks of term. We can't wait to see which stories become their new favourites!

Summer Reading Challenge

In July, we are excited to welcome Bishops Waltham Library into school to introduce this year's Summer Reading Challenge. We hope this will inspire lots of our children to continue enjoying books throughout the summer holidays and discover the joy of reading for pleasure.

Coming Up

Keep an eye out for more information about our next reading challenge—we're looking forward to sharing another exciting opportunity to celebrate reading together!

Sustainability

This month, the children have thoroughly enjoyed observing the different insects that have been visiting our bee houses. We have also been delighted to see how popular our bird feeders have become! The birds have loved visiting so much that we have completely run out of bird food and have had to order some more.

Top Tip for Home: During this hot weather, leave out a shallow dish of fresh water for birds, insects, and other animals. You could also add a few pebbles or stones to give insects somewhere safe to land and drink.





Year Group Updates

Year R

Reception launched their exciting new project, **All Creatures Great and Small**, with a special challenge from Mrs Labram. She shared a video explaining that she would love a pet but couldn't decide which one would be best. To help her choose, the children researched different animals and created informative posters about potential pets.

The children also enjoyed a visit to the farm, where they met, fed and helped care for a variety of animals. Over the past few weeks, the children have enjoyed observing our class caterpillars as they transformed into beautiful butterflies. The children were very excited when they released the butterflies outside, bringing their learning about life cycles to life.







Year 1

Year 1 launched their exciting new project, **Oh I Do Like To Be Beside the Sea**, with a fantastic trip to Portsdown Hill, Old Portsmouth and Southsea seafront. During the visit, the children explored each location, identifying both physical and human geographical features. They also spotted some of our local landmarks, including the lighthouse, the Spinnaker Tower, the Lipstick Tower and the historic Old Walls. Back at school, the children continued to deepen their knowledge of Southsea by creating colourful holiday leaflets designed to attract visitors. They discovered that Southsea was a popular seaside destination during the Victorian era and enjoyed comparing holidays from the past with the seaside experiences we enjoy today. In art, the children have been using their imaginations to create a view of the Southsea coastline as if seen through a porthole on a boat sailing across the Solent. They have designed and collaged their own unique porthole scenes, producing some fantastic artwork. Keep an eye out around school for their finished creations and don't forget to look out for the impressive lighthouse models they have been making as part of their home learning projects!

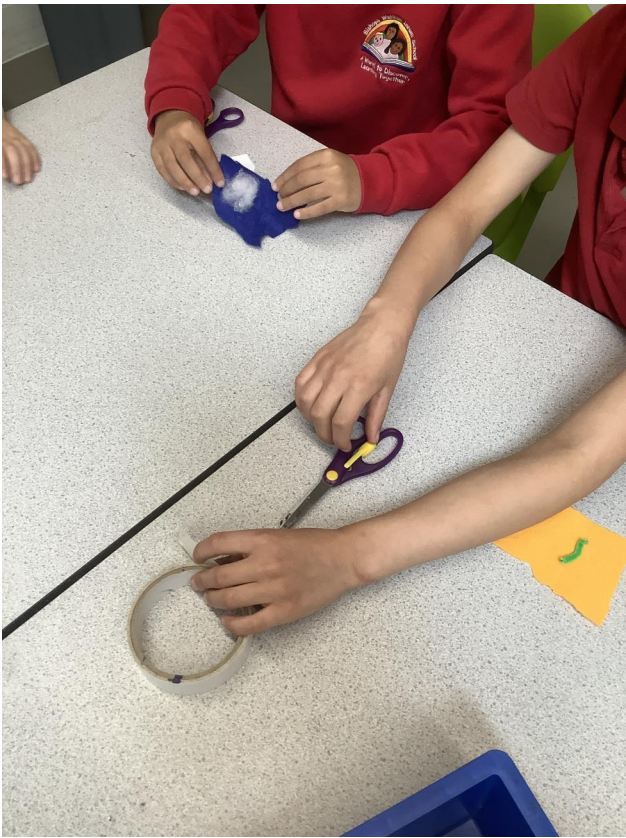


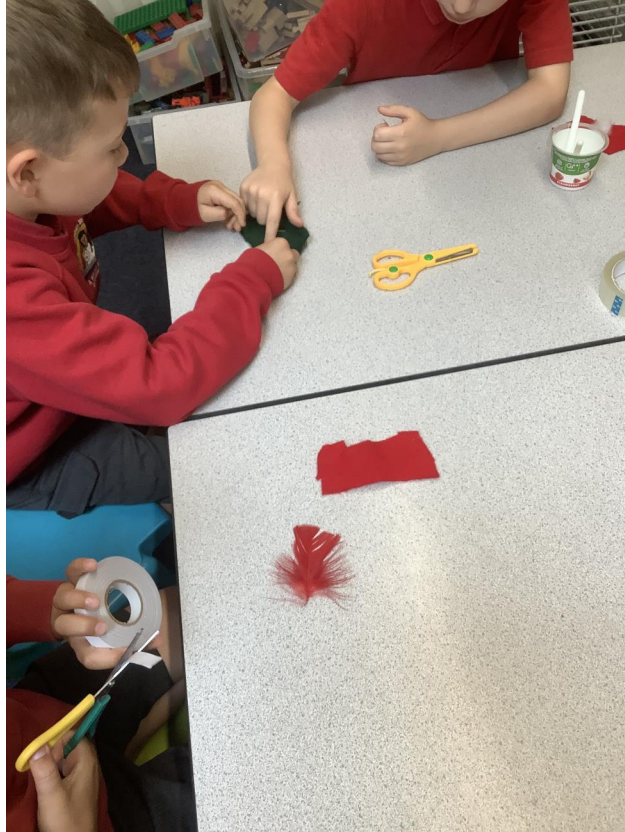


Year 2

The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in RE Week, where they explored the concept of special places in Christianity and Hinduism. It was a meaningful and engaging topic that inspired thoughtful discussions and encouraged the children to reflect on the importance of places of worship in different faiths. We have now embarked on our exciting **Pirates** project! The children have been introduced to their end-of-year Pirate Performance and are already busy learning their lines, practising songs and creating their very own pirate puppets. There is a real sense of excitement as they prepare to perform for their families.

Year 2 have also had the fantastic opportunity to take part in swimming lessons this half term. They have thoroughly enjoyed their time in the pool, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, responsibility and confidence they have shown throughout the sessions. Well done, Year 2!

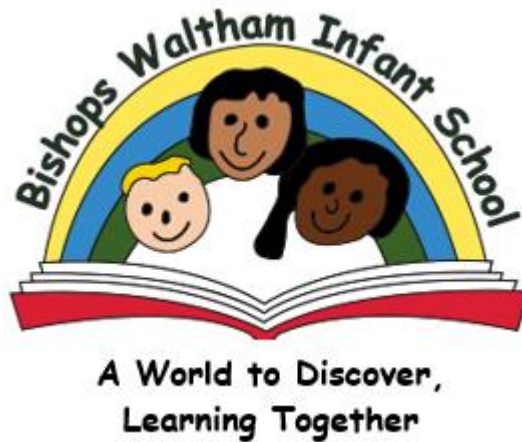




Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 2nd July - Transition morning
- Wednesday 8th July - Open afternoon, 2 pm- 5pm
- Monday 13th July -Rock Steady concert at 2.30pm

- Thursday 16th July - Year 2 Leavers Performance at 1.45pm
- Thursday 16th July - Year 2 disco 5 pm- 6.30pm
- Wednesday 22nd July - last day of term



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¹<https://www.bwis.org.uk/>