

November 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

We've had a busy November at school, with lots going on. The children came back full of enthusiasm after half term and were ready to learn straight away. As I write this I can hear the children practising their singing in the hall, ready for their performances. If you haven't organised your tickets yet, please make sure you contact the office. There are two tickets for each family for Year1/2 performance, and 2 tickets per family for parents for Year R performance. Please choose your day for Year 1/2 (or split your tickets over two days) There will be no children under 12 allowed in the hall, and all children (including babies) will need to book a place in the creche. Please also let us know if you have trouble walking, and a seat will be allocated near our fire exit.

Our school is looking very Christmassy and thank you to our Learning Support Assistants for decorating it so beautifully again this year! It really does look lovely.

🔤 Year R Phonics Talk

Thank you to everyone who attended our Year R Phonics Talk. It was lovely to hear parents feeling more confident about our Little Wandle phonics scheme. If you have any questions, Miss Turner is always happy to help.

🎃 Celebration Assembly

We have had some super learning shared in our celebration assembly this November. This assembly is held every Friday and celebrates learning and achievements in school and from home. Please remember to send in achievements outside of school for our special mentions book. If you would like a shout out on our weekly 'Latest News' update online, please make that clear in your mail too (only first names of children are used)

- Year 2 wowed us with volcano poetry using alliteration, repetition, and vivid adjectives.
- Year 1 impressed with their Three Billy Goats Gruff stories and creative troll wanted posters.

🎄 PTA Christmas Events

This is a busy month for our PTA. They have purchased our school Christmas tree, which will be erected this week. They are also organising support for the school, such as our visiting Santa and his presents on party day, teas and coffees for grandparents at the church and sweet stalls. We had a fun meeting this week at school, and have been able to purchase a new sandpit for our Year R area, thanks to their relentless fundraising for BWIS-THANK YOU from all of us!

They are also busy preparing for December's Children's Shopping Bazaar Day, where children can choose, wrap, and label gifts for family. It is to be held on Wednesday 10th December. A shopping list will come home on Monday to fill in. Children will be able to choose up to 6 family members. The tables to choose from are: Dads/Grandads/Older relatives, Mums/Grandmas/Older relatives, Children and a Baby/Toddler table. All gifts will be £4. On the day children will need to bring their shopping list, exact money to school in a named purse/envelope and a named carrier bag to take their wrapped gifts home in. This need to go into class with them (not to the office). Please write the ages of siblings/any relative who is not mum or dad-this will help our shopping helpers to guide children to age appropriate gifts-eg if their sister is 18, they may not want a toy doll! We do need lots of helpers for this event-currently we have 7. With 200 children to shop and wrap gifts with, this is currently not possible. Please come and let the office know if you ae able to help. Past parents and helpers are also very welcome to volunteer too. Everyone who has helped in the past, has had their Christmas spirit lifted by our lovely children's excitement and getting presents that they can put under the tre, ready for Christmas day.

📚 Reading Matters

A huge thank you for a generous £100 donation to help restock our Home Reader boxes! Commission from the Book Fayre has also supported this.

Sadly, we've noticed a dip in reading and raffle entries – only 40% of children are practising reading at least 3 times a week. Reading unlocks all learning, develops language, and is a lovely way to share time with your children. Healthy reading habits start in infant school, so let's make a change together!

👩🏰 Parent Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all parents who attended our first meetings of the year. These are so important for discussing how your child has settled and their targets.

We've also seen that sporadic attendance is impacting progress. Please help us by ensuring regular attendance. Our attendance updates are sent automatically from our Arbor system, so you can easily see if your child is dropping below 90%. This is the figure where children are considered a 'Persistent Absentee' and where children are finding it harder to keep up with their peers in their learning

💛 Children in Need

Thank you for your generosity – we raised £258 for this wonderful cause!

🦷 School Meals Update

Cleverchefs has been acquired and is now Cleverchefs Catering. We'll monitor quality and value closely. There will still be 4 meal choices daily, free for all infant children.

Thank you to our current chef for the delicious cakes on Parents Evening – lots of compliments from parents!

🏵️ Remembrance Day

We learned about Remembrance day and observed a 2 minute silence as a school on the 11th November. Thank you to everyone who supported the poppy appeal this year

🚧 Important Notices

- Flower Bed Area – Fencing is still placed around this, whilst County decide how they are going to permanently fix the issue. Please keep children away for safety.
- No Hot Drinks Policy – Please avoid bringing hot drinks into school to prevent accidents.

- Prompt Pick-Up – School ends at 3.10pm, and we appreciate parents arriving at this time. If you are unable to arrive on time, please arrange alternatives. Late collections may be referred to After School Club (CM Sports), and charges will apply. We are starting to keep a record of children who are regularly being collected late.

🗓️ **Reminder**

💚 Healthy Hearts Healthy Minds

Visit our page for links to agencies offering support for parents, families, and children. There is a wide list of support services available for parents. The school nursing team will be holding a workshop around toileting in the new year, and developing routines at home that will help your children in school. The date for this will come out in January, when confirmed.

We would also like to say a big thank you to the parent who has donated 3 family tickets to the Pantomime being held in Bishops Waltham Jubilee Hall on the 13th December, for our families who need a some financial support. This was a very kind thing to do and I know the three families will be very grateful. Please support our local pantomime in Jubilee Hall. This is the first one that has been held there for many years, and is a lovely local event to walk to with your family.

We know December can be a tricky month for many of our families. We are able to make referrals to the foodbank, if anyone requires this please email us. Your request will be kept confidential. We also know parents find December a little bit overwhelming, especially if they have children in two or more schools. There is our usual date sheet at the end of the newsletter for you to keep up to date with everything. Please don't worry if you forget something. Just let us know and we will help in any way we can.

Best wishes

Mrs Riches

Headteacher


WELCOME
BWIS PTA meet regularly and plan lots of fun events
We have some exciting events coming up!


Take a picture and put it in our book!



PTA Update

Welcome to our third PTA update for this school year - and this is our busiest month yet on the run up to Christmas!

Since our last update, we had a great time at the Community Fireworks event at the start of this month selling sweet treats - a big thank you to Friends of Bishops Waltham Junior School for allowing us to be part of such a big event!

We had the first Nativity Costume and Christmas Jumper Sale after school on Friday 21st November and it was a great success - we have two more on Friday 28th and Monday 1st so please come along and grab yourself a bargain whilst also raising money for the school!

We are delighted to announce that, since the start of the school academic year, we have raised a whopping £1200, which enabled us to pay for the new sandpit outside Year R classrooms and for gifts for all the children from Father Christmas on Christmas Party Day.

We are currently preparing for the following events in the calendar:

- Nativity Costume and Christmas Jumper Sale - at school pick up time on Friday 28th November and Monday 1st December
- Christmas Shopping Bazaar - Wednesday 10th December; keep an eye out for letters in book bags!
- Christmas Party/Visit from Father Christmas - Wednesday 17th December
- Grandparents Church Service - Thursday 18th December
- Christmas Sweet Sale - at school pick up time on Friday 19th December

We really need volunteers for the Christmas Shopping Bazaar. Volunteers will accompany children as they choose presents for their loved ones, return them to class, and help them wrap their gifts. It really is such a rewarding day the children get so excited choosing a gift! We also require volunteers to wrap the gifts from Father Christmas - wrapping paper and sellotape will be provided and can be done at home.

If you can help we'd love to hear from you via email (bwispta@gmail.com[1]) or join our whatsapp community group using this link;https://chat.whatsapp.com/L0vi212kPtKKYox1a2Y63N?mode=ems_copy_h_t .

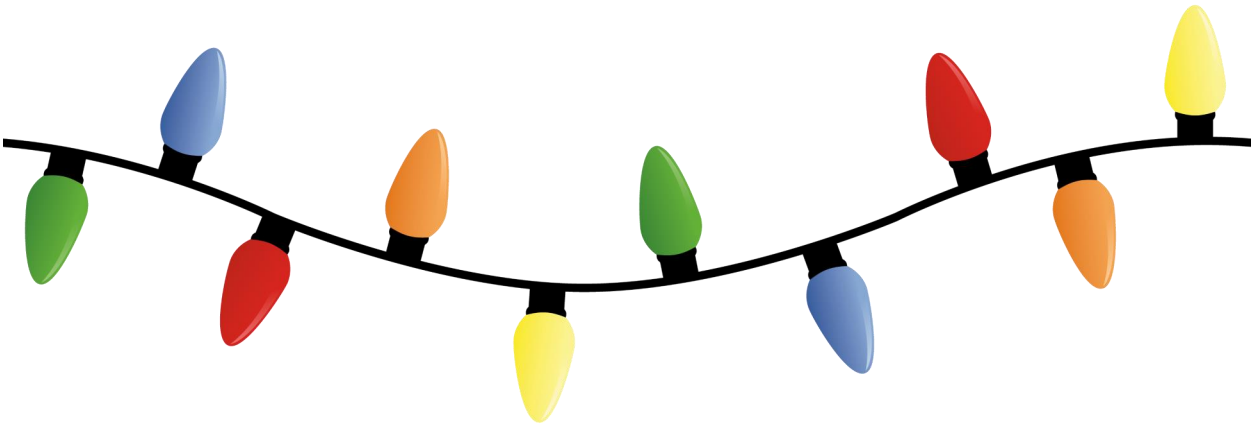
We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Your PTA

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Governor Update



October and November has been a busy period for school governors. At the end of October we held our second governing board of the academic year where we reviewed the school spending against the planned budget and we also reported back and approved various school policy updates. Mrs Riches provided her Headteacher's school update, and we discussed the school strategic plan. In our November meeting we received a detailed Headteacher report, which included how our children are performing academically at this time of year, attendance at school, how our disadvantaged children are achieving, the successes of the school, and also the challenges the school face too. It was an insightful insight into the school, which keeps the governors up to date and aware of what challenges a busy infant school face at this time of the year. We would like to thank Mrs Riches and her team for their diligence and hard work ensuring all children are valued and their commitment to continually strive to make BWIS an even better school to come to.

We also welcomed our new parent governor, Mr Daryl Moth, to the board and look forward to working with him on our team. A few of our governors monitored the curriculum and safeguarding in Key Stage one through pupil interviews. They found their visit very insightful, and were reassured that they could triangulate the information from the school to what is happening in the classrooms.

In addition to the full board meeting and other governor committees, governors have also been in school for the termly health and safety walk, where issues are picked up. It has been a challenging term for Mrs Riches and the staff, with the problems with the windows and drains, and they, as always, put the health and safety of the children and school users as paramount.

Our governing body currently has a large number of past parents, parents and education specialists on board, which is fantastic. From our audit, we would like volunteers for our co-

opted position and LEA position from a finance/planning background who do not currently have a child in our school. If you have a friend or know of a neighbour who would like to become part of our governing body, please ask them to get in touch with our school for an application form.

Best Wishes

BWIS Governing Body

Children's Shopping Bazaar - Wednesday 10th

Children can shop for up to 6 people and bring presents home wrapped. All presents cost £4 and a shopping list will be sent home shortly. Please send children into school with money in a named purse, shopping list and carrier bag on the day. Parent helpers are required, so please let the office know if you can help out. If you have any wrapping paper that you would like to donate, we would be extremely grateful .



Christmas Performances



The children have been working hard on their Christmas performances. Year R 'First Nativity' is on Tuesday 16th December at 9.30am. Year 1 and 2 performances of 'The Lost Shephard' are on Friday 12th December at 9.30am and Monday 15th December at 1.45pm. Please contact the office if you have not yet ordered tickets for the Year 1 and 2 performance.

Please note due to very tight numbers in the hall babies/children on laps are not allowed.

A collection will be held at the end of each performance, this will be split between a fund for replenishing school costumes and our chosen charity Naomi House.

Christmas lunch and parties - Wednesday 17th

We will be having a special Christmas lunch and party and a special visitor will be joining us.

Children can come into school in non-school uniform party clothes. Please can the children wear sensible shoes and bring a coat as they will be outside for play times.

Lunch options this day are turkey or veggie roast only with NO pasta or jacket potato options.

Grandparents Service at St Peters Church - Thursday 18th

On Thursday 18th December we have a special service at St Peters Church starting at 1.30pm for grandparents only. The PTA and governor helpers will provide tea and coffee afterwards.

Please note this event is very full, with each child potentially bringing 4 grandparents. Due to this, it is strictly for grandparents only, and any parents will be requested to leave. If you do need to help bring a grandparent in, then we ask that you then wait either in your car/outside so that grandparents can have the seats. Any parent volunteers who help walk to the church, will be allowed to stay in for the service, so please see your child's class teacher if you can help.





Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 19th

On Friday 19th December we will have a Christmas jumper day and donations will be collected for our chosen charity - Naomi House. Children can dress up in festive outfits or make their own with tinsel or sparkles. There is no school uniform required for this day

Year Group Updates

Year R

Year R have now completed their exciting ‘Step into a Story’ project. Over the past few weeks, the children have immersed themselves in the magical world of Julia Donaldson’s stories. They have loved listening to a range of her books, joining in with the repeated phrases, and getting to know her much-loved characters. The teachers have also thoroughly enjoyed receiving the

children's videos telling them about their favourite book on Tapestry. Do you have a favourite Julia Donaldson story?

Throughout the project, a different character visited our classroom, leaving behind clues and a special challenge for the children to solve. We have been very busy rhyming, designing and creating our own Gruffalo models, and even helping the Gruffalo by finding ways to help him see inside his dark cave. The children have shown fantastic imagination, communication skills, and problem-solving along the way. What a brilliant project it has been!





Year 1

Year 1 have just come to the end of their Pick A Puppet project and what a wonderful outcome it was! Over the past few weeks, the children have been busy designing, creating, evaluating and refining their own puppets. Once their puppets were complete, the children rehearsed their shows in groups, preparing confident and creative performances to share with the class. We were incredibly proud of their final presentations!

Now we are ready start our next project: Angels. In this project, the children will explore their own beliefs, learning about others' ideas and understandings of angels. Over the coming weeks, they will be creating individual angel sculptures, which will be proudly displayed on the ramp during our Christmas performance. Keep an eye out for their beautiful creations!







Year 2

Year 2 have absolutely loved our ‘New Zealand’ project! We have been busy exploring how maps work and learning to locate both the UK and New Zealand. Along the way, the children have been introduced to coordinates as well as the compass directions—North, East, South and West. They have really enjoyed using this new directional language while investigating maps, atlases and globes.

In Art, we created beautiful clay tiles inspired by the iconic silver fern, a plant native to New Zealand. The children were delighted to use real leaves to make impressions in the clay, and they showed fantastic focus and creativity while developing these new artistic skills.

Our English lessons have also been filled with excitement. The children have impressed us with their growing geographical vocabulary when describing landscapes and regions of New Zealand. They produced stunning posters all about the Bay of Plenty, showcasing both their knowledge and their presentation skills. We have also finished writing poems about volcanoes, giving the children the opportunity to let their imaginations run wild. The results are truly fabulous!




Mrs Graham
Mrs Graham

Dates for your Diary



Monday 1st December - Christmas post box in reception - remember full names and class on envelope!

Monday 8th December - Rock Steady concert at 2.30pm

Tuesday 9th December - Year 2 New Zealand outcome at 2.30pm

Wednesday 10th December - Shopping Bazaar

Friday 12th December - Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance at 9.30am

Monday 15th December - Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance at 1.45pm

Tuesday 16th December - Year R Christmas performance at 9.30am

Wednesday 17th December - Christmas lunch and party. Non-uniform day

Thursday 18th December - Grandparents only service at St Peters Church at 1.30pm

Friday 19th December - last day of term - Christmas jumper day/non-uniform day. PTA sweet sale

Monday 5th January - First day of Spring term



Contact Us



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Visit us on the web at www.bwis.org.uk[2]

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



A World to Discover,
Learning Together

BISHOP'S WALTHAM FESTIVAL



BAR
No alcohol to be brought **into** the event.

Bar
Soft Drinks
Snacks
available

Chaplin's Pantos

Saturday 13th December

Doors 1.30pm - Performance 2pm

Jubilee Hall

Little Shore Lane, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1ED

ADULT	CHILD	FAMILY X4	FAMILY X3
	3-17 Years	4 max (2 adult)	3 max (1 adult)
£14	£10	£44	£30

Tickets on-line at www.bwfestival.art

or in person Best Wishes (Brook St.)
or Willows Pet Supplies (High St.) Bishop's Waltham

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