

September 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our monthly newsletter, where we will keep you updated with life at BWIS with what has happened in the month, and what is coming up. We have had a great start back to school this year. The children in Years 1 and 2 came back ready to learn, and see their friends, whilst the children in Year R started a little slower on their part time timetable. The school is full of happy children every day, and this was commented upon in our recent Open Morning, which was very well attended.

Our Welcome Meetings, and Catch Up Meeting have also been very well attended, with children being well supported in school as a result. Our Reading Raffle is still going strong, where all children who have read 3 times per week at home are entered into the draw to win a reading book to take home. I am really pleased to say that the majority of parents are encouraging this important life skill at home and practising the reading taught in class. If you haven't written in your child's diary yet, please can you start as soon as possible.

We have had a few staff changes this term in school too. Mrs Campone and Miss Turner are now in the role of acting Assistant Headteachers, We have welcomed Mrs Burgess and Miss Gamblin

to cover maternity leave in Owl Class, and Miss Wood has joined our Year R support staff team. We have also appointed Mrs Cutler, Mrs Bramley and Mrs Hewitt to our Cover Support staff, and they will continue lesson continuity for short term absence.

Our Governing Body have had one meeting, and our next meeting will be to review the budget at the halfway point. We have made lots of cost cutting in our budget this year to not only avoid a deficit budget, but to develop a more sustainable school. This has included eco toilet paper and paper towels, refillable glue sticks, running one photocopier, cutting paper copies home and changes to our staff structure, and running an annual sponsored event to help pay for consumable items such as art equipment. If anyone would like to donate directly to the school, please use the 'donate' section under Arbor. Alternatively, our PTA is a registered charity and companies can make direct contributions to it.

We held our Annual General Meeting of our PTA and celebrated the successes the very new team had this year. Our PTA run a variety of events throughout the year for children, parents and the community. We are very lucky to have them and they are always looking for volunteers. Please support them whenever you can. We are having the last push towards fundraising our Learning corridor, where we will have communal reading areas, teaching spaces and reading nooks to snuggle into. We need another £3000 in order to make this happen, and cannot wait to get it completed. Our next event is the Year 1 and 2 disco with Crazy M, so remember to buy your ticket!

We have now started our Year 2 lunchtime clubs, where children have enrichment opportunities to sign up to a club that they are interested in. All our teachers run a club and enjoy the time in a smaller group with our fabulous children. If you are a parent of a Year 2 child, ask them which club they are going to do!

Our new 'Clever Chefs' catering company has got off to an excellent start within school. The children are feeling full and are enjoying the variety of meals. There are some photographs of the meals on our website's latest news.

We hope all of our new parents and carers have got to grips with our communications from school. These are listed below:

Monthly-Newsletter (via email and published on site under 'newsletter)

Weekly-Update on website under 'latest news' from headteacher, weekly email update via Arbor from Year Group

Ad Hoc-reminders/emails all sent from Arbor app/email system

Year R only-Tapestry entries

Notice board-on main entry to school grounds with current reminders

If you haven't received any emails at all, please check with the school office that your information is correct.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything you are unsure of or need more information on.

Best wishes

Mrs Riches

Headteacher

Harvest Festival - Tuesday 15th October

The whole school go to St Peters Church for a Harvest Festival celebration on Tuesday 15th October. Please can children bring donations of tinned/dried food which is donated to the Meon Valley Food Bank.

Anything welcome but they are low in stock on these items:

- Tinned meat meals
- Pasta sauces
- Squash
- Small pudding desserts
- UHT semi skimmed milk

School Photos - Wednesday 16th October

Individual photos will be taken of all children on Wednesday 16th October during the morning. Please ensure all children are wearing full school uniform.

After school there is an opportunity to book a slot for family photos. These can be with siblings from other schools in uniform, a family shot in Christmas jumpers or just in casual clothes – entirely up to you! Please contact office to book your slot from 3.20pm onwards.

PTA Update

Your PTA Needs You!

Our PTA are committed to raising much needed funds for our wonderful school and provide our children with fun and educational resources, whilst organising events that everyone can enjoy and have fun!

Whether you are able to spare some time to volunteer at our events or share some fundraising ideas, we would love to hear for you! Please email us at bwispta@gmail.com or join our WhatsApp Volunteers Group for more information!

Claire, Andy, Baz & Kath



Governor Update

We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and are now settled in to the school routine and looking forward to the year ahead. All the governors would like to extend a special warm welcome to all new Year R children, parents and carers and wish everyone an enjoyable three years with us. As a governing body, we have a full meeting every term, where we monitor the school budget, health and safety issues, the school's strategic plan, safeguarding and lots more. We also visit the school to talk to the staff and children to see the school in action. You can find out more about who we are and what we get up to on the school website. We currently have vacancies for both parent and co-opted governors. If you are interested in getting involved or

know anyone who may be interested in becoming a governor please ask them to contact the school office.

Our first full governing body meeting of the year was held on the 19th September. At this meeting we reviewed and approved several key policies and the school's safeguarding audit; confirmed governor roles and responsibilities for the year, heard a full update on what has been happening at the school from Mrs Riches and also discussed the schools new draft strategic plan. The updated plan will set the five year vision for the school, starting early next year. We are looking forward to sharing more information on the plan with you in the coming months.

Best Wishes

BWIS Governing Body

Year Group Updates

Year R

Rabbit and Owl classes are all settling in well and have been busy making lots of new friends. Our project is 'All About Me' and the focus is about starting school and getting to know one another. We have talked about ourselves, families, friends and shared their super 'All About Me' books that were made at home over the summer. The children have been learning about parts of the body, how to stay healthy, what a portrait is and have been doing lots of reading, number and letter activities.

Year 1

In year 1, we have started our new project - Project Power. We have been set the challenge of learning how to be a Superstar Leaner by finding out about keeping active and healthy. We will be learning about what happens to our bodies when we exercise and conducting experiments to find out which exercise makes our hearts work the hardest. Using the results of our investigation, we will create a circuit of exercise activities designed to help keep our hearts healthy and our bodies moving! We also will be finding out why our senses are important for our survival and how they help us keep safe. We are very lucky to be welcoming in Heartstart, who will be teaching us basic First Aid and what to do in an emergency. Finally, we will be inviting our grown-ups into school to watch us take the Superstar Learner Test!

Year 2

Year 2 have been busy getting their classrooms ready for learning. We have chosen colours for our displays, discussed our classroom rules and applied for classroom jobs. The children absolutely loved having their grownups come into school so they could show them around their new classrooms. All of the children have learned how to be safe on the roads in our Road Safety Training, this month. The children impressed us with their knowledge and with how sensible they were on the roads. We have also been lucky enough to make bread as part of RE where we learned about symbols and the importance of the 'harvest loaf' to Christians.



1 - Year R



2 - Year R



3 - Year R



4 - Year R



5 - Year 2 Road Safety



6 - Year 2 - baking bread

Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 1st October - Year 1 Heartstart Visit
- Wednesday 2nd October - Year 2 Little Woodham Visit
- Friday 4th October at 9am - Year R Catch up meeting
- Tuesday 15th October - Harvest Festival
- Wednesday 16th October - Individual photos, Evening family photos available from 3.20pm onwards
- Friday 18th October at 9.15am - Year 2 Fire Fire outcome
- Friday 18th October at 3.15 - 4.30pm - Year 1 & 2 Disco (Please purchase from PTA)
- Friday 25th October - Last day of half term, school finishes at 3.10pm



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



A World to Discover,
Learning Together