

October 2026 Newsletter



Hello BWIS families!

What an incredible October it has been at BWIS! As we reach the end of a busy and rewarding half term, it is wonderful to reflect on the many achievements, experiences and memorable moments our children have enjoyed.

Our children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity and confidence. From Year 1 learning lifesaving Heartstart skills and proudly sharing their Healthy Heroes learning with families, to Year 2 stepping back in time at Little Woodham and becoming expert historians through their Great Fire of London project, the learning has been rich, inspiring and unforgettable. Meanwhile, our Year R children have impressed us with their growing independence, developing important skills through play, exploration and outdoor learning.

This month has also been filled with special community events. We celebrated Harvest Festival together at St Peter's Church, collecting generous donations for the Meon Valley Foodbank and demonstrating the kindness and compassion that make our school so special. Our Year 1 and 2 disco brought plenty of smiles, laughter and dancing, while the Great Fire of London Exhibition showcased the confidence, knowledge and pride of our Year 2 children.

Alongside these exciting learning opportunities, we have continued to strengthen our support for children and families. From sharing mental health resources and road safety guidance to further developing our brilliant SEND provision and celebrating the continuation of our wonderful PTA, we remain committed to nurturing every child's wellbeing, development and success.

Perhaps most importantly, October has reminded us what makes BWIS such a special place. Every day, our children demonstrate kindness, resilience, determination and a genuine love of learning. They support one another, rise to new challenges and make us incredibly proud.

A huge thank you must go to our staff, parents, carers, governors, PTA volunteers and wider community for the support, encouragement and opportunities you provide. Together, we create a caring and inspiring environment where children can flourish.

As we head into the half term break, we wish all of our families a wonderful opportunity to rest, recharge and enjoy some special time together. Thank you for your continued support throughout this busy month. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting chapter of learning, laughter and success.

Have a lovely half term break, and we look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready for more adventures in learning next half term.

Mrs Riches

Headteacher 😊

Scholastic Book Fair

We have a Scholastic Book Fair in school reception from Tuesday 10th to Monday 16th November. Books start from only £2.99 so please pop in and have a look.

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via their Reward scheme. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in our school.



Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent and Teacher meetings will be held on Monday 9th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November. This year we are trialing a hybrid option with all classes having one day with online video meetings and one day with in in person meetings in school. All slots can be booked via parents-booking and parents should have received an email this week with details.

Monday 9th - online video meetings for Owls, Squirrel and Fox

Wednesday 11th - in person meetings for all classes

Thursday 12th - online video meetings for Rabbits, Robin and Frog

Due to time constraints we can only offer one slot per child. All Fox class meetings will be with Mrs Labram, Rabbit with Miss Turner and Frog with Miss Martin.

All meetings will be booked via parents-booking whether online or in person. If you book a online meeting you will be emailed a link and details of the meeting. This can then be shared with the other parent if you are not in same location for the meeting. There is also a test link - we suggest trying this before the meeting to ensure you can get access. The online meetings will run for ten minutes and will cut off automatically. There will be a creche for the in person meetings on 11th November.

Any issues booking appointments please contact the school office. A feedback form will be shared after parents evenings to collect parent's views.

PTA Update

A Message from the Outgoing PTA Chair

After three wonderful years as PTA Chair, it's time to hand over the reins to our new committee.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve as Chair and be part of such a fantastic school community. I've loved working with wonderful people, organising events and, most importantly, helping create special memories and opportunities for the children.

I'm delighted to welcome our new committee:

- Jesse Staple – Chair
- Nick Thakrar – Treasurer
- Emily Vidovic – Secretary

I wish them every success. The outgoing committee will work alongside them, sharing experience and offering support as they settle into their roles.

My heartfelt thanks go to Baz, our outgoing Treasurer, and Kath, our outgoing Secretary, for their dedication, hard work and friendship. I couldn't have wished for a better team! A special thank you also to Emily, who has been a wonderful Vice Chair and will now continue as Secretary.

I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together, raising over £16,000 over the last three years and helping fund improvements that will benefit children for years to come.

But the PTA has meant so much more to me than fundraising. It's been about the people I've met, the friendships I've made, the laughter we've shared and the memories we've created. Seeing the children's excitement at our events has made it all worthwhile.

A very special thank you to Mrs Riches and the fantastic school staff. I've seen first-hand the care, hard work and dedication that make this school such a wonderful place. We're fortunate to have such a caring team. Thank you for everything you do, not just at PTA events, but every day for the children.

To our parents, carers and volunteers, thank you for your generosity and support. Every contribution has made a difference.

Although I'm sad to step down, I leave with happy memories and confidence that the PTA is in excellent hands. Please give the new committee the same wonderful support you've shown us.

Thank you for three years I'll always treasure.

With heartfelt thanks and very best wishes,

Claire

Outgoing PTA Chair

Governor Update

The Governing Body met this week and spent time reviewing the school's budget. Governors discussed the current financial position and considered how resources are being allocated to support pupils' learning, wellbeing and the continued development of the school.

Governors would like to thank Mrs Riches and Mrs Palmer for their work in managing the school's finances and supporting the budget process.

We would like to wish all pupils, staff and families a lovely half-term break.

Best Wishes

BWIS Governing Body

Sustainability



This month, our Year 1 and Year 2 School Councillors have been busy choosing ways to help us come together as a school community. They will be helping to promote our **four Climate Badgers**, encouraging everyone in our school community to make small changes that can have a big impact on the environment.

We were also delighted to receive a very kind delivery of scrap paper from a local business. This generous donation is a wonderful example of our community working together to reduce waste and reuse resources. Thank you for helping us make a difference! 💚

🍂 **Half-Term Sustainability Top Tip**

Over the autumn half-term, why not try a little sustainability challenge at home? 🍁 **Give something a second life!** Before putting something in the recycling or rubbish, see if you can reuse it. An empty cardboard box could become a den for a favourite toy, scrap paper could be used for drawing, or fallen autumn leaves could be collected for a nature collage.

Remember, small changes can make a big difference.

Let's keep working together to care for our planet! 🌱

SENDCO Spotlight

🌟 **SENDCo Spotlight – A little hello from Mrs Moth**

Hello! I'm Mrs Moth, the SENDCo here at BWIS, and I wanted to introduce a new regular feature in our newsletter: **SENDCo Spotlight**.My role is to work alongside children, families and staff to help ensure that every child feels that they belong, are understood and are supported to thrive. Every child is different, and good SEND provision starts with knowing the individual child: their strengths, what they may find difficult and what helps them to feel safe, regulated and ready to learn.You may hear lots of different SEND terms around school: Learning Passports, APDR, OAP, EHCPs, sensory needs, regulation... and it can sometimes feel like a whole new language! Through SENDCo Spotlight, I hope to make SEND a little more accessible and understandable for everyone. Each month, I'll focus on a different area, explain some of the language you might hear in school and share practical ideas that families might find useful at home too.

🌟 **This month's focus: Dysregulation**You may have heard us use the words regulated and dysregulated in school. Put simply, regulation is our ability to manage our emotions, energy and responses so that we can cope with what is happening around us.When a child becomes dysregulated, they may be finding the demands of a situation more difficult to manage. This can look different for every child. Some children might become upset, angry, very energetic or overwhelmed, while others may become very quiet, withdrawn or find it difficult to communicate.At BWIS, we want to look beyond the behaviour we can see and consider what the child might be communicating through that behaviour. Often, children need an adult to help them become calm and feel safe before they are ready to talk, reflect or learn.

A simple phrase to remember is

:**Connect → Regulate → Reflect**

First, we connect with the child, then we help them to regulate, and only when they are calm and ready, do we begin to talk about what happened and what might help next time.Over the coming months, I look forward to sharing more about SEND, inclusion and some of the approaches we use at BWIS to help all our children flourish.

If you have any concerns about your child's development, learning or wellbeing, or would simply like to talk something through, please do get in touch. I am always happy to speak with parents and carers. You can contact me directly by email or telephone the school office.

📧 **Email:** sendco@bishopswaltham.hants.sch.uk

📞 **School Office:** 01489 892375

Reading



At our school, we love to celebrate reading!

Here are a few exciting updates, incentives, and upcoming events to help foster a lifelong love of books in our children.

Read at Home & Win: Weekly Reading Raffle!

We want to encourage all our pupils to read as much as possible, as regular reading is key to their success across all subjects.

Any child who reads at home three times or more in a week and has it logged in their reading diary will automatically be entered into our Weekly Reading Raffle.

Every week, we will randomly draw a winner, and they will get to choose a brand-new book to keep forever! Please help support your child by signing their diary every time they read at home.

The Scholastic book fayre is Coming Soon!

Get ready to discover a treasure trove of stories! The book fayre will be arriving at our school shortly. It is the perfect opportunity to pick up some fantastic new bestsellers or well-loved

classics. Better yet, every single purchase made helps our school earn rewards to buy free books for our classrooms and library.

Top Secret: "Secret Reader"

We are thrilled to announce that our popular Secret Reader sessions are returning! This is a wonderful opportunity for parents, grandparents, or carers to book a slot, sneak into school at the end of the day, and surprise their child's class by reading them a favorite story. The children absolutely love guessing who the mystery guest will be!

Dates, timing and booking details for Secret Reader slots will be shared after half term. Keep an eye on your inbox so you don't miss out on securing a slot with your child's class!

Year Group Updates

Year R

Year R have been busy exploring all the wonderful changes that autumn brings! We've enjoyed autumn walks, collecting colourful leaves, spinning sycamore seeds and spotting signs of the changing season.

After reading *Leaf Man*, the children were very excited to discover that Leaf Man himself was hiding in our school grounds! Worried that he might be feeling lonely, they used their creativity and imagination to make him some wonderful leaf friends.

We've also been busy becoming authors and illustrators, creating our very own *Leaf Man* adventure books. The children have loved bringing their ideas to life, and we can't wait to share their fantastic creations with you!





Year 1

Project Power has come to an end, and Year 1 welcomed their parents into school to celebrate their learning at our Project Outcome! The children became the teachers, proudly sharing everything they had discovered about their senses and how to keep our bodies healthy.

Parents were invited to take part in lots of fun activities, including tasting mystery foods, feeling hidden objects in the blind bags, testing their sense of smell, playing egg shaker sound games and participating in the eye test. The children had also designed their own fitness circuits to get everyone moving and their hearts beating faster! They also demonstrated their first aid knowledge, explaining DRS ABC and showing parents how to put someone into the recovery position.

It was a fantastic way to bring Project Power to a close! The children were so proud to share their knowledge and skills, and they loved seeing the grown-ups getting involved and having a go at all the activities. What a wonderful celebration of their learning! We were pleased to say at the end that everyone had passed the Healthy Hero test!









Year 2

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their “Fire! Fire!” project! One of the highlights was our trip to Little Woodham, where we stepped back in time to discover what life was like in the 17th

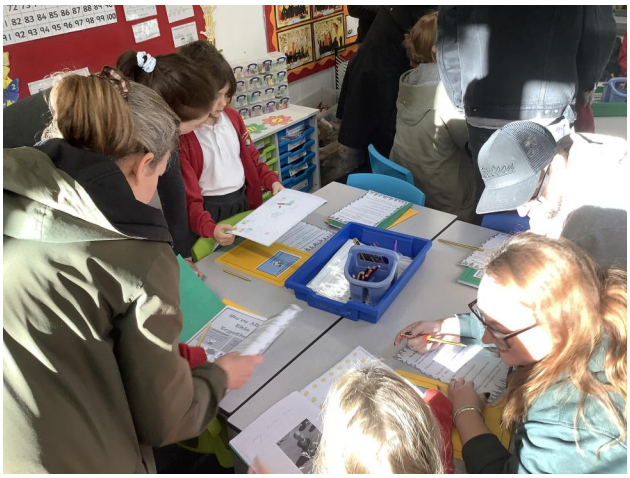
century. The children remembered so many fascinating facts from their visit, and we were incredibly impressed with their knowledge!

After learning all about the Great Fire of London, the children reflected on how fortunate we are to have a modern fire service to keep us safe today. They used their imaginations to picture what life might have been like in London during the fire, writing thoughtful diary entries and letters to the Lord Mayor.

In Art, the children created stunning marbled ink collages, using beautiful patterns and colours to represent the flames and smoke of the Great Fire.

A huge thank you to all the grown-ups for supporting the children with their amazing home learning. They were so proud to share their fantastic creations and everything they had learned at our project outcome.

What a brilliant way to bring our “Fire! Fire!” project to a close!





Dates for your Diary

Monday 2nd November - First day of Autumn term 2

Monday 9th November - Parent and teacher meetings online

Tuesday 10th to Monday 16th November - Scholastic Book Fair in reception

Wednesday 11th November - Parent and teacher meetings in school, creche available

Thursday 12th November - Parent and teacher meetings online

Friday 13th November - Children in Need

Wednesday 18th November - Year R phonics at 9am



Looking ahead - Christmas dates



Contact Us

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Bishops Waltham Infant School

A World to Discover,
Learning Together