

September 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

September has been a wonderful start to the new academic year, with children settling quickly into their new classes and embracing all that school life has to offer.

We were delighted to welcome our Year R children to Bishops Waltham Infant School. They have made an excellent start, settling confidently into routines, enjoying their first school lunches and already demonstrating our school values. Year 1 and Year 2 children have also returned enthusiastically, building confidence in their new classrooms and engaging positively with their learning.

Across the school, children have enjoyed a wide range of experiences. Year 2 took part in road safety training, helping them learn vital skills for staying safe in the community and Year 1 explored healthy lifestyles, including diet and exercise. One particular highlight was a Year 2 bread-making activity, which filled the school with delicious aromas and showcased some impressive kneading skills.

September also saw the return of our extra-curricular clubs. Alongside our after-school programme, Year 2 children were excited to sign up for free lunchtime clubs including Painting, Puzzles, Lego, Choir, Computing and Board Games. These opportunities help children develop new interests, build friendships and broaden their experiences beyond the classroom.

We were thrilled to announce the appointment of Miss Chloe Turner and Mrs Tracey Moth as our new Assistant Headteachers. Their experience, dedication and passion for education will be a tremendous asset to our school community, and we look forward to working with them in their new leadership roles.

Staff have continued to invest in their own professional development, including specialist SEND training, ensuring we provide the very best support for all children. Governors have also begun their work for the year, reviewing policies and priorities, while safeguarding procedures and training have been thoroughly reviewed to maintain the highest standards of care and protection for our pupils.

Thank you to everyone who attended our welcome meetings, open morning and school events this month. It was a pleasure to meet prospective families and to see the strong partnership between home and school continue to grow.

As we look ahead, there is plenty to be excited about. including, our Harvest Festival preparations where children are busy learning harvest songs. We are also looking forward to welcoming families to future school tours and continuing to develop opportunities for children through clubs, enrichment activities and community events.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we have made a fantastic start to the academic year, and we look forward to all the opportunities and achievements that the autumn term will bring.

With warm wishes

Mrs Riches

Headteacher

Latest News

All latest news and a weekly update from Mrs Riches is posted on our website:

https://bishops-waltham-infant-school.secure-primarysite.net/stream/news/full/1/-//

Harvest Festival - Monday 12th October

The whole school will visit St Peters Church for a Harvest Festival celebration on Monday 12th October. This service is for children only, but we do need parent volunteers to help walk to and from the church. Talk to your class teacher if you are able to join us that day. Please can children bring donations of tinned/dried food which is donated to the Meon Valley Food Bank.

Anything welcome or please see link below for low stock items:

Please make sure you have updated the parental permissions on Arbor to allow local visits. You can check this by logging onto to Arbor app or portal.

School Photos - Thursday 15th October

Individual photos will be taken of all children on Thursday 15th 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.



School Uniform

A large selection of donated pre-loved school uniforms is available in Reception. You are welcome to come and have a look, and we kindly request a donation for any items taken.

Please note we are unable to take general uniform donations at the moment due to lack of storage space but can still take school logo items.

PTA Update

URGENT – The Future of Our PTA

We are writing to you with an important update regarding the future of our school PTA.

Unfortunately, no new parents have come forward to join the PTA committee. Our existing committee members are no longer able to continue in their current roles and, without new committee members, the PTA cannot continue to operate. The committee requires three roles to be filled to function legally.

We have therefore reached the point where we will need to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to formally decide the future of the PTA.

The EGM will be held on:

Wednesday 7th October Time: 6pm Location: School Staff Room

The purpose of this meeting will be to give parents and carers one final opportunity to come forward and take on the committee roles required for the PTA to continue.

If an insufficient number of committee members are elected at the EGM, then unfortunately the PTA will cease to exist.

This would mean the end of the events and fundraising activities currently organised by the PTA, including the Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Fayre, Christmas Bazaar, Sweet and Ice Lolly Sales and other events enjoyed by the children throughout the year. It would also mean the loss of the additional funds these events raise to provide activities and experiences for the children including the Christmas Pantomime, a visit from Father Christmas (including a gift for each child) and the Year 2 leavers disco.

During the last 3 years, alongside the usual funding obligations, the PTA have purchased new waste and recycling bins, a new sand pit for Year R and a new learning corridor for Year R and 1 at a cost of £13,000 and raised over £16,000. If the PTA were to dissolve, it would also mean

that areas of improvement such as the above would have to stop, or sacrifices would need to be made to fund them.

We appreciate that everyone has busy lives and that joining a committee can sound like a significant commitment. However, the more people who become involved, the more the workload can be shared. The existing committee members are keen to provide support by shadowing new members preparing and running these events or members taking on a new role.

You do not need to put yourself forward before the meeting. If you are considering becoming involved, please come along to the EGM to find out more.

This really is a crucial point for our PTA. We would be extremely sad to see it come to an end after everything it has contributed to the school and its children over the years, but without a new committee there will be no option for it to continue.

We therefore urge anyone who may be able to help, however unsure you might currently be, to attend the EGM.

If anyone wishes to contact the PTA directly prior to the meeting to discuss the committee roles available or have any questions, please email us at bwispta@gmail.com.

We very much hope that enough parents will come forward to allow the PTA to continue for the benefit of all our children.

Thank you for your support.

The PTA Committee, bwispta@gmail.com

Cleverchefs

At Cleverchefs, we believe no child should go home hungry. As the education arm of the Cleverchefs group, we provide school meals across South of England and Wales, serving over 135,000 meals a week to more than 100 schools.

Our primary school offering, Whisked, is built around fresh, nutritious food that kids actually want to eat. We work with British suppliers to source quality ingredients, and we build long-term partnerships with the schools we serve rather than treating catering as a transaction.

Behind every meal is a menu designed with real nutrition in mind; balanced, varied and mindful of what growing children need.

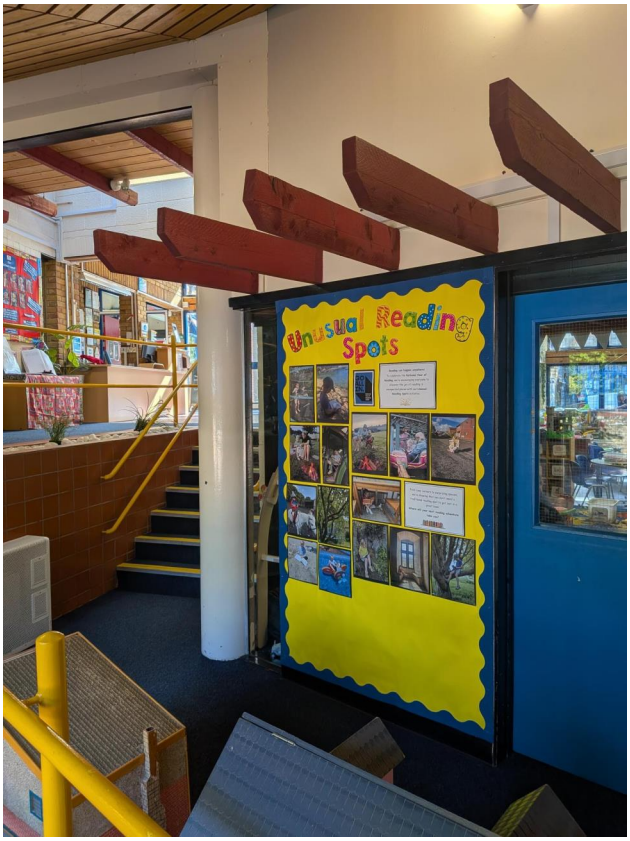
Cleverchefs sits within a wider group that also serves secondary schools (Create) and workplace catering (JPC), giving us the scale to invest in food quality, supplier relationships and menu

development, while staying focused on what matters most at the school level: getting a good meal in front of every child, every day.

We're proud to be part of your school community.



Reading



A huge thank you to everyone who has sent in a photo of themselves reading in an unusual spot! We have received some fantastic and creative photographs, and it has been wonderful to see all the different places where reading can happen.

The photos have now been added to a special Unusual Reading Spots display in the corridor, where everyone can enjoy seeing them and be inspired by the different ways people make time for reading.

If you haven't sent in a photo yet, there is still plenty of time! Please continue to send us your photographs of unusual places where you enjoy reading. Whether you are reading in the garden, on holiday, in a cosy corner, outdoors, or somewhere completely unexpected, we would love to see them.

Sustainability

As we started our new school year, we were delighted to introduce our new Year Rs to our **Sustainability Badgers**! The children were so excited to meet our Climate Crew and learn all about the different ways they can help look after our planet. We focused on two of our badgers,

Watt Watcher and **Recycle Ranger**. The children loved spotting Watt Watcher by our classroom computers, reminding us to switch them off when they are not being used. They were also super excited to discover that Recycle Ranger had "got stuck" on our recycling bin! The children loved seeing the badger on our green recycling bin and learning that it reminds us to put paper in the correct bin. It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic our new children were about making sustainable choices from the very beginning of their school journey!

💡 **Top Tip to Try at Home:** Become a Watt Watcher! Have a "switch-off" challenge at home! Before bedtime, see how many lights and electrical items your family can remember to switch off.

Governor Update

After a long, hot summer it is always a challenge to slip back into the routine of school and work again. In particular for our new cohort of Year R children who have made a fantastic start with us. A very warm welcome to all pupils and parents alike, I am sure you are going to have a wonderful 3 years here at our lovely school.

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. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge within our Governing team from both education and other sectors and we are dedicated to upholding the highest standards for BWIS. You can find out more about who we are and what we get up to on the school website.

Our first full governing body meeting of the year was held on the 10th 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 and heard a full update on what has been happening at the school over the summer from Mrs Riches.

Best Wishes

BWIS Governing Body

Pond Group

Since 2021, I have been working to rebuild the wildlife pond at Bishop's Waltham Infant School in memory of my wife, Lucy.

There has been an amazing transformation from an overgrown patch of brambles into a thriving pond that can be used for pond dipping by the children. However, we require volunteers to help keep the pond maintained and safe.

I'd like to ask for any volunteers who can spare time to help remove weeds (in or out of the water), tidy up, add and look and after plants, cut back trees, or help encourage wildlife.

We also desperately need help to control a duckweed invasion without causing harm to the existing wildlife in the pond. Any help or advice would be very welcome.

Please click on the facebook group for more info on how to help:

https://www.facebook.com/share/1JBrxy4VUo/

For those who can't offer their time, I'd also be incredibly grateful for donations towards buying plants and equipment for the pond. These can be sent via https://settleup.starlingbank.com/matthew-howell-c32c83"

Kind regards Matt Howell



Year Group Updates

Year R

Our Reception children in Rabbit and Owl classes have made a wonderful start to their school journey. They have settled into school beautifully and are enjoying getting to know their new friends, teachers and routines.

This term, our project is **'All About Me'**, which focuses on helping the children feel confident, happy, and develop a strong sense of belonging within our school community. We have been celebrating what makes each of us unique by talking about our families, our likes and dislikes, and the things that bring us joy. The children were delighted to share their *All About Me* books,

which they created at home over the summer. Thank you to all the grown-ups who supported this special activity.

In class, we have been learning about the parts of the body, how to stay healthy, and what it means to be a kind and caring friend. The children have also discovered what a portrait is and have loved creating their own self-portraits. Alongside this, we have been exploring early reading, writing and maths through fun, hands-on activities that are helping to build strong foundations for future learning.

It has been a busy, and exciting start to the year, and we are so proud of how well the children have settled into school life.

Year 1

In Year 1, we have launched our new project, Project Power! The children have been given the challenge of becoming Healthy Heros by discovering how to keep our bodies active, healthy and strong.

Throughout the project, we will be exploring what happens to our bodies when we exercise and carrying out experiments to find out which activities make our hearts work the hardest. Using what we discover, we will design our very own exercise circuits to help keep our hearts healthy and our bodies moving!

We'll also be learning about our five senses, discovering why they are so important for survival and how they help us to explore the world around us and keep ourselves safe.

We're very fortunate to be welcoming Heartstart into school, where the children will have the opportunity to learn valuable basic First Aid skills and how to respond safely and confidently in an emergency.

To round off our project, we'll be inviting our grown-ups into school to watch us take on the Healthy Hero Test and show off everything we have learned! I wonder whether our grownups will pass the test too?









Year 2

Year 2 have hit the ground running this September! The children have been busy transforming their classrooms into welcoming and effective learning spaces, choosing colours for displays and applying for a variety of classroom jobs. From table tidiers to book area monitors, everyone has an important role to play in creating a positive and productive environment where we can all learn and grow.

Earlier this month, we were delighted to welcome families into school so that the children could proudly show off their new classrooms. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to share their hard work and helped to build excitement and confidence as we began the new school year.

As part of our Road Safety Training, the children learned how to stay safe when travelling near roads. They impressed us with their sensible behaviour, thoughtful questions and excellent understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe. These are important life skills that will stay with them for years to come.

We have now begun our second project of the year, ‘Fire, Fire!’ The children have already impressed us with their knowledge of fire safety and have created some fantastic, informative posters. We have also just introduced The Great Fire of London, and it’s safe to say that the children’s curiosity has well and truly been sparked! We can’t wait to see where their questions and investigations take us as we delve deeper into this fascinating period of history.





Dates for your Diary

Thursday 1st - School nurse nasal flu

Monday 5th - Year R class photo for Portsmouth news

Wednesday 7th - PTA meeting

Monday 12th - Harvest Festival

Wednesday 14th - Year 1 Healthy Hero Outcome at 2.30pm

Thursday 15th - School Photos

Friday 16th - Year 1 & 2 school disco

Thursday 22nd - Year 2 Fire Fire Outcome at 915am

Friday 23rd October - INSET day - school closed to all pupils

Monday 26th to Friday 30th October - school closed for October half term

Monday 2nd November - school reopens Autumn term 2



Contact Us

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



A World to Discover,
Learning Together