



Bishop Wood C of E Junior School

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Mr G Stanley, Headteacher

Friday 8th September 2023

Welcome and Welcome Back!

It was lovely to welcome everyone back to school on Tuesday. The children all looked fantastic in their crisp uniform and shiny shoes! We welcomed our new Year 3 pupils in collective worship. They have made a wonderful start to their time at Bishop Wood and look well established already. We also took the chance to welcome Miss Stevens, Mrs Harland, Miss Bell and Mrs Herd who have all joined the staff team this year. We are all looking forward to a busy but productive year!

Summer Works!

As mentioned in previous communications, the school was very busy over the summer break. We have had the following works completed:

- New front door which is more secure, user friendly and less draughty!
- Overhaul of our drainage system to prevent future surface and classroom flooding
- Redecoration of Year 3 and 4 classrooms and admin area
- Whole school lighting replacement. In keeping with our goal to be more sustainable, we now solely use LED lights

Tesco Tokens

Mrs Reeve has worked her magic and her application to the Tesco Stronger Starts as been successful and our project to improve biodiversity within the school grounds will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores. Voting will commence in store from the first week of October 2023 until Mid-January 2024. If you are in one of the local Tesco stores, please cast a vote for Bishop Wood – we could receive up to £1500!

Meet the Teacher

We will be running our popular meet the teacher sessions again this year. It will give you the chance to see inside your child's classroom, meet the teacher and ask any burning questions. I will also be around in case you need to ask me anything. The meetings are taking place 9.00 – 10.00 on:

Year 6 - Friday 15th September

Year 4 – Friday 22nd September

Year 5 – Friday 29th September

Year 3 – Friday 6th October

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

We were contacted by the diocese in 2022 to complete a survey as to whether or not the school building contained RAAC. This was an aspect of teaching which was not covered on my degree so I enlisted the support of a governor with considerably more experience in these matters to help us survey the school. Our conclusion was that the school does not contain RAAC. Herts CC have confirmed that there is very little RAAC in the county (see below):

"Between 2020 and 2021, we carried out surveys on 279 local authority maintained schools that had buildings constructed between 1959 and 1989, the risk period initially identified by the DfE. This identified three schools that needed remediation works, and those works were completed in 2022."

"While we have no reason to believe that any other school buildings contain RAAC, as a precaution we will now also be carrying out surveys on schools with buildings built in the 1950s and early 90s, which are at lower risk."

The school also had a conditions survey carried out via the DfE last term and we have not been contacted regarding the existence RAAC.

Individual Photos

Debs has already been in contact regarding individual photographs. They are taking place on Tuesday next week. Please check your inbox if you want further information!

Three Important Updates

Homework



Following the homework survey carried out in the Summer Term, we are in the process of reviewing our policy. As a result, homework will not be set for the first two weeks of the school year. I think this will also afford the children the chance to settle back in to the school routine without the extra pressure of home learning. Once we have finalised the new plans, they will be communicated to you. Thanks in advance for your support.

Uniform

It was lovely to see the children coming into school on Tuesday with clean, tidy and appropriate uniform. This is something that we will be focusing on this year as we are very aware that some pupils last year were not dressed in the correct uniform. We are acutely aware that children coming to school in the correct uniform very much needs parental support so please help us to help them!

Shoes

Smart school shoes will now remain in school. This will help the school to stay tidy and the school shoes to last. Children should come to school wearing alternative outdoor shoes which they can put on for break and lunch. Wellies are also advised for the autumn/winter (usually October half term through to Easter) and this allows pupils to use the field all year round.

Thank You!

As mentioned, we had a lot of work take place around the school over the summer break. Much of this was carried out by contractors but we were also very lucky to have the assistance of Stewart, Di, Shannon and Amber Ivory who gave up their time to fix the gazebo, carry out gardening and other valuable maintenance. Thank you so much!

Wrap Around Care – Friday

The school has not had wrap around care provision after school on a Friday for many years. This decision was based on a historic lack of uptake but also due to the fact that it was incredibly hard to staff that session. We are aware that cohorts change and so does the need. As such, we are putting out this [incredibly brief survey](#) to understand if there is a need for wrap around care on a Friday. Please complete it and encourage anyone else to who you think it might benefit. The survey is open for one week. Thank you!

Around School

Year 3 have enjoyed doing echo reading in their whole class reading sessions. Year 4 have been looking at place value and partitioning in Maths while Year 5 have been learning Roman Numerals. Year 6 have started off a story writing unit in English. Next week, Year 3 are excited about the start of their Friday ukulele sessions. Science will be the talk of school next week as the children look at states of matter (Year 4) the solar system (Year 5) and the circulatory system (Year 6). Have a chat to your child(ren) about their learning!

Diary Dates

Please find below a list of key dates for the Autumn Term. We will add to this as we progress through the school year. New dates will be highlighted.

Tuesday 12 th September	Individual/Sibling Photographs – letter sent 7 th September
Thursday 14 th September	Swimming starts for Year 4
Friday 15 th September	9am - Year 6 Meet the Teacher
Friday 22 nd September	9am – Year 4 Meet the Teacher
Friday 29 th September	9am – Year 5 Meet the Teacher
Tuesday 3 rd October	Year 3 Trip – Chiltern Open Air Museum (details to follow)
Friday 6 th October	9am – Year 3 Meet the Teacher
Friday 13 th October	2pm – Harvest Festival in St Peter & St Paul Church (details to follow)
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th October	Fun, Fit & Fruity Week (details to follow)
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th October	Half Term
Monday 6 th November	SEN/PPG Parent Meetings during the week (details to follow)
Monday 13 th November	Year 6 - Weighing & Measuring (details to follow)
Monday 13 th November	Parents Evening (details to follow)
Wednesday 15 th November	Parents Evening (details to follow)
Wednesday 15 th November	Year 5 – Anglo Saxon Day (details to follow)
Monday 20 th November	2pm – Music Celebration (details to follow)
Wednesday 22 nd November	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
Friday 24 th November	Occasional Day (school closed)

Monday 18 th December	Nativity – Evening Performance in St Peter & St Paul Church (Details to follow)
Wednesday 20 th December	9.30am – Christmas Service in St Peter & St Paul Church (Details to follow)
Wednesday 20 th December	1.30pm – School closes for Christmas

Thank you and best wishes

Mr Stanley