

April Newsletter 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely and restful Easter break. It's been wonderful to see the children return to school full of stories, smiles and ready for all the fun and learning the summer term has in store.

We've had a fantastic start to the term and are excited about the many events and activities coming up. Here's what we've been up to – and what's ahead!

👋 A Warm Welcome to Our New Families

Families with children starting in **Year R in September 2025** will have received their school offers by now. It's been a pleasure to start meeting some of you already – we look forward to welcoming all our new families to the BWIS community soon!

🎩 Looking Back – Easter Fun!

We ended the spring term in the most joyful way:

- Our **Easter Bonnet Parade** was spectacular – with 126 colourful and creative entries filling the hall. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to Mrs Beardmore from Lilypads Nursery for judging.
- We had a brilliant **DT Day**, where children learned how to create moving mechanisms and made their own Easter cards – they were so proud of their creations!
- The **PTA Easter Hunt** was a big hit, with excited children hunting for hidden bunnies and chocolate eggs. The Easter Bunny even made a surprise visit! A huge thank you to our fantastic PTA and all the volunteers who made this day so special – over £500 was raised!

🎉 PTA Events This Term

We're thrilled to have two brilliant events coming up, organised by our amazing PTA:

🗓️ Quiz Night – Friday 9th May

Join us for a fun-filled evening – teams of up to 8 welcome!

🎪 Summer Fayre – Friday 16th May

We're really looking forward to this wonderful community event. Please support our **Non-Uniform Days** in the lead-up:

- **Friday 2nd May** – Bring a bottle (alcoholic preferred) 🍾
- **Friday 9th May** – Bring a chocolate donation 🥫
- **Fayre Day (16th May)** – Bring in cakes and bakes for our cake stall 🍰

Look out for more details from the PTA soon – thank you for your continued support!

🇬🇧 VE Day 80th Anniversary – Thursday 8th May

To mark this special occasion, children are invited to wear **red, white and blue non-uniform** and join in our school street party celebration. Lunch will be a special party meal from Clever Chefs, or children may bring a packed lunch.

📞 Attendance Matters

Our attendance is currently lower than usual. We're now working with the Hampshire Attendance Team to help support families. Please remember:

- Always **call** the school office to report absences (not email)
- If you leave a voicemail, we will call you back

Let’s hope some warm weather helps keep everyone healthy and in school!

Sun Safety

As the weather warms up, please ensure children come to school with **sun hats** and **sunscreen applied**. Water bottles are also essential on hot days.

Car Park Reminder

Just a reminder that our **staff car park is for school staff and visiting professionals only until 4.30pm**. Please do not use the car park in the mornings unless arranged with the office. Thank you for your understanding.

Looking Ahead…

We’re really looking forward to seeing everyone at our **Summer Fayre on Friday 16th May** – it promises to be a fantastic afternoon for the whole school community. We would all like to wish Mrs Moth and her family our very best wishes as she takes family leave this term to welcome their new family member. Mr Churcher and Mrs Withers will be Robin's classteachers until the end of term.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Here's to a sunny, happy and busy summer term!

Warm wishes,

Mrs Riches

Headteacher

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 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 and 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.



PTA Update

The first 4 months of the year seem to have passed us by in the blink of an eye and so much has happened.

Our most recent event was the Easter Egg Hunt, which was very popular again this year, attracting over 150 children from BWIS and surrounding play groups, nurseries and pre-schools. Thank you to our volunteers and BWIS teaching staff for supporting us. We think you'll all agree, it was a great event, full of fun and chocolate.

Looking ahead, we have 2 events coming soon:

- PTA Quiz Night - 9th May
- Summer Fayre - 16th May

Our annual PTA Quiz is usually a very popular and fun evening. But this year interest has unfortunately been quite low, meaning we had to reschedule it from earlier in the year. We have some more sign ups, but we do still have spaces, so please register your team, or as a small group and we can create a team for you. It's £10 per head entry, which includes food and we run a cash bar on the evening too.

You can register your team on our event booking website: https://bwispta.square.site/book-events

The Summer Fayre is also only a few weeks away, and planning is in full swing, we have lots of stalls planned as well as a BBQ and bouncy castle. We can only run as many stalls as we have volunteers for, so please help us make this the best event possible by joining our volunteers group and helping out.

Thanks to those who have joined our group of volunteers. Please click this link to request to join https://chat.whatsapp.com/D25G0SoD2BLLUTUDK5eHuR

The Summer Fayre works on a token basis, the tokens can be purchased in advance, more information will be coming out soon, and please look out for us in the turning circle selling tokens over the next couple of weeks.

If you have any questions about how you can help, or wish to join the PTA please reach out to us at bwispta@gmail.com. The more members we have the easier it is for everyone and the more likely the PTA is to endure. There is only 4 of us, we are parents, and work full time too, so whilst we aim to respond within a couple of days, please be patient.

Wishing you all the best.

PTA Team

Choir at St Peters

Our school choir sang at St Peters Church during the Mother's Day service. It was a lovely to see so many families come along and support us. Pictures are in this month's Parish magazine.



Governor Update

With only two weeks of school opening time since our last newsletter update at the end of March, there has been limited opportunities for governor to meet and undertake visits to the school. In the coming weeks however, we have our penultimate full governing board meeting of the year where we shall have the important job of agreeing the 2025/26 school budget. Further to this, we will also have the usual round of reviewing and updating policies and arranging more school visits for the summer term. Governors will also be continuing to undertake a range of training sessions and attending the Hampshire County Council Governors Forum.

With summer term now underway, we now look forward to the school fayre, our biggest fundraiser of the year. Several governors will be attending and we look forward to speaking with many of you then. We urge everyone to support the event however possible as all money raised goes back to the school to fund either extra events or improved facilities for the children. Thank you in advance to the school's wonderful PTA who sacrifice a lot of their spare time to ensure this event is a success. Hopefully the weather will continue to be good and the event a real success.

BWIS Governors

Year Group Updates

Year R have a very important job this half term. They are working for the Parish Council as playground inspectors. The children have inspected the local playgrounds and used their Thinking Hats to help them think about what they liked, didn't like and ways the parks could be improved. They will be writing to the Parish Council to report their findings. The children will also be designing and making models of new playgrounds to give the Parish Council ideas for the future.













Our 'From A Tiny Seed' science project is in full swing in Year 1. We received some mystery seeds with a challenge to grow them at home and find out what they are. In order to do this successfully, we have been thinking about what we already know about growing plants, and what we would like to find out. The children thought of some very interesting questions, e.g.

"Where do seeds come from?" and "Why are plants green?" and we will be thinking and investigating scientifically to answer these.

In order to deepen our knowledge of plants, life cycles and the conditions different plants need to grow, we will be starting a cress experiment, putting cress seeds in different environments and predicting which seeds will thrive and which seeds will not. We will explore the lifecycle of a sunflower and then transfer this knowledge to discover the life cycle of a bean plant. We are enjoying being scientists!











Year 2 finished last term with a week focused on Belief, focusing on Christian Easter story. We also had a great DT day making an Easter card with a moving part. We learnt to use split pins, sliders and pop ups. Coming back to school we have started a new project, 'Wild World'. The hook was to explore our amazing grounds and go pond dipping. Very exciting. The children caught a variety of minibeasts including tadpoles and a newt. The children have also collecting

data about the minibeasts in the grounds by doing a minibeast hunt. They were very excited to find a centipede and a millipede. This term Year 2 will take part in a Ceilidh Festival at the Palace ruins with other local schools. This week we have started to learn the dances and different moves such as do si do. Lots of fun!









Help Us Bloom in Bishops Waltham!

As part of the *Bishops Waltham in Bloom* celebrations, each year group has been given a hanging basket to fill, which will be displayed in the heart of Bishops Waltham town centre. The baskets will be judged, with prizes for the best-looking display, and we're reaching out to our wonderful parents for donations of plants to fill them!

The baskets have been generously provided by the Town Council, and we have the compost ready. However, we need your help to make them truly spectacular. We are looking for

donations of a variety of plants, particularly those that thrive in hanging baskets and add color, texture, and vibrancy to the displays.

Plant Suggestions:

- **Petunias** (great for vibrant color)
- **Geraniums** (for structure and brightness)
- **Lobelia** (for trailing blue flowers)
- **Fuchsias** (unique, drooping flowers)
- **Calibrachoa** (Million Bells, perfect for spilling over)
- **Sweet Alyssum** (low-growing and fragrant)
- **Trailing Verbena** (for cascading beauty)
- **Begonias** (elegant blooms)
- **Bacopa** (small, sweet flowers)
- **Surfinia Petunias** (vibrant trailing flowers)

If you have any extra plants at home or are able to donate some from your own garden, we would be incredibly grateful. Donations can be dropped off at the school office or to your child's classroom by Wednesday 21st May.

Let’s work together to create a blooming, beautiful town centre and show off our community spirit. We can’t wait to see the stunning displays that will brighten up Bishops Waltham this summer!

Thank you for your support!

Dates for your Diary

- Friday 2nd May - Non school uniform Bring a bottle for summer fayre
- Monday 5th May - school closed May bank holiday
- Thursday 8th May - VE Day, non school uniform. Wear red, white and blue
- Friday 9th May - Non school uniform Bring chocolate donation for summer fayre
- Friday 9th May - PTA Quiz
- Friday 16th May - Non school uniform Bring cake donation for summer fayre

- Friday 16th May - PTA Summer Fayre
- Friday 23rd May - last day of half term
- Thursday 5th June - Bag2School collection

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Visit us on the web at www.bwis.org.uk



Bishops Waltham Infant School

A World to Discover, Learning Together