

May Newsletter 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today saw the end of our our 'Walk to School' week, which is a Hampshire initiative that takes place every year. In our assembly on Monday, our children were really sensible about crossing roads, and all the Year 2 children were able to teach the younger children , remembering their walk to school training, right at the start of the year. Well done to all of them! Year R have been busy learning to ride using the balance bikes too, and Miss Turner said she has been really impressed with how hard they have all been trying.

Our celebration assemblies have been highlighting the amazing learning the children have been doing in class; story writing, using a numberline to help with addition and subtraction, amazing art pieces are just a few of the learning pieces shared. We have also been giving out a record number of learning certificates, which supports our learning behaviour demonstrated in class. Well done to all the children!

❓Quiz Night 2025

What a night to remember! With a packed hall, last-minute entries, and buzzing energy, this year's quiz night was a triumph. Our brilliant Quizmaster Andy kept us entertained with a mix of general knowledge, emoji rounds, music and more. The bar flowed, the food (courtesy of Cleverchefs) was top-notch, and the atmosphere was simply electric.

Huge congratulations to **'**Quizzy Whizzy, Let's Get Busy' – this year's winners with an impressive lead! A big thank you also goes to everyone who helped set up and clear away afterwards (even those who briefly got locked in the car park – sorry again!). Mark your calendars for next year – this is one event you won't want to miss!

🎪 Summer Fayre 2025

Glorious sunshine, smiling faces and an amazing £2200 raised for our new learning suite! From crafts to duck hooking, face painting to football challenges – this year's fayre had it all. We were treated to fantastic performances from our Year 2 ceilidh dancers and after-school dance club, making it a joyful day from start to finish.

A **massive thank you** to Claire, Kath, Baz and Andy who led the charge, and to the brilliant volunteers from every corner of our school community. You truly made this a day to remember!

VE Day Street Party – 80th Anniversary

We wrapped up the week with an unforgettable **VE Day Street Party** to mark 80 years since Victory in Europe Day. Our theme was **Red, White and Blue**, and the children absolutely loved dining outdoors with friends under the sunshine.

We had Glenn Miller music, festive decorations, and plenty of happy faces. The whole staff joined in the fun, and a big thank you goes to Clever Chefs and our kitchen team for a delicious lunch! 🌞 Don't forget to visit the 'Latest News' section of our website for some wonderful photos from the day.

👨🏫 Governor Meeting

This week also saw one of our termly governor meetings, where we agreed on the school budget for the year ahead. Our governors asked thoughtful, insightful questions and were incredibly complimentary about the careful planning and stewardship of our school's finances. A huge thank you to them for their continued support and guidance. This was to be Simon Brownlie's last meeting as Chair of Governors. After eight years as a governor, he has now stepped down to spend more of his free time with his family. Simon has been a brilliant Chair, with a great attention to detail that proved invaluable when the school was being extended, at the start of his governor term. I would like to thank Simon on behalf of everyone at BWIS, for all his hard work and time and hope that he enjoys his new free time with his family. George

Denman has been voted as our new Chair, and him and Simon have had a cohesive handover this week.

🎨🌼 **Outdoor Learning Highlights**

The sunny weather has inspired some brilliant outdoor learning this week:

- **Year R** explored the work of Andy Goldsworthy and created beautiful natural sculptures using found objects – perfect for trying at the beach! 🍂❓🌊
- **Year 1** painted stunning meadow scenes using watercolours – so much colour and creativity! 🌷🎨
- **Year 2** wrote wonderfully descriptive **minibeast poems**, filled with imaginative language and brilliant vocabulary. 🐞✍️

We are so proud of the creativity, teamwork, and joy that fills our school every day. Thank you for being part of our amazing community – and here's to more sunny days, successful events and smiling faces ahead!

With warmest wishes

Mrs Riches

Headteacher

Sports Day

Our Sports Day is on Friday 4th July. There will be refreshments to purchase on the day (cash only), and the events will last approximately 1 and a quarter hours per year group. Timings are as follows;

Year R

9:15am-10.30am

Year 1

10.45am-midday

Year 2

1.45pm-3pm

Each Year Group will 'parade' around the top playground to start, so please stand around the edge of the big playground when you arrive.

Bag2School Collection

We are pleased to announce that we have organised a clothes & shoe collection with Bag2School in order to raise funds.

Bag2School is the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools and since its inception in 1999 it has now paid out over £48 million.

As well as raising vitally needed funds for, it also helps the environment by helping to divert good quality unwanted textiles away from landfill. A recent DEFRA report has shown that textile collection schemes are helping to reduce the volume of textiles discarded as municipal solid waste. However, it is a fact that as a nation we still send 350,000 tonnes of textiles to landfill every year.

By getting involved in our **Bag2School** collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate good quality unwanted textiles – this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts and handbags, (please refer to https://bag2school.com[1] for full details). In addition to raising much needed funds it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

Bag2School will be collecting from Bishops Waltham Infants on Thursday 5th June. Please bring your bags to school by 9am or the turning circle will be open from 915am Wednesday 4th June to drop bags off.

Please do not drop bags before this date as we don't have space to store.

Many thanks indeed for helping us with this unique fundraising opportunity.

[1] https://bag2school.com/



PTA Update

Wow - what a busy period it has been for the PTA, but so worthwhile!

The Quiz went off with plenty of corks popping, and lots of fun had by all, thank you to all that could join us, we had 64 quiz participants in the end, which was absolutely fantastic!

The Summer Fayre was just brilliant, we were so fortunate with the weather, but also with our amazing volunteers and teaching staff coming forward to help us run the stalls, serve food and ensure the event was such a success. We can't thank you all enough for your support! And seeing all the children's happy faces, with some wonderful face paints and sparkling hair, makes all the hard work worthwhile!

We'll give you all an update after the half term on any further activities the PTA are holding, as well as a total of how much we have raised this year.

Also a thank you to business's local or otherwise for supporting us.

We wish you all a fantastic half term break!

Regards, Your PTA

Governor Update

This term we have had the opportunity to come to our PTA event and see our happy school community. What fun it was! The children were a joy to see, and their manners when hooking the ducks were impeccable. Our new co-opted governor was very impressed with all the children and our school.

We have also agreed the school budget and commend Mrs Riches and Mrs Palmer for ensuring that the money is spent well, children are supported and the school environment is well looked after. We also discussed the refurbishment of the classrooms that have wooden windows, that is being financed by Hampshire County Council, in the summer. This is a major refit, and we are sure the school staff will ensure this happens seamlessly.

This was also the last term that our Chair, Simon Brownlie, would be with us. Simon has dedicated to terms of office to the governing body at BWIS, seeing us through the extension building work and OFSTED. Simon has been an invaluable member of the governors and will be greatly missed. Our new Chair of Governors, George Denman, has been voted in and there has been a cohesive handover of the responsibilities this week. George is looking forward to working with the whole team at BWIS in the role of Chair.

We wish everyone a happy Whitsun, and look forward to seeing the school team next half term.

Warm wished

BWIS Governors

Hanging baskets



1 - Thank you to everyone who donated plants for the hanging baskets. They will be on display in the High Street. The colours are beautiful, and we are hoping for some commendations from the judges this year again.

Year Group Updates

In Year R, the children have been demonstrating our school value of *interdependence* as they collaborated to design and build their own group parks. It has been wonderful to see how well they have worked together—listening carefully to one another, sharing ideas thoughtfully, and supporting each other throughout the process.

The parish councillors were thoroughly impressed by the children's creative park design ideas. Hopefully they will consider the children's ideas for any future park plans.

In PE, the children are thoroughly enjoying their *Balancability* sessions. They've been developing their coordination and confidence through a range of balancing activities. We are especially proud of those who have taken a big step and learned to ride a pedal bike independently—what an amazing achievement! We will be continuing this next half term too. Well done, Year R!









Year 1 - Our *From A Tiny Seed* science project wrapped up this week with a fantastic Plant Trail enjoyed by all our grown-ups. We began with mystery seeds and a challenge: grow them and discover what they are! Along the way, we explored what plants need to grow and investigated questions like “Do plants breathe?” and “Where do seeds come from?”To deepen our learning, we ran three experiments with cress seeds—placing them in the fridge, in the dark, and without water—and made predictions. We were amazed to see yellow cress grow three times faster in the dark as it searched for light!Year 1 have been brilliant scientists. Well done, everyone!









In Year 2, we've been exploring the fascinating world of habitats. It started with a pond dipping hook. The children caught lots of minibeasts including newts! Learning about microhabitats the children helped create wildlife garden to attract minibeasts. They worked hard digging, weeding, and planting wildflower seeds, and even created bug hotels to give insects a cosy place to stay. It was a fun and hands-on experience that everyone really enjoyed!In art, we used the artist Rousseau as inspiration to create beautiful pastel pictures of animals in their natural habitats—the results are stunning and show great attention to detail.Working in teams interdependently the children have a written scripts for 'documentary' about the habitats in our grounds. They

have taken the photos to accompany it. Watch out for them on the Year 2 page of the website.We're now sharing some fantastic home learning that's been brought in. The children have clearly learned so much about a wide range of animals, and it's been a joy to see them confidently sharing their knowledge with friends and teachers. Well done, Year 2!









Dates for your Diary

- Monday 2nd June - Return to school - Summer term
- Wednesday 4th June - Year 1 trip to Southsea
- Thursday 5th June - Bag2School collection
- Thursday 5th June - Year 2 swimming starts
- Thursday 5th June-New Entrants evening-book time slot at office
- Monday 9th June - INSET Day
- BW Folk Festival - Year 2 Ceilidh at Bishops Waltham Palace
- Friday 4th July - Sports Day

INSET DAYS 2025-2026

We have tried where possible to ensure our dates are the same as the junior school for ease for families with children in both schools. Staff training and statutory updates are delivered on these days, and are essential CPD for all staff.

Our INSET days are as follows:

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Monday 24th November 2025

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Monday 8th June 2026

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Visit us on the web at www.bwis.org.uk[2]



[2] https://www.bwis.org.uk/



A World to Discover,
Learning Together