



Bishop Sutton Primary School
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NEWSLETTER 3

February 2025



Bishop Sutton Primary School

Halfway Through the Year!

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the school year! It has been an incredibly busy and productive time across the Federation, and I hope you'll forgive the extended information in this newsletter. While it is a longer read, I feel it's important to share key developments, the positive impact of ongoing work, and the strategic direction we are moving in.

The greatest joys of school are always seeing the incredible work and enthusiasm of our pupils and this term has been no exception. I have been particularly wowed by the quality of focus by children in their 'toots' music lessons, and we hope to share performances later this year – one to keep an eye out for!

The joy of outdoor learning continues to be evident with forest school sessions bringing so much excitement and it was a highlight of the term to join Cygnets on a very wet but wonderful day at Folly Farm!

This term, we have been revisiting our learning on the *Zones of Regulation* in PHSE and children have been using this to help with their emotional regulation. This is a really valuable programme and will continue to form a core part of our early social and emotional mental health support.



Linked to this, our pupils have truly embodied the value of respect through their kindness, willingness to help others, and supportive attitude—especially toward younger children. A shining example of this was during Children's Mental Health Week when Connor led a cake sale to raise funds for Place2Be, a charity supporting children's mental health. With further bakes from other children who also raised funds, a real demonstration of how respect and compassion come together to make a difference. We were so proud of them all for their efforts.



Bishop Sutton Primary School

You will hopefully be seeing the benefits of our increased text notifications, allowing for faster and more efficient sharing of information. We were also thrilled to welcome families to our first curriculum share of the year and look forward to hosting more of these events. To ensure we are sharing better information around teaching and learning, curriculum maps have been published for each class, which have been positively received. These will continue to be provided for each half term to help keep parents and carers informed on children's learning for the term ahead.

In response to feedback, and to bridge the gap between parents' evening and detailed learning updates, we are introducing mid-year reports after half term. These one-page progress summaries will be sent just before parents' evening, accompanied by a letter outlining the key details. We hope these provide valuable insights, and we welcome your feedback as we

I want to pay credit to the outstanding work of some of our teachers, both in their own classes and across our schools, strengthening our Federation and Trust. There is a significant amount of exceptional work on curriculum taking place to enhance learning within our schools. In phonics, Miss Pestell, alongside visiting literacy specialist Mrs Larner, continues to expertly implement our new phonics scheme, *Unlocking Letters and Sounds*. Her leadership ensures a significant impact across both schools. This term, Miss Gilmour has successfully introduced a new trust-wide history curriculum, enhancing staff training and ensuring children retain and enjoy their learning. In maths, Miss Nash's leadership of our *White Rose Maths* curriculum is driving consistency across the Federation. She collaborates with Boolean leads and will welcome them to Bishop Sutton next term. At Stanton Drew, we are also benefiting from the support of Mr Capel, maths lead at Portishead Primary, who is coaching staff and strengthening mixed-age planning. Finally, in personal development, Miss Wools has been meeting with our school council pupil leaders to refine our school values. This valuable work will shape class assemblies for a core vision and values designed by our pupils. I'm sure you will share my gratitude and pride to lead such a dedicated group of practitioners.

Please remember that school is closed for our trust-wide Inset day on Friday 14th February. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, 24th February. Lastly, I would like to wish you all a safe and wonderful half term and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school after the break.

Best wishes

Tim Eustace



Bishop Sutton Primary School

Exciting News: Brand-New Minibus for the Federation

We are delighted to announce the purchase of a brand-new minibus—a significant achievement made possible through funding from a local authority grant and support from the Stanton Drew Friends. Our previous bus had become increasingly costly to maintain, draining our resources and exceeding our budget. A replacement wouldn't have been possible without this vital funding—my heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this possible!

This vehicle will have a major impact on both schools, especially Stanton Drew. Its lighter design means more staff are licensed to drive it. This will enable more regular use, and open up further places for the on-site wrap-around care at Bishop Sutton for Stanton Drew pupils, including breakfast club. More details will follow as we get everything in place.



Parking Reminder at Bishop Sutton

We've received a request from local residents to kindly ask all parents and carers to be considerate when parking around Bishop Sutton school. Please avoid parking on the junction of Wick Road and Parkfield Gardens, as this can block safe crossings for pedestrians. Your cooperation in helping to ensure the safety of all our children is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your understanding!

Swimming

In addition to our curriculum run swimming lessons, the following local swimming pools have spaces available should you want your children to learn this valuable life skill.

Hengrove Pool—<https://www.leisurecentre.com/hengrove-park-leisure-centre/swim>

Paulton Pool—<https://paultonpool.org.uk/swimming-lessons/>





Bishop Sutton Primary School

DUCKLINGS

A fantastic term three for Ducklings! The children achieved a record number of seventy-nine positive play tokens in a week for their excellent play behaviour at lunchtimes which we are very proud of. We also received some lovely feedback from the people we met on our village walk about what super representatives the children were of our school. Well done Ducklings!

We have been learning all about the value of respect as part of our whole school and class assemblies, and the children have been demonstrating this well in class and their routines around the school. We also took part in Children's Mental Health Week where the children had the opportunity to learn all about our emotions and the toolkits we can use to help us self-regulate.

In our learning, the children are now beginning to write sentences using some simple punctuation such as capital letters and full stops and in phonics we are now mastering the phase 3 sounds and common exception words. In maths, we have been counting to twenty and beyond and focusing on numbers 6,7,8 and understanding what is 1 more, 1 less and the composition of these numbers.

As part of our learning on people who help us in the community, we had a visit from Dr Layzell and Dr Sargant who did a fantastic lesson on the role of doctors and the children even got to explore some of the medical equipment. A highlight of the activity was trying to guess what the x-rays showed, but none of us guessed the right answer that the x-ray of the skull belonged to Mr Eustace!





Bishop Sutton Primary School

CYGNETS

It has been another great term in Cygnets Class. It is wonderful to see the children making progress and being so kind and caring towards one another.

Thank you to all families for your continued support through reading at home with children. It was also wonderful to see so many of you who could attend our open afternoon looking at the children's work with them.

Cygnets have been enjoying our English learning this term! The book 'Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf' was interesting in the way Gina travelled into Little Red Riding Hood's world. Cygnets have been super imaginative during our 'Beegu' focus. They found some clues and letters from Beegu too which has been very mysterious and provoked some brilliant writing.

In Science we have been learning about different materials and their properties such as how absorbent, waterproof, stretchy things are. This has come in handy for our DT learning about making kites. Let's hope our final kites fly! Fingers crossed!

In PSHE we have been delving deeper into the "Zones of Regulation". The 4 zones are associated with different emotions. There is no 'bad' or 'wrong' emotions, but there are different ways we can regulate when we feel certain ways. So we have come up with a toolkit for each Zone, tools that can be used to help regulate when needed.

The children in Cygnets give their best in PE lessons, they are so creative in their Gymnastics lessons; learning different jumps, lands and ways to travel. They are so resilient in our "Hit Catch Run" lessons, developing different ball skills. There is definitely a competitive streak throughout the class!





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HERONS

Heron Class have had another great term in Year 2, and have been working hard with their learning.

English:

This term in English we have used different texts to support our learning including 'After the Fall' and 'Starbird'. We worked hard to write a retell and a setting description.

Maths:

We learned about addition, subtraction and money. We practically investigated money, and built on our prior learning of addition and subtraction.

Science:

We have been learning about Animals including Humans. We have Learned about lifecycles, characteristics of living things, and investigated animals and their young.

History:

In History we have learned about Isambard Kingdom Brunel and The Suspension Bridge. We learned who Brunel was and about how his work changed Bristol.

Art:

We have learned about abstract colour and lines. We made pieces of art inspired by the work of Kandinsky.

Heron Class Highlight:

A highlight of this term has been going on our Folly Farm trip where we learned about what animals (including humans) need to survive, and the basic principles of fire lighting and shelter building.





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SWANS

We've had another fantastic busy term in Swans.

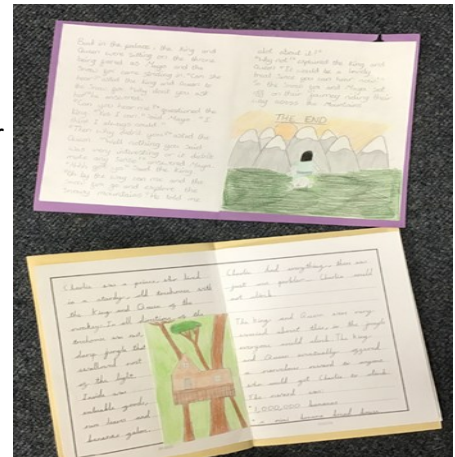
We've been enjoying music this term and have learnt a rap about bullying. We then composed our own verses and created a class rap which we performed in singing assembly to the rest of the school.

In art, we have been learning about Batik. We have looked at different Batik artists and compared their work. We then planned and designed our own art work based on those we had looked at. We have also been learning to how weave.



We have been focusing on multiplication and division in maths, using our times table facts to multiply and divide larger numbers.

In English, we read The Iron Man and wrote our own stories inspired by the book and we have been creating an article for a science magazine based on The Ever Changing Earth. We've really enjoyed publishing our work.



We visited Chew Valley School for a netball festival and had the opportunity to learn about the game and play with children from other local primary schools.

In history, we have been thinking about 'What happened after the Roman's left' and learning about the Anglo Saxons. We looked at how they lived and the changes that happened. We particularly enjoyed deciphering codes in Runes and creating our own.



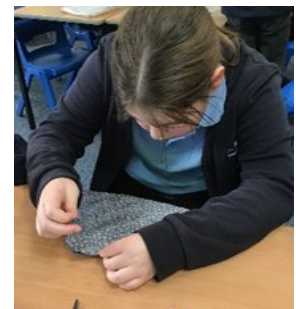
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SWALLOWS



Year 5 have been busy, and the term has flown by! In science, we have been learning about Space. I have been so impressed with the classes' knowledge and enthusiasm. We had a brilliant trip to 'We The Curious', where we took part in a workshop called, 'The Earth, Sun and Moon', and we also got to see a show in the planetarium. This was a firm favourite of the day for many children (and staff!) as they got to experience the solar system. There was so much else to discover at We The Curious- we didn't want the day to end!

In DT, we have been designing and sewing cushions. We have experimented using a running stitch, back stitch and blanket stitch. The whole class have demonstrated amazing perseverance, and have also been brilliant at helping each other. They can't wait to show everyone their final work!

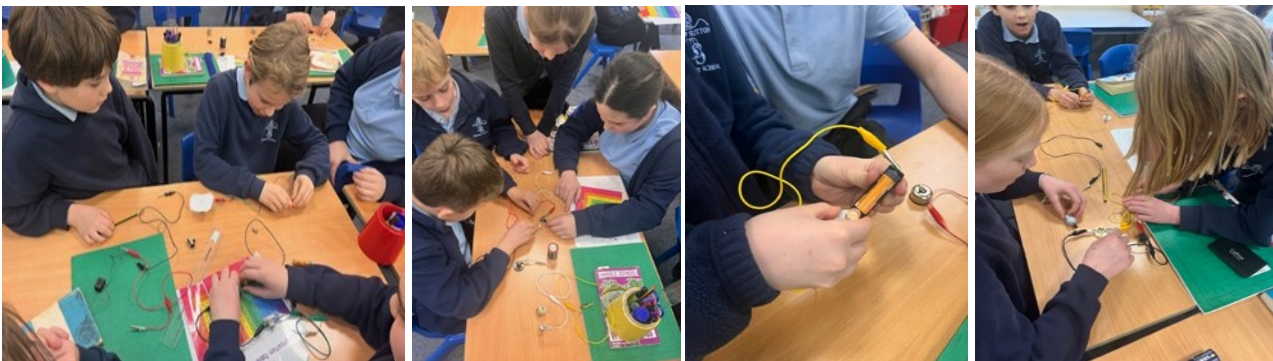




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KINGFISHERS

This term, Kingfishers have been diving into the exciting world of electricity! We've been learning all about how circuits work and the different components that make them function. The children have been exploring what factors affect the performance of circuit components, such as resistors, bulbs, and switches, and how each part contributes to the overall circuit. In addition to understanding how circuits work, we've also been troubleshooting! The children have been investigating how to identify and fix faults in circuits, sharpening their problem-solving skills and gaining a hands-on understanding of electrical systems.



Kingfishers also had the fantastic opportunity to attend a debating session at Downside School, where they learned the art of argument and how to present their points of view confidently. The trip sparked a series of thought-provoking debates back in the classroom. Some of the exciting topics debated include:

- *Should we have to wear a school uniform?*
- *Should animals be kept in zoos?*

The children have been developing their critical thinking and public speaking skills, while also considering different perspectives. It's been an excellent experience for Year 6, fostering a passion for debate and encouraging them to think deeply about the world around them.





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KEY DATES

<u>Key Dates</u>	
February	
	Year 2 – Folly Farm – email sent – please pay on Parentpay
Thursday 13 th	End of Term 3
Friday 14 th	INSET DAY – School closed to children

Term 4

<u>Key Dates</u>	
February	
Monday 24 th	Start of Term 4
Tuesday 25 th	Sponsored Pancake Flip—please send in sponsor money on Parentpay or in cash
March	
Thursday 6 th	World Book Day—see info below
Friday 7 th	PTA Glow disco 5.30pm village hall
Tuesday 11 th	Reception – Folly Farm – letter to follow
Wednesday 12 th	Year 2 Gymnastics Festival – Chew Valley School
Thursday 20 th	Year 5 ONLINE meeting for Charterhouse 5pm – details to follow
Tuesday 25 th	Parents’ Consultation Evening
Thursday 27 th	Parents’ Consultation Evening
Friday 28 th	PTA Mufti day. Chocolate donations for the Easter Fayre please
Friday 28 th	Reception story afternoon for parents 3pm – please come along to share a story
April	
Thursday 3 rd	Year 2 SS Great Britain Trip – letter to follow
Friday 4 th	PTA Easter Fayre – 3pm school hall
Friday 4 th	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



Bishop Sutton Primary School

KEY DATES

SPONSORED PANCAKE FLIP!

All children will take part in a sponsored pancake flip on Tuesday 25th February.

Please pay all sponsor money on Parentpay or in cash if you prefer by end February.

All money raised will go towards fiction books for the classrooms and non-fiction books for the library.

Thank you!



TERM 4 PE DAYS

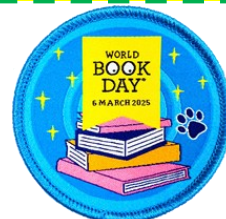
Ducklings: Thursday and Friday
Cygnets: Monday and Thursday
Herons: Monday and Wednesday
Wrens: Tuesday and Friday
Swans: Tuesday and Friday
Swallows: Tuesday and Thursday
Kingfishers: Monday and Wednesday

World Book Day

Thursday 6th March

We will be celebrating books in school with a variety of activities, but also realise that some children enjoy dressing up. With that in mind, children from both schools can dress up as a book character or the children can bring in something they have made to celebrate books. This could be a picture/new blurb/own story based on a book/decorated plate or potato etc. or just bring in a favourite book to share in class. Children may also wear non-uniform if they prefer.

We would be very grateful for a £1 donation to go towards books for the school. 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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Mental Health Week

As part of our commitment to supporting the mental well-being of our students, we've celebrated **Children's Mental Health Week** in a way that's both engaging and meaningful for everyone involved. Our children have shown great enthusiasm, and we're thrilled to share some of the activities that have taken place:

Our dedicated Children's Mental Health Ambassadors took the lead in an assembly this week, offering valuable insights on the importance of mental health.

Personality Islands Activity (Inspired by *Inside Out*)

In one of the most creative activities, the students designed their own **Personality Islands**—a fun and reflective activity inspired by the movie *Inside Out*. The children explored different emotions and how they shape unique aspects of a person's personality, helping children reflect on what makes them feel happy, calm, confident, or joyful.

Scavenger Hunt

To promote teamwork and problem-solving while focusing on emotional well-being, we organized a **Mental Health Scavenger Hunt**. Children worked in teams, hunting for clues that helped them discover each of the emotions from the *Inside Out* movie.

Non-Uniform Day & Cake Sale

Our students have shown tremendous generosity by helping to raise money for mental health causes. On **Non-Uniform Day**, children came to school dressed in their colourful clothes and donated to the cause. The fundraising efforts continued with a delightful **Cake Sale**, organized by a very thoughtful and enterprising student. Thanks to their hard work, the event was a huge success, and we raised significant funds to support children's mental health initiatives.

Thank you to all the students, staff, and families who contributed to making this week so special. We will continue to focus on mental health throughout the year, creating a supportive environment where every child feels seen, heard and valued.





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PTA UPDATES

GLOW DISCO

Save the date for the Glow Disco on **Friday 7th March** in Bishop Sutton Village Hall. 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 available to buy now

[BUY DISCO TICKETS](#)

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

Win a Year of Adventures in 2025 when you play our lottery this February - or £1,000 cash! You could win an annual family membership for English Heritage, the National Trust, and a Merlin Pass too! Get your tickets before Saturday 22nd February for your chance to win! Explore historic castles with an English Heritage membership or visit National Trust sites. Use your Merlin Pass on a London trip to see Madame Tussauds and the London Eye, terrify yourselves at the York or Edinburgh Dungeons, take the children to experience the wonder of LEGOLAND – or thrill seekers can have the time of their lives at Thorpe Park or Alton Towers.

[BUY LOTTERY TICKETS](#)

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 BEER FESTIVAL TICKETS](#)