



BCS NEWS

27th September 2024

*Fulfilling our potential, achieving excellence together
We are a Good school with Outstanding Early Years Provision*

Head's News

Today we marked National Teaching Assistant Day. Once upon a time, a Teaching Assistant made the teacher a cup of tea, put up a display and did photocopying. There was time for a chat in the staffroom, or over a hot drink on the playground, and time to wash the paint pots before the end of the school day...and still make it home on time.

Now however, the role is so vastly different. The expectations of a Teaching Assistant are enormous, the demands on their time and the need for flexibility is more critical than ever before as we pack more and more into the school day to give the children in our care the very best, rich, rigorous and broad education.

Teaching Assistants support in and out of the classrooms, in interventions, give extra support and challenge, and form as strong a relationship with the pupils as the teachers, to ensure the children flourish and thrive. They are the dynamic and energetic hub of the school, demonstrating patience, care and nurture to all our children. Teaching Assistants are flexible, often called to work in different places, tend to a wide variety of needs and find solutions to problems that arise at the drop of the hat. A successful Teacher and Teaching Assistant partnership makes for a formidably strong teaching team that ensures every child in the class is heard, spoken to and helped to progress in every lesson. A Teaching Assistant teaches children about resolving conflicts peacefully, how to play new games on the playground and tends to wounds when injured.

Teaching Assistants are, quite frankly, one of the most important cogs in our school wheel. We would all be lost without them. So, with this newsletter, I send my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to my incredible team of Teaching Assistants to turn up to work each day with a smile, ready for the unpredictable, exuding patience and a determination to make the children's days the very best they possibly can be.

Key Dates

Monday 30th September
Year 4 trip to Tonbridge

Tuesday 1st October
9.30am: Supporting Your Child's Anxiety course

Weds 2nd October
Year 6 trip to Tonbridge School

Friday 4th October
9am: FOBCSA AGM

Monday 7th October
9am Harvest Service – St Stephen's church

Weds 9th October
5.15pm – first PTA meeting at school and on Teams

Weds 10th October
6.30pm EYFS 2025 Open Evening

Friday 25th October
Flu immunisations
END OF TERM 1

Mon 28th Oct – 1st Nov
HALF TERM

Monday 4th November
START OF TERM 2



Thank you!



In other news

School Shoes

There are a growing number of children arriving at school wearing incorrect school shoes. Please adhere to our [uniform policy](#) and ensure that children's shoes are plain black, with no coloured logos. Children should not be wearing branded trainers. As the weather becomes colder and wetter, we do accept plain black ankle boots for girls.

Smart Watches

As more pupils have their own smart phones, we are also aware that more children are wearing smart watches to school. In line with our [acceptable usage policy](#), if your child wears a smart watch to school, it will need to be handed in along with their phone at the start of the day and collected at the end, to ensure our pupils are safe at school.



Year 3 Forest School this week

Harvest Festival – Monday 7th October



On Monday 7th October we will be celebrating Harvest at the Church of St Stephen's, TN9 2SW. Every pupil will meet at St Stephen's church in Tonbridge from 8.45am so that we are seated for a 9am start. Pupils are invited to bring donations for our Harvest collection (tinned, dried or packaged food or hygiene items) which will be donated to the [FEAST Community Larder](#). After the service, we will all walk back to school. For those new to the school, this really is a wonderful experience for the children - all children from EYFS to Year 6 walking,

talking and singing as they go, up the main road. Sometimes some little legs get a bit tired, but they all manage it and have a huge sense of pride as they reach the school gate at the end. Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat and their usual school bag. Please do not bring in umbrellas that day as it makes it very difficult for the children to walk safely back to school if they are also trying to hold an umbrella.

We are unable to invite parents to the service this time, as our children and staff take up the whole church. If you are able to volunteer to help us walk back to church, we would be grateful for some extra support. Please let the office know if you are able to help: office@bishopchavasseschool.org.uk.

Disabled parking space in the school car park

A reminder to parents that the disabled parking bays in the school park are used regularly by parents and children who have a blue badge: please do not park your car in these spaces unless you have a blue badge.

Goodbye to our site manager, Jared

Today is a sad day for Bishop Chavasse as we bid a fond farewell to Mr Prakash, our site manager, known to every child and adult in the school as Jared. Jared has worked here since 2022, during which time he has worked tirelessly mending, building, trouble-shooting, drilling, digging... We asked the children what Jared does: "fixes things"; "transports stuff", "takes care of the plant room", "anything and everything around the school". Every challenge has been tackled with good humour and diligence, whether it's sorting out wasps nests, fixing the alarm system, building a water play area, creating staff passes, clearing snow, building our huge stage for the nativities, coming out of hours to open up, lock up, clean, clear and fix. He has become a familiar friendly face to the children on the Walking Buses, to the parents on the turning circle, and



to every member of staff who have always been able to say "Jared can sort it!"

We want to thank Jared for all he has done and wish him every success for what comes next. Jared has said he will be reading the newsletter every week to keep in touch with all that we're doing, and he will miss us as much as we will miss him.



Help children stay safe and manage wellbeing on chat apps – part 2 in our online safety series

Messaging and chat apps are a great way for a child to stay in touch with their friends and family but it's important you are comfortable with who they are talking to and how they are talking.

Talk to your child about who they're chatting to, how they know them and how they interact with them. Remind them to be conscious of who they're sharing personal information with and not to share information with people they haven't met before. This includes information like their name, location, email, phone number and school name.

WhatsApp is one of the most popular instant messaging apps. All you need to set up a WhatsApp account is a phone number but it does have an **age rating of 13+**. Chat apps bring with them potential dangers such as: unwanted contact, pressure to respond, location sharing, inappropriate content and cyberbullying.

To make chat apps safer for children:

- Get to know privacy settings
- Make use of safety features
- Talk about sharing
- Set rules about location sharing
- Check in regularly



Like with any social media app, it isn't possible to control what other people choose to share online. What is funny to one person, may cause upset to another, and content may be misinterpreted. If your child is being treated unkindly, sees unkind treatment within a group, or inappropriate content is being shared, then this is not acceptable and needs to be reported. Taking screenshots can be a useful way of saving the evidence.

Let your child know that they can always come to you for help and support if they see anything that concerns, upsets, or confuses them online, without worrying about judgement. Open dialogue is key. Encouraging your child to discuss what they enjoy about a specific app can be a helpful bridge to talking about safety messages and more difficult issues in the future.

- When we share things online, we can't always see each other's faces or hear each other speak.
- Sometimes this means we can forget to be kind
- We can be kind online by always checking with a trusted adult before we share a photo or send a message.
- We can also stop and think about how a photo or message might make someone feel.
- If we are not sure, then it's best not to share it.

5 ways you can be kind online from BUPA:

1. Treat others how you want to be treated
2. Random acts of online kindness
2. Random acts of online kindness
3. Adopt a positive tone
4. Pause before you post
5. Avoid Digital Drama.

[Be kind online: How to spread kindness and compassion online \(bupa.com.au\)](https://www.bupa.com.au)

Be kind online from the BBC:

[How to be kind online - BBC Bitesize](#)



Tips for managing wellbeing

online from the NSPCC

[Supporting children's wellbeing online | NSPCC](#)

Cyber bullying

[What To Do When Your Child Cyberbullies Others: Tips for Parents \(cyberbullying.org\)](#)

First PTA meeting: Weds 9th October at 5.15pm

We are extremely excited to be setting up a new PTA to raise funds for our school, and to support and engage the whole parent community. The first meeting will be on **Wednesday 9th October at 5.15pm** in the school hall, and we will share the meeting online via Teams for those who would like to come but cannot attend due to other commitments.


Please come along if you have any kind of interest in the new PTA: whether you're thinking about a role on the committee, or you have fundraising or social event ideas, a skill to offer, or any thoughts to share.

The school will provide refreshments for the first meeting. When we meet we will agree a date for the PTA's first Annual General Meeting, at which we hope parents and teaching staff will be elected to the different roles on the [PTA committee](#). We will also map out possible first events, including what the PTA could organise for Christmas!

The new Parent Teacher Association will be a collaboration between dedicated staff members (who are already eager to start) and parents and carers. All parents and carers of children attending Bishop Chavasse, and all teaching and non-teaching staff at the school, will automatically become members of the PTA.

We hope to see you on 9th October. If you are planning to come, please drop us a line to pta@bishopchavasseschool.org.uk so we have an idea of numbers for refreshments.

Headteacher Heroes – winners this week for showing GROWTH MINDSET:

Iyaanah – 1PU Braydn – 1A Flynn – 2F Charis – 2CS Leyland – 3A Hanani – 3LT		Bella – 4R Harriet – 4C Gabriella – 5N Maddie - 5H Tino – 6S Elodie – 6C
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Times Tables Rock Stars

Congratulations to Key Stage 2 children who have scored the highest practising their Times Tables this week:

3A – Olivia	5H - Nadiya
3LT – Lia	5N - Kieran
4R – Millie	6C - Aradhya
4C – Favour	6S – Savi

Golden book

- Arthur (1A) – for amazing writing in class
- Tiger (5H) – for really effective vocab and fronted adverbials
- Katalin (5H) – for superb editing skills with her written work
- Donald and Tom B (1PU) – for beautiful hand writing
- Joshua (5N) – for several pages of homework in his Diary of an Astronaut

Attendance

In third place this week with 98.6% are 3LT, in second place with 98.7% are 4C, and in first place with 99.4% are 1A!

Bishop Chavasse shield winner

Well done to Arthur in 1PU for showing respect - he wins a £7 book token, courtesy of FOB CSA.



Out of school achievements

- Ivy (2CS) – green stripe belt in taekwondo
- Leni (5N) – aerial championship certificate
- Teddie (2CS) (left) – Stage 2 swimming

FOBCSA update

FOBCSA: Annual General Meeting

FOBCSA will be holding our final Annual General Meeting next **Friday 4th of October at 9.00am** at school in the Strand room. This notice is also to inform all parents and carers that after seven years of Friends of Bishop Chavasse School Association, of which four years as a charity, it will be closed.

We hope to see you all to say goodbye on 4th October. Immediately after the AGM, we will be going out to the Forest School area, weather permitting, to officially open the Forest School shelter, which was purchased with £4,270 of FOBCSA funds.



LIGHT PARTY

HOT DOGS

Thursday 31st October

SHORT TALK

Year 1 - Year 6

GAMES

Craft

WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND?

5-7pm St Peter & St Paul

Sign up via *EVENTS* tab on website (£2 per child, £5 for 3 or more children)

www.tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk