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NEWSLETTER 2

December 2024



Bishop Sutton Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

This term has been filled with wonderful activities and Christmas joy. Our Nativity and Christmas performances were a huge success across both schools, and the children's excitement about the amazing trips so far this year has been wonderful to see. These activities form part of our broader goal to provide children with the most rounded school experience possible, one that fills them with cultural capital, enjoyment in their learning, and the academic skills they need to be successful in the future.

It was a pleasure to spend time with our year 6 pupils as they embarked on one of the biggest adventures of their time at the Federation: Mill on The Brue! It was a privilege to see children facing and overcoming all sorts of challenges, encouraging each other, and needing to really draw on their resilience and courage. We are all really proud of everything they achieved on camp and hope that, in the future, the memories made will remind them that anything is possible when you step out of your comfort zone and believe in yourself! Year 5 can look forward to similar excitement at the residential to Charterhouse later this academic year. Other highlights have included Cheddar Gorge, Folly Farm, the Roman Baths and the Bristol pantomime. We have a superb calendar of trips and enrichment opportunities and look forward to sharing many more with the children throughout the year.

A personal highlight this term has been giving out the first of our 'presentation pouches'. These are the highest award available in school for presentation. Children are presented with these in celebration assembly and their coveted blue velvet pouch becomes a source of pride to showcase as role models for expectations and standards in their work. These can be awarded to anyone and, crucially, they are not about perfection. The standard needed to earn a presentation pouch is to take the best care that you possibly can to show pride in your work. Anyone can be awarded these for showing care and consistency in all that they do – children value these enormously and I hope to present many more throughout the year.

At the heart of everything we do in our Federation is a commitment to continually improve teaching and learning. This year, we are focusing on developing a consistent approach to pedagogy across the school, ensuring that every child receives the best possible teaching in a supportive environment where risk-taking in learning is encouraged. This can only happen when children feel safe to take those risks, knowing that they will be supported through those moments of challenge by the strong relationships with teachers that underpin everything. This builds on the fantastic work we've already done around growth mindset and embracing "marvellous mistakes," where we celebrate learning through effort and perseverance.



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We are excited about our upcoming Inset day in January, where teachers will be participating in a training session focused on maths. This will support them in further enhancing their ability to help children to tackle challenge in their learning, particularly in areas where they may need extra support or extension. Please note that both schools will be closed for this on Monday 6th January and the first day back for pupils is Tuesday 7th January.

Looking ahead to the next term, we will be introducing a whole-school value for the term—‘respect’—which we believe underpins our approach to building and sustaining positive relationships and behaviour across the school. We are committed to nurturing a school culture where mutual respect and kindness are at the forefront of everything we do, for both children and adults. Following this, I am thrilled to inform you that the Federation School Council will be working closely with our leaders in the new year to draft new values for each year group across the school. This collaborative effort will help to ensure that the values we teach align with the needs and desires of the children in our care. In this, the children have an opportunity to shape the next steps in our vision together, which puts them and their opinions rightly at the forefront of our approach.

Finally, as we approach the end of a busy and festive term, I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. It has been a term filled with joy, hard work, and celebration. We are so proud of all the children for all that they have achieved so far this year and look forward to sharing further successes with you throughout the year.

I wish you and your families a relaxing and joyful Christmas.

Mr Eustace





Bishop Sutton Primary School

Christmas Activities

All of the children enjoyed a Christmas dinner in school last Wednesday with crackers supplied by the PTA. We would also like to thank the PTA for the children's Christmas gifts.



A huge 'thank you' to our amazing PTA

Thank you to our PTA who paid for the children in Years 5 and 6 to attend Bristol Hippodrome last Friday. The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the free ice cream!

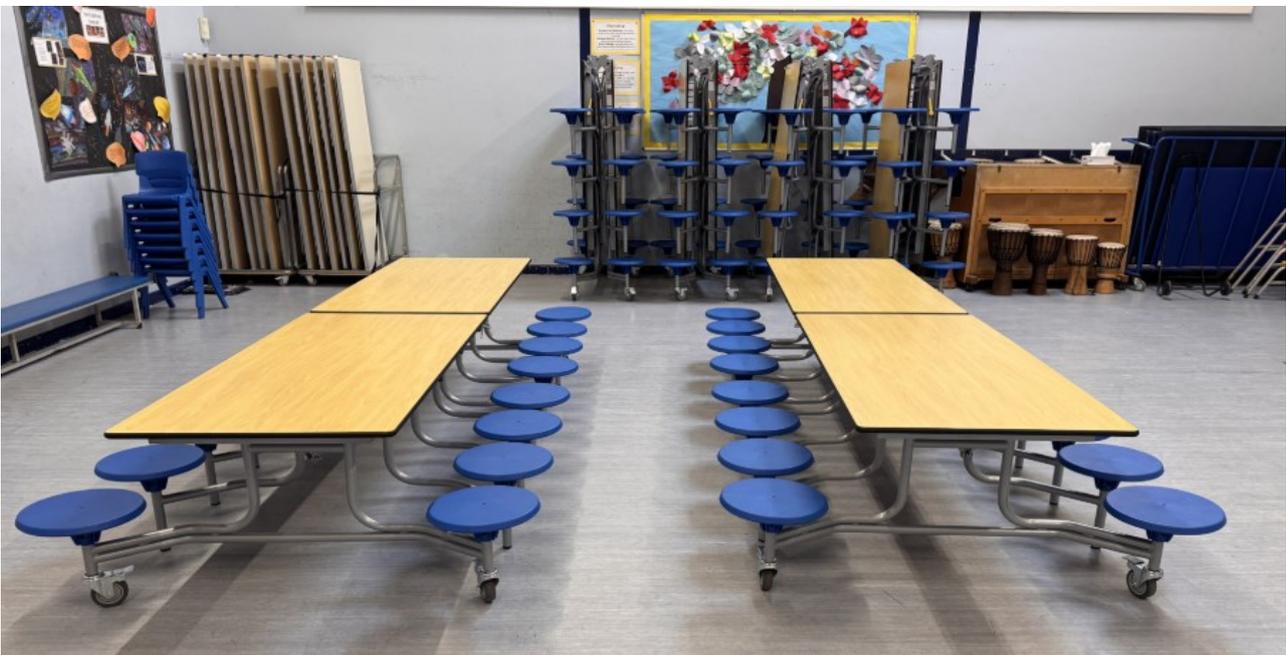




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Another huge 'thank you' to our amazing PTA

Also, another big thank you to the PTA for helping school with funding our new dining room tables and chairs. This has caused a huge amount of excitement for children and staff this week! The children now have lots more space to eat with their friends and enjoy the dining experience. It is also quicker for staff to set up and clear down, meaning more time to spend outside with children supporting play. This has made a huge and positive difference for all. Thank you for supporting the PTAs work to make this happen.





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Message from Pauline Adams, Federation SENCo ...

Please do have a look at our Federation website, where you will find a lot of information regarding inclusion and how we support all our children who have an identified or emerging need.

The [SEND information report](#) in particular (which can be found on the website) provides a lot of detail about this:

There are also links to a number of other services for children and families within the local area. This covers B&NES, Bristol and N Somerset, and so access may depend on home or GP address.

Please also explore our [SENCo padlet](#) (online noticeboard) which has a wide range of website links, videos and other information to support parents of children with additional needs. This includes some suggestions for supporting children who can find the Christmas celebrations and holiday period unsettling and overwhelming.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zw8pg2p>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zv2c3j6>

We hope you find this information useful.

Pauline Adams (SENCO)



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DUCKLINGS

The children settled well into another busy term in Ducklings, where we have been learning all about the people who help us in our community as part of our Understanding the World Early Learning Goal.

We had a visit from our local PCSOs and the children showed great interest in finding out how the Police help to keep us safe. They had lots of fun trying on the police uniforms and exploring the police van. They even got to play the police sirens to announce playtime for the rest of the school!

In Forest School, we have been learning all about the properties of different materials and have conducted our own scientific investigation to find out the best material to make a waterproof coat to keep our class teddy dry in Winter.

We have also been developing our sculpting skills using clay to make fantasy tree faces inspired by the main character in our focus book this term Room on the Broom.

In PE, we have been learning how to take off and land safely using the different apparatus whilst developing our movement to music skills.

A big thank you to all our parents who were able to pop in for our first stay and share a story event of the year. Also, a big thank you to our parent mystery readers at our end of day story times. The children have loved sharing their favourite books with you.

The children worked really hard on their first Nativity performance and we were really proud of how confident they were at performing to such large audiences.





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CYGNETS



It has been a busy but fun term in Cygnets Class. I have been impressed by Cygnets continued positive attitude to their learning and the caring nature they show towards one another.

Thank you to all families for your support with the Nativity preparations and performances. It was wonderful to see the children singing their hearts out and being so brave saying their lines and acting. The enthusiasm the children showed throughout rehearsals and singing practice was inspiring. As well as developing self-confidence and teamwork, the Nativity preparation helped enrich our Music curriculum, and our RE curriculum, as we have been learning about the Christian Christmas Story.

Cygnets have been enjoying our weekly forest school sessions. It has been a great opportunity to explore our Art focus; Andy Goldsworthy's land art. The abundance of autumn leaves have led to some lovely artistic arrangements! It has also been a great opportunity to develop teamwork and deepen the understanding of the change of seasons. The children really enjoyed using clay to create mini sculptures inspired by Andy Goldsworthy as well.

In Phonics we have been learning alternative spellings and the children have shown fantastic attitude to this which can sometimes be challenging. For example the /ee/ sound in 'feet' can also be written /ea/ as in read, /ey/ as in key, /e-e/ as in athlete. These kinds of alternative spellings for the same sound will be one of our focuses in reading and writing throughout the year.

Other learning has included using the Jungle Book and 'friendship' as a theme in dance lessons, old toys in History and animals in Science.

Please continue reading with children at home, and using Numbots. I will send some number and letter formation sheets home before the Christmas break so this can be done for extra practice if you can find the time amongst the festivities! I hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the new year. Miss Tilley



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HERONS

Heron Class have had another wonderful and busy term in Year 2, whilst having plenty of festive fun in the run up to Christmas.

Science:

As Scientists we have been learning about materials and their properties. We made predictions and conducted an experiment to find out what materials would best protect Humpty Dumpty from his great fall!

Geography:

This term we have studied the geography of our school and identified the key human and physical features of our local environment.

Design and Technology:

This term we been learning about textiles, and have practiced and used our sewing skills to make a Christmas ornament.

English:

This term in English we have used different texts to support our learning including 'The Bear Under the Stairs' and 'The Polar Express'. We wrote our own narrative inspired by 'The Polar Express' and our own poetry.

Maths:

This term we have been learning about addition, subtraction and shape. We have built on our prior knowledge of place value, and have learned how to add and subtract two-digit

Heron Class Highlight:

A highlight of this term has been practicing and performing our Nativity to the school and our Parents/Carers.





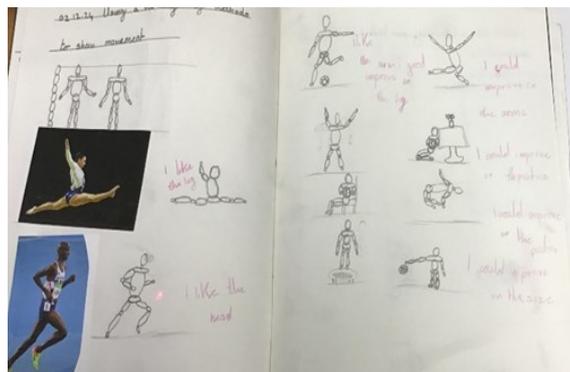
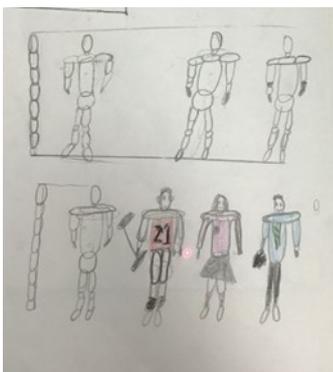
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WRENS

It has been another busy term in Wrens. The class really enjoyed our prehistoric Britain unit, learning all about the Stone Age and Bronze Age. Next term, we will be continuing this. We also visited Cheddar Gorge and the class were lucky enough to meet the Stone Age woman 'Soof' who showed them how she survived all those years ago



We also learnt about drawing the human body, and making sure to do the correct proportions. These are some of the pieces the class were proud of, and wanted to share.



As a class we have been reading 'The First Drawing' and wrote a diary entry from the point of view of a Stone Age person. They also read the traditional story 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' and produced their own fact file on rats!



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SWANS

Swans have been busy this term and have impressed me with their amazing attitudes to their learning.

In DT we have been learning about bridges. We have found out there are different types of bridges and learnt what trusses, beams, arches and suspension bridges are. We built our own version of each type of bridge and tested if it could hold a set weight and meet certain requirements before becoming designers and creating our own bridge to meet a set of criteria. Building the bridges was lots of fun and I was so impressed with how the children worked together and supported each other to create some fantastic designs.

Continuing the water theme, we learnt all about rivers in Geography and wrote some fantastic narrative poems based on the book *Once Upon a Raindrop* by James Carter in English. This was a great opportunity for the children to really consider their vocabulary choices and be creative with their writing.

In science, we have learnt about sound and enjoyed lots of practical activities investigating how sound is made and what can alter the volume and pitch of a sound. We have done lots of **min?** investigations including making string telephones.





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SWALLOWS

We have had a brilliant, but busy second term in Year 5!



In art, we have been printing. Throughout the term, we have worked towards our final piece of work, which was designing their own tote bag. They looked absolutely fantastic!



The children have also been busy getting stuck into their flute lessons this term. They have been making amazing progress, learnt to play different notes, songs, and to also read music. We can't wait to continue our lessons, and to work towards putting on a performance later in the year.



In science, we have been looking at materials. In the photos, the children were challenged to separate out different materials without using their hands.





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KINGFISHERS

This term, Year 6 students have been focusing on developing their skills in a variety of key areas in Physical Education. The children have worked hard in learning the fundamentals of passing, defending, dribbling, and shooting on target.

Of course, no PE lesson is complete without practicing shooting! This term, children have refined their ability to shoot on target, with many of them scoring some impressive goals in practice drills.



Year 6 have also had the wonderful opportunity to team up with the Reception class for a special Forest School session, and it was a fantastic experience for both groups of students!

The collaboration between the two classes was a shining example of teamwork, support, and kindness.

Throughout the session, Year 6 children took on the role of leaders and role models, offering guidance and encouragement to the younger Reception pupils. The Year 6 children were actively involved in supporting and helping their younger peers. The Reception class, in turn, brought their natural curiosity and enthusiasm, inspiring their Year 6 buddies to engage even more deeply with the outdoor learning activities.

A huge well done to all the children for their fantastic effort and enthusiasm – this joint Forest School session was a wonderful success, and we hope to see even more collaborative activities in the future!





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KEY DATES

Monday 6th January	INSET day—school closed
Tuesday 7th January	Start of Term 3
Wednesday 8th January	Reception 2025 open day 9.15am
Wednesday 15th January	Year 3/4 Netball tournament CVS—info to follow
Tuesday 28th January	Year 6 Debating at Downside School
Friday 31st January	Year 5—We The Curious trip—info to follow
Monday 10th February	Year 1 Folly Farm—Info to follow
Wednesday 12th February	Year 2 Folly Farm—Info to follow
Friday 14th February	INSET day—school closed—End of Term 3
Monday 24th February	Start of Term 4
Tuesday 25th February	Sponsored Pancake flip—info to follow
Friday 7th March	World Book day—TBC
Tuesday 11th March	Reception Folly Farm—Info to follow
Wednesday 12th March	Year 2 Gymnastics CVS—Info to follow
Thursday 3rd April	Year 2 SS Great Britain trip
Friday 4th April	End of Term 4

Sports day 2025 has been booked for Thursday 26th June 2025, with a reserve date of Tuesday 1st July 2025 if raining



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KEY DATES

Special menu— Census day—Thursday 16th January

As in October, Lighthouse Schools Partnership would like to offer **every child** a free school meal again on the next census day— Thursday 16th January.

Please order on Aspens as normal.

Our funding is determined by the number of children that order a meal on census day, and so we hope you will encourage your children to try a school dinner on this day. Thank you.



TERM 3 PE DAYS

Ducklings: Thursday and Friday
Cygnets: Monday and Thursday
Heron: Monday and Wednesday
Swans: Friday afternoon Tennis
Swallows: Tuesday and Fridays
Kingfishers: Monday and Wednesday

Aspens dinner menus

Please ensure your child likes what you select on Aspens, as we have a large amount of food waste and children saying that they do not like what has been ordered. Thank you.



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KEY DATES

Term Dates 2024-25:

Term 1	Wednesday 4 September 2024 - Thursday 24 October 2024
INSET	Friday 25 October 2024
Term 2	Monday 4 November 2024 – Friday 20 December 2024
INSET	Monday 6 January 2025
Term 3	Tuesday 7 January 2025 - Thursday 13 February 2025
INSET	Friday 14 February 2025
Term 4	Monday 24 February 2025 - Friday 04 April 2025
Term 5	Tuesday 22 April 2025 – Friday 23 May 2025
INSET	Monday 2 June 2025
Term 6	Tuesday 3 June 2025 – Tuesday 22 July 2025



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Attendance

Attendance really matters; a pupil who has attendance below 90% (classed as persistently absent by the government standard) misses 4 school weeks a year. We aim for the best attendance possible and for all pupils to be at 96% attendance, and above, throughout the course of the year. For those who dip below that number, we work with families to understand context and challenges in order to establish whether there are any actions that school or other agencies can put in place to help their child's attendance to improve.

As much as possible, we try to speak with families directly. Throughout the year, we also inform parents where children move below these percentages through letters, in line with the LSP policy for managing attendance. In all circumstances, our pastoral team are always here to listen and help. We understand that sometimes children are unwell and need to stay at home. However, often there are also further actions that, when shared, can enable us to put more support in place.

[Further information can be found in our attendance policy here.](#)

Finally, please be reminded that, during the summer there were changes to the national approach to school attendance and subsequent changes to our trust-wide attendance policy, which applies to all schools within the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP). This specifically affects requests for term-time absence.

[A link to the original letter sent in July can be found here.](#)

Parking around the site

Please help us to maintain positive relationships with our school neighbours by not blocking residents' driveways and by parking considerately around the site during drop off and collection.

Healthy schools

Over the term, a number of parents have contacted us asking about snacks and appropriate drinks for children. Please help us to encourage healthy snacks for children at break times – for example, a piece of fruit. Unless otherwise agreed, children should only have water in their drinks bottles. At school, our policy is to encourage healthy options and we are grateful for your support with this.





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Help Us Be More Environmentally Conscious: Donate or Recycle School Jumpers and Coats

As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility, we are asking for your support in donating or recycling any unwanted school jumpers and coats that are still in good, clean condition.

Many students outgrow their uniform items well before they wear out, and we would like to offer them a second life through reuse. Whether they are gently used jumpers, coats, or other school outerwear, we are collecting these items to either redistribute them to families in need or to recycle them responsibly.

How You Can Help:

- **Donate:** If you have any clean, good-quality school jumpers or coats that your child no longer needs, please consider donating them to the school. Items should be in good condition, free from tears or stains. **Can all donations pleased be washed and folded.**

The items collected will be made available to other families at no cost, and any that cannot be reused will be responsibly recycled to reduce waste. This initiative is a great way to ensure that we're all contributing to a more sustainable future.

Drop-off Details

Please bring any donations or items for recycling to the school office.

We greatly appreciate your support in helping us make a positive impact on both our school community and the environment.

Thank you for helping us work towards a greener, more sustainable future for our students!



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PTA UPDATES

OUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

'Tis the season to win BIG - and the Your School Lottery festive blockbuster Super Draw is back! Support the lottery this December and you could win a whopping £3,000 Christmas cash bonus! Hit the January sales in style, spread the joy by giving back, plan your dream holiday getaway, treat yourself to the latest tech and gadgets, the choice is yours!

[BUY LOTTERY TICKETS](#)

GLOW DISCO

Save the date for the Glow Disco on **Friday 7th February**. We have two fun packed events choose from the early Disco at 5.30-6.45pm or the later Disco 7.15-8.30pm. Tickets go on sale in January.

BISHOP SUTTON BEER FESTIVAL

THE PTA is delighted to be one of the charitable beneficiaries of the Bishop Sutton Beer Festival that is taking place at Bishop Sutton Village Hall on the 21st & 22nd February. Tickets are just £10 and include 4 half pints from some of the UK's best breweries.

[BUY BEEER FESTIVAL TICKETS](#)

