



## Bishop Wood C of E Junior School

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Mr G Stanley, Headteacher

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2026

### **Smartphones and Childhood – Parent Survey**

With growing national discussion around the impact of smartphones on children's wellbeing, development and safety, we are reviewing our approach to mobile phones at Bishop Wood. Our current policy allows children to bring phones to school with parental permission, provided they are switched off and securely stored by class teachers throughout the school day. However, we recognise that there are differing views about smartphone ownership amongst primary-aged children, and we are keen to understand the thoughts of our school community before considering any changes. We have put together a [short parent survey](#) to help us understand your views, concerns and practical needs. No decisions have been made, and we would really value hearing from as many families as possible, whatever your perspective. The survey should take no more than five minutes to complete and closes on Friday 16th October.

### **Harvest Festival**

We enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Festival this week, giving us the opportunity to come together as a school community and reflect on all that we have to be thankful for. Harvest is an important time to recognise how fortunate we are, while also remembering those who may be facing difficulties. A huge thank you to all our families for their generous donations and for helping us put our school values of Community and Dignity into action. It is always heartening to see the kindness and generosity of the Bishop Wood community shining through.

### **Attendance Matters**

95% attendance might sound pretty good, but over a school year that adds up to around nine and a half days missed. That's almost two full weeks of learning, time with friends and all the other things that make school life so important. Of course, there will be times when children are genuinely too poorly to come in, and we completely understand that. We'd just ask everyone to do their bit to make sure children are in school whenever they can be. Those days really do add up!

### **New Slackline**

We are delighted to have a new slackline installed at school, giving children another exciting opportunity to develop their balance, coordination and confidence at playtimes. A special thank you must go to Mollie H and Ava W in Year 6, whose enthusiasm and encouragement helped make this happen. It's fantastic to see pupils taking the initiative and helping to make Bishop Wood an even better place for everyone. We can't wait to see the children putting their balancing skills to the test!

### **Data Protection**

After an extremely informative staff meeting on Data Protection (GDPR) this week, we talked a lot about consent and about keeping both the children and staff at Bishop Wood School safe. With that in mind, I feel it's really important to remind parents that meetings with school staff should not be audio or video recorded without the prior permission of the teacher or staff member involved. Please also do not record or photograph staff, pupils or other families without their explicit consent. This helps us protect everyone's privacy and ensures that Bishop Wood School remains a safe and respectful environment for all.

### **Join Our Amazing Team!**

We are looking for a new Teaching Assistant to join our fantastic team at Bishop Wood! If you are enthusiastic, caring and passionate about making a difference to children's lives, we'd love to hear from you. We are incredibly proud of our friendly, supportive staff team and the wonderful children who make Bishop Wood such a special place to work. If this sounds like the opportunity for you, or you know someone



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fullness.'



who might be interested, please take a look at the [job advert on Teach in Herts](#) and help us spread the word!

Closing date: Wednesday 14th October at 10am.

### **Worship for All**

Please join us at St Peter and St Paul for the 10 o'clock service on Sunday where our choir will be singing and members of the school will be helping to lead the service.

### **Celebration**

Due to Harvest Festival, Celebration Assembly was cancelled this week.

### **Diary Dates**

Please find below a detailed look at the dates for next academic year! **New and/or amended dates are highlighted in yellow.**

#### **Autumn**

| Date                                                       | Event                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> October                            | Worship for All – Harvest                   |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October                         | Come Dine with 3PS                          |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October  | Fun Fit and Fruity Week                     |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October                         | Come Dine with 3C                           |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October  | Half Term                                   |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November                            | Year 5 Anglo-Saxon Day                      |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> November                            | Remembrance                                 |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November  | Anti-Bullying Week                          |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November                        | Music Concert at 3.40pm – details to follow |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November                           | Buddies Disco                               |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November                           | Nasal Flu 2                                 |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November                           | Parents' Eve                                |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November                        | Parents' Eve                                |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> November                           | Year 4 Greek Day                            |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November                           | Reverse Advent Calendar                     |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December                         | Year 6 Victorian Day                        |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December                            | Buddies Christmas Fayre                     |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December | Christmas Jumper Week                       |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December                           | Carol Service (2pm and 5.30pm)              |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December                        | Pupil Christmas Lunch                       |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December                         | End of Term Worship at 11.30 (St P and P)   |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December                           | Christmas Golden Time                       |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December                           | End of Term at 1.30                         |

#### **Spring**

| Date                                                       | Event                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January                             | INSET Day                           |
| Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January                            | School open to pupils               |
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January                          | 6I Class Collective Worship         |
| Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> January                            | Buddies Disco                       |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> February                          | 6T Class Collective Worship         |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> 1 Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February  | Science Week                        |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February                        | Ash Wednesday Worship at St P and P |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February                         | 5DR Class Collective Worship        |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February | Half Term                           |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March                             | World Book Day                      |

|                                                               |                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March                              | Year 5 – Hazard Alley        |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March                               | 5M Class Collective Worship  |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March                                 | Year 4 to St Albans          |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March                                 | Year 6 to Bletchley Park     |
| Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> March                                 | Worship for All - Lent       |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March                                 | Parents' Eve                 |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March                              | Parents' Eve                 |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March                                 | Lenten Bazaar                |
| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March                               | Easter Service at St P and P |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March                                 | End of Term at 1.30          |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March – Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> April | Easter Break                 |

### **Summer**

| <b>Date</b>                                                 | <b>Event</b>                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April                             | 4A Class Collective Worship  |
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April                               | Buddies Disco                |
| Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> April                             | 4F Class Collective Worship  |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May                                | 3C Class Collective Worship  |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> May                                  | Worship for All              |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> May | SATs Week                    |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May                                 | 3PS Class Collective Worship |
| Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May                               | Year 5 to Lee Valley         |
| Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June   | Half Term                    |
| Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> June     | Great Big Green Week         |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June                                 | INSET Day                    |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June                              | Class/Group Photo Day        |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June                              | Sports Day                   |
| Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> June                              | Buddies Fayre                |
| Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> June – Weds 30 <sup>th</sup> June   | Year 6 PGL                   |
| Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> – Weds 30 <sup>th</sup> June        | Year 4 Green Park            |
| Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> July                                 | Moving On Up BBQ             |
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> July                                | Year 6 Production            |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> July afternoon                      | Year 6 BOSCARs               |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> July evening                        | Year 6 Party                 |
| Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July                               | End of Term Worship 11.30    |
| Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July                               | End of Term at 1.30          |

Thank you and best wishes  
Mr Stanley