

October 2025 Newsletter



Hello BWIS families! As we wrap up a wonderful first half term, here's a look back at all the exciting learning, fun, and community spirit we've shared together this October.

🧠 **Reception – Learning & Letters** Our youngest learners have been exploring phonics and numbers with great enthusiasm! Their writing tables are buzzing with activity, and their confidence is growing every day. 📝🔢

📸 Reception also had their photo taken for *The News First Class* feature – look out for their smiling faces in the paper on **18th & 19th November**!

🚑 **Year 1 – Life-Saving Superstars** We welcomed Heart Start visitors who taught our children vital life-saving skills. They were focused, respectful, and brilliant! ❤️‍🩹👏

🧑‍🔬🔑🧑‍🔬♂️ Our *Project Superpower* celebration was a hit! Parents joined us to see the children's amazing learning journey – so many proud faces!

🔥 **Year 2 – History Explorers** Year 2 wowed us with their *Great Fire of London* exhibition. Their writing to the Mayor and historical knowledge were outstanding! 🏙️📝 They also visited Little Woodham to experience life in the 17th Century –they were full of questions and curiosity, and it was a fantastic start to our project!

🧩 Our Year 2 Lunchtime clubs are thriving thanks to our amazing staff. Thank you for sharing your time and talents!

🎨 All of our Year Groups have been busy designing Christmas cards – keep an eye out for order forms after the break!

🎉 **PTA Highlights** The Year 1 & 2 Disco with Crazy M was a blast – we even had snow! ❄️

🐱 Congratulations to Elsie for guessing our Spooky Cat's name – *Pickles* is heading home today!

🍬 Don't forget to visit the Spooky Sweet stall in the turning circle after school – fingers crossed for sunshine!

🧠 Big thanks to our PTA for organising the Quiz Night – naming famous dogs was trickier than expected! 🐶

🌾 **Harvest Festival** We celebrated at St Peter's Church with songs, poems, and prayers. Reverend Hunt shared fascinating veggie facts! 🥕🎶🙏 Thank you for your generous donations to the Meon Valley Foodbank – your kindness makes a real difference.

🏫 **Open Morning** We welcomed prospective Year R parents – visitors were very impressed! If you know someone interested, please ask them to give us a ring ☎️.

🧑👩👧 Thank you to the Reception parents who joined our catch-up talk. We look forward to seeing you again at Parent Teacher Meetings in November.

🍽️ **School Lunches** Menus will change after half term. All infant children are entitled to a free hot lunch with dessert, every day – with four tasty options to choose from. If you would like your child to try a school lunch, but bring a lunchbox as a back up, please let your class teacher know on the day and we will enable this to happen.

🖼️ **School Photos** Individual school photos have gone home – please order promptly to receive them in time for Christmas.

⏰ **Don't forget – the clocks go back this weekend!**

We wish all our families a relaxing and restful half term. Thank you for your continued support – we can't wait to see everyone back, refreshed and ready for more learning adventures! 🌈📚

Best wishes

Mrs Riches

Headteacher

Scholastic Book Fair

We have a Scholastic Book Fair in school from Tuesday 11th to Monday 17th 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 in school on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th November. Slots can be booked via Arbor.

Unfortunately due to time constraints we can only offer one slot per child. All appointments will take place in the hall. Please enter through the main doors in reception. You will then be invited to look at your child's learning prior to meeting with their teacher. There will be creche available for children in Rabbit class, so that appointments can run smoothly.

Parking

Please do not park on the zig-zag lines outside school, as they are a "keep clear" area for safety. Parking there is illegal and dangerous because it obstructs visibility for both drivers and pedestrians. This area is to allow children to cross the road safely so please keep clear.

Please also be mindful of the local residents and do not block garages or driveways.



School menus

The school menus change after October half term and the new menu can be found on our website:

https://www.bwis.org.uk/cleverchefs/

Children who have allergies and a special diet a copy will be in book bags.

PTA Update

Welcome to our second PTA update for this school year - and what a start to the school year we've had!

Since our last update, we had our first quiz of the school year – it was a great night where parents, carers and staff could test their knowledge and enjoy some laughs! We would like to thank Andy, our fantastic quiz master, Cleverchefs for the delicious food platters, and Hampshire Bowman for supplying the ale keg and for their prize donations! The quiz raised nearly £600 towards the sandpit outside the Year R classrooms, so a massive thank you to all that attended!

Then there was the Year 1 and 2 Disco; the children certainly showed us how to dance to the latest popular music and thoroughly entertained us with their amazing singing! A big thank you to Crazy M, all the school staff and the volunteers!

A quick reminder that we are currently raising funds for a number of areas around the school to be refurbished including the sandpit, the playground lining/special surfacing and the outdoor music area; this will ensure the children have a creative sensory space where they can explore music, sound, and nature, aligning with the school's vision for sustainability[1].

We are currently preparing for the following events in the calendar[2]:

- Spooky Sale, Friday 24th October; after school in the turning circle on Friday 24th October. Selling Halloween themed sweets and activity books!
- FOBS Community Fireworks 2025 Night at Hoe Road Recreation Ground, Saturday 8th November; we will be there selling Halloween themed sweet treats, please pop by and say Hi! Tickets to this event can be booked via the following link - Friends of Bishops Waltham Junior School[3]

A quick reminder that we are always on the look out for volunteers; If you would like to find out more about how you could assist with future events, please join our whatsapp community group using this link;
https://chat.whatsapp.com/L0vi212kPtKKYox1a2Y63N?mode=ems_copy_h_t .[4]

These are incredibly fulfilling roles and a great opportunity to meet other parents.

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[1] https://www.bwis.org.uk/sustainability/
[2] https://www.bwis.org.uk/diary/grid/2025/10/
[3] https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofbwjs/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=103329
[4] https://chat.whatsapp.com/L0vi212kPtKKYox1a2Y63N?mode=ems_copy_h_t

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Your PTA

bwispta@gmail.com

Governor Update

The Governors have met twice this academic year already. Firstly in September to agree roles for the year and have an update on the priorities for the year ahead and more recently this month when we heard a termly update from Mrs Riches and had the opportunity to ask questions around the curriculum, finance and any challenges the school may be facing. Now, being in the middle of the financial year, there will be a particular focus on matters relating to the school budget, ensuring we remain on track.

During our first meeting we welcomed a new co-opted governor to the role, Steph Couper. She has a lot of experience and is a fantastic addition to the team so welcome to Steph!

In our second meeting we also elected and welcomed Andy Knight into the role of co-opted governor. Andy has worked within the PTA for the past few years and has already been a fantastic contributor to our school so we are very pleased to welcome him to our team in this new role.

On top of this we have also had some further applications to join our team as parent governors so I am very happy with the direction we are going, building strength and experience which is brilliant for the school.

All parents can vote via the link below or please contact the school office for a paper ballot. The election closes at 12 on Friday 7th November.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeIQPbtjFP9ekbimvR-sVfoyLF02892zpSboVf-FSSxJDmMuQ/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=109722597018522013830

The governors and teachers also came together to have some face to face training on sustainability in schools. It was great to hear how much of the ideas shared we have already implemented. That being said, there were some lovely ideas that we can now consider in terms of both reducing our school's impact on the environment but also teaching the next generation of young people about the importance of their role in the future of our planet's sustainability and continued survival.

All that is left is to wish you all a fantastic half term break and thank you to all of our stakeholders that help to contribute to the continued success of this wonderful school.

Best Wishes

BWIS Governing Body

Year Group Updates

Year R

Year R have been busy exploring the wonderful world of seasonal changes. We've been on autumn walks, collecting leaves and spotting signs of the new season. We've also enjoyed learning and singing harvest songs — have you heard us performing them at home?

After reading the story *Leaf Man*, Rabbits and Owls discovered a letter saying that Leaf Man was lost somewhere in the school grounds! The children were so excited to begin their search and were thrilled when they finally found him. Inspired by the adventure, they decided to create some new Leaf Man friends so he wouldn't feel lonely anymore. We've also been busy being authors and illustrators, creating our very own *Leaf Man Adventure* book. We can't wait to share it with you soon!





Year 1

Project Power has come to an end so Year 1 invited their parents into school for our Project Outcome. The children became the teachers, showing off everything they had learned about their senses and how to keep our bodies healthy. Parents were invited to try out lots of fun activities- tasting mystery foods, feeling items in the blind bag, testing our sense of smell, playing egg shaker sound games and spotting tricky optical illusions. The children had also designed fitness circuits to get everyone's hearts beating faster! The children showed off their instruction writing, teaching grown-ups how to wash their hands properly. They also shared their first aid learning about DRS ABC and even showed parents how to put someone in the recovery position. It was a brilliant way to finish the project- the children were so proud to share their knowledge and loved watching the grown-ups have a go!






November
October


80
70





Year 2

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their **“Fire! Fire!**” project. A highlight was our trip to Little Woodham, where we discovered what life was like back in the 17th century. The children remembered so many fascinating facts from the visit — we were really impressed!After learning all about the Great Fire of London, the children reflected on how lucky we are to have a modern fire service. They have been busy imagining what it would have been like to live in London during the fire, writing thoughtful diary entries and letters to the Lord Mayor.In Art, we’ve

created stunning marbled ink collages inspired by the flames and smoke of the Great Fire. Thank you to all the grown-ups for supporting the **amazing** home learning — the children were so proud to share their incredible work at our outcome. What a fantastic finish to our project!









Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd November - First day of Autumn term 2

Tuesday 11th to Monday 17th November - Scholastic Book Fair in reception

Tuesday 11th November - Parent and teacher meetings

Wednesday 12th November - Parent and teacher meetings

Friday 14th November - Children in Need

Wednesday 19th November - Year R phonics at 9am

Monday 24th November - INSET day - school closed for all pupils



Looking ahead - Christmas dates



Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at www.bwis.org.uk[5]



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