

March Newsletter 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic March we've had at school! A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us for Parent-Teacher meetings—it was lovely to catch up and celebrate your children's progress. We had a high number of parents come to school, but if you did miss your slot, do reach out to your child's teacher to arrange a convenient time.

World Book Day & Book Fayre Fun! Our Book Fayre was a great success, and it was wonderful to see the children so excited about choosing new books. The creativity on World Book Day was simply amazing—thank you for all the effort put into those fabulous costumes! The bookmaking activities were a real hit, and it was a joy to see our young authors at work. Thank you also to Laura at Usbourne Books, for the brilliant book stall and book donations to the school-we look forward to sharing them with our children.

Exciting Year Group Highlights

We have had many memorable learning experiences this half term and a few of our highlights are below. The children have the happiest faces in school and absolutely love learning.

Year R had an unforgettable trip to the Arboretum in Romsey, learning about pollination and plant growth. Thank you to all the parents who helped—it made the day even more special!

Year 1 stepped back in time for Victorian Day! The children looked fantastic in their costumes, and some even told us they'd been up chimneys before school! A brilliant day of hands-on history.

Year 2 have wowed us with their knowledge of Horatio Nelson and HMS Victory. Their classrooms have transformed into exciting exhibitions, showcasing their learning, with lots of fantastic home learning shared.

This Wednesday we will be having our immersive Design Technology day and our whole school will be experimenting with split pins and moving parts to design and make their own Easter cards. Parents are in for a real Easter treat as they put their new skills to the test in their final, finished design.

Musical Talent at BWIS

We had two performances this March, where our children played/sang to a wider audience. Our Rocksteady Concert in school was fantastic, with a lively beat enjoyed by parents and children. We had some star perfomances, with some great musicians.It was then the turn of our fabulous choir, run by Mrs Moth and Mr Coker. The choir performed at the Mothering Sunday service at St Peter's Church. The children sang beautifully and we are all very, very proud of them. Thank you to both Mrs Moth and Mr Coker, for running our lunchtime choir club. It has been a huge success and the children have had a fabulous time!

Lunchtime Clubs

Our Year 2 lunchtime clubs come to an end this term. All of the staff and children have had a lovely time in the clubs, following the interests of the children. We look forward to starting them again in the colder, autumn and winter months. Thank you to all of the teachers for their lunchtime time running the clubs.

PTA Events

Our amazing PTA have been busy organising their annual Easter Egg Hunt for Thursday 3rd April, and the weather looks glorious. Please remember to buy your ticket, as they are likely to sell out. There will also be refreshments and doughnuts in the school hall. Thank you to Claire and her team for making this special event happen again for our lucky children. Tickets are back on sale for our quiz on May the 9th, and we hope that old and new parents sign up for a fun evening, with Andy back as Quizmaster! We cannot wait!

Mobile Phones

Some of you with older children may have seen the letters from Swanmore and the Junior Schools regarding the use of mobile phones and new policies in our Swanmore Cluster regarding the use of smartphones. We are a mobile free school, and we fully support the policy of the Swanmore Cluster to remain smartphone free. Please look out for a letter and guidance in your emails regarding the use of smartphones at a young age. We would appreciate it if parents could also support this by putting smartphones away on our site too.

A Special Shout-Out! A big round of applause to **Hudson in Year 1**, who organised a charity cake sale, baking gingerbread men and raising an amazing **£123 for a school in West Africa**! Well done, Hudson—we are so proud of you!

Thank You for Your Support! Your generosity during Red Nose Day helped us raise **£160 for charity**—what a fantastic achievement!

Learning Leadership Partner (LLP) Visit

Every year schools are visited by a Learning leadership Partner from Hampshire County Council, exploring different aspects about the school. This visit includes talking to children, observing teaching and behaviour on a learning walk around school, looking at past results and predicted results, discussing Special Educational Needs and Disability children (SEND), and other disadvantaged children. The report is confidential and is only shared with governors and staff in school. However, I can share that the visit was very positive. She was very impressed by teaching and leadership and how all children are included and feel valued in our school. She was amazed at the learning our children could recall from our integrated curriculum, and the memorable learning experiences made. In discussions with myself and Mrs Campone, our SENCO, we dived into how we support children with any barriers to their learning, and Mrs Campone was highly praised. Our governors were robustly interviewed and know our school very well. I am very proud of our children, staff and governors for continuing to make Bishops Waltham Infants the special place it is to learn.

Best wishes

Mrs Riches

Headteacher

PTA Update

We have been busy little bunnies preparing for our Easter Egg Hunt, many thanks to all that have purchased a ticket! Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for signing up to help at this

event, and a special thank you to the wonderful BWIS staff for all their support and help during the Easter egg hunt and throughout all of the events we put on at the school.

Planning is also underway for our rescheduled Quiz Night on the 9th May - please spread the word to family and friends - it's sure to be a fun evening!

We also have our biggest event of the year - the Summer Fayre on the 16th May. This is one of the favourite events of the year, with so much for the whole family to see and do! Please keep an eye out on our social media platforms and for posters around the school for more details!

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter break, and hope you have lots of fun things planned with family and friends! Fingers crossed the lovely weather continues!

From your PTA

Andy, Baz, Claire & Kath





Governor Update

March has been a busy month for school governors with a number of school visits and activities undertaken. Most recently, we held our fifth Full Governing Board of the 2024/205 academic year where we received the termly written report from the headteacher and had the pleasure of listening to updates from the school council. As always, the children were amazing in confidently presenting updates to governors on their projects. The children demonstrated strong knowledge of the school's learning values and how they become historians, geographers, designers and scientists. The children informed governors that they found projects 'exciting', 'interesting' and 'fun' and talked to us about how learning improves from Year R to Year 2.

With the new financial year soon being upon us, there was discussion on budget matters at the board meeting. As well as reviewing current status and planning for next year, governors have also been into the school to undertake audits of financial systems ensuring the school remains well run with the best being made of available budgets. Governors have also further visited the school to undertake the termly Health and Safety walkaround. This is an important governance function to check that the school remains safe and in good condition. Lastly, we had a very positive meeting and update from the Lead Learning Practitioner (LLP) for the school. The LLP

provides independent expertise in educational matters supporting school leadership with mentoring, improving teaching quality and driving continuous school-wide improvements. It is very pleasing to hear from the LLP how the school has continued to provide exceptional education and continuous improvement. This is testament to all the hard work of Mrs Riches and the rest of the school team.

In March, governors also had their annual whole-board training session provided by Hampshire County Council. The topic this year was on 'Roles and Responsibilities' with the session aimed at ensuring governors were clear on requirements of their positions, being fully engaged with the school and making the most effective use of time available to governing body activities. The next training session is scheduled to be on Sustainability which will tie in to one of the focus areas of the recently updated School Strategic Plan.

Last but not least, governors also had the pleasure of talking to children and teachers at the Year 2 Outcome morning. Governors were impressed with how classrooms had been transformed into museums and visitor centres, demonstrating what had been learnt about Lord Nelson and HMS Victory. It was great fun engaging in the games created by the children themselves.

BWIS Governors

Year Group Updates

The Year R children have really enjoyed our 'How Does Your Garden Grow' project.

They had a fantastic trip to Hilliers. Where they learnt why bees are important for flowers, made smelly caterpillars in the herb garden, played the seed survival game and walked across the wobbly bridge.

The children have been busy printing with objects and have made some beautiful garden pictures. They have also enjoyed looking for signs of Spring in the school grounds.

Thank you for all the super gardens you made with your children for home learning, they are beautiful and very imaginative.

We will be ending our project by preparing and planting our vegetable bed. Hopefully we have lots of vegetables to try in the Summer.









In Year 1, we have been busy designing and making snacks for Year R. We were set a challenge by Handa, from Handa's Surprise, to encourage the Year R children to eat fruit and vegetables. We decided the best way to do this was to make healthy snacks! We found out which fruit and vegetables the Year R children like the best and we designed snacks using a design criteria which we all agreed. We practised the skills we would need, including peeling, grating and chopping. We thought about food hygiene and the importance of keeping ourselves and our cooking area clean. We have created mock ups, evaluated and improved the snacks. Now we are looking forward to hosting Handa's Healthy Cafe and serving our tasty snacks to all of Year R. We just need to make our menus! We can't wait to welcome you to Year 1, Owls and Rabbits!





What an exciting month for Year 2 in our 'Life on The Ocean Wave' project! We began the project with a very wet visit to HMS Victory. The children learnt so much which has really enhanced their learning across the curriculum. The children Have created a water colour painting of HMS Victory and they are absolutely stunning. We were also lucky enough to have members of Folk Active come into school and teach us step dancing and shanties. Following on from this the children will be learning a number of Ceildilh dances ready to join the dance celebration in the ruins in the Summer. With the end of this project came our Project Outcome. The children loved having their grown-ups in school to see their learning and so much fun was had playing all of the games. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the games as part of our Home Learning. They were fantastic! There are lots of photos on the Year 2 pages! Take a look.





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 Thursday 22nd 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

- Thursday 3rd April - Easter Egg Hunt
- Friday 4th April - Easter Bonnet Competition

- Friday 4th April - PTA sweet stall after school
- Friday 4th April - School closes 3.10pm for Easter break
- Monday 21st April - School closed for Bank holiday
- Tuesday 22nd April - School reopens for summer term
- Friday 9th May - PTA Quiz
- Friday 16th May - PTA Summer Fayre



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A World to Discover,
Learning Together