

BCS NEWS

9th January 2026



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

Head's News

With this newsletter I wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope everyone had wonderful festive breaks and were able to spend the days at a different pace. Now in term 3, we are already in full swing with new learning and opportunities for the children. Every classroom was alive with excitable children on Monday morning, friends delighted to be reunited and share tales of Christmases, but in the blink of an eye, when lessons started, every single pupil settled seamlessly into really positive learning behaviour with hands going up to answer questions and work completed to a high standard despite a two-week break; true testament to how embedded the routines of school are in the children and how positively they respond.

2026 brings with it many new and exciting experiences which will unfold over the course of the year. One of which is a national campaign close to our hearts at Bishop Chavasse. 2026 is the **National Year of Reading**, with a campaign entitled *Go All In*, led by the National Literacy Trust in collaboration with the Department for Education. Designed to spark curiosity and drive behaviour change, the campaign focuses on appeal, not duty, and highlights the immediate rewards of reading; as David Hayman, the *Go All In* director says "Reading is one of the most powerful tools we have to connect, create and grow."



Squirrels enjoying being read to, and reading for themselves, in the school library today

This is something we know at Bishop Chavasse, and something that throughout my tenure we have worked to promote. We have invested both financially and academically in promoting reading for pleasure here at school; overhauling our library to ensure every book aligns with the aspirational curriculum we have for our children, but also high quality texts and illustrations that will draw children in to the awe and wonder of a story. We celebrate [Book Week](#) in style - you may have seen [videos on the website](#), and I can assure you, this year's will not disappoint.

All our staff talk about their love of reading, we have set Summer reading challenges, displayed Reading posters, made bunting of our favourite books, been entertained by a plethora of authors - we know just how extraordinarily wonderful it is to love reading, and also how children engage more in their learning if they love reading and therefore make better progress through the years.

During 2026, we will be inviting parents, carers, children and staff to participate in *Go All In* online events, training, activities and more and look forward to sharing a calendar of events with you all when *Go All In* launches next week.

Key Dates

Thurs 15th January
9.15am: 4M meet the teacher

Weds 21st January
6S electricity workshop

Thurs 22nd January
6C electricity workshop

Fri 23rd January
Year 4 Roman workshop

Fri 30th January
 Inspiring every child

Whole school sports event with a special guest!

Fri 6th February



Fri 13th February
End of term 3



In other news

Worship this week

Worship this week has focused on the wise men: their journey to meet baby Jesus and the gifts they brought him, with readings from Matthew.

Thought of the week

How can you be a light for someone this week: a smile, a helping hand, a brave moment or a kind word? We linked this back to our school value of compassion when we introduced this on Monday morning.

2026/27 term dates and two-week October half term

We emailed out next school year's [term dates for 2026/27](#) yesterday and with it the news that we will be trialling a two-week October half term. This decision has been taken together with many other Tenax Trust schools and brings Bishop Chavasse in line with most other Tonbridge primary and secondary schools. Schools in England are legally required to provide at least 190 days of education. The changes we are making to the school year mean that we will still have 190 days of learning in school: the difference is in the scheduling of the five statutory INSET days for staff – for example, staff are returning two days earlier in August 2026. We appreciate that having a two-week half term will impact on families in different ways, and will be seeking feedback as to whether we make the trial a permanent feature of our school year in November 2026.

Uniform, coats and accessories

As the winter months drive us to layer up, protect our fingers with gloves, our heads with hats and necks with scarves, please can we ask that parents ensure all items are clearly labelled and that your children recognise their belongings. It is impossible to reunite unlabelled clothing with owners, but also incredibly difficult when children don't recognise even labelled items as their own and discard them in classrooms or on the playground.

A reminder that footwear should be sensible school shoes, not branded trainers or big fluffy boots - in the event of snow, children will be able to come to school in boots and change into shoes inside, but boots should not be worn as the only footwear - they inhibit movement in the classroom, can lead to children feeling too warm inside.

Packed lunches

A reminder that if your child in KS2 brings in a packed lunch from home it should contain healthy food items only, must be nut-free, and no fizzy drinks or chocolate bars.

Year 6 hoodies

Year 6 were presented with their Leavers' hoodies this week, which they can wear with pride on PE days and own clothes days for the remainder of the school year. An enormous amount of admin goes on behind-the-scenes to make the hoodies happen: huge thanks to Mrs Maybury, Mrs Ashdown and Mrs Mannering.





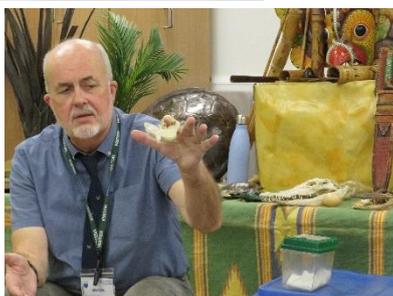
Early Years: people who help us

Early Years children were treated to a new year's visit from the lovely dental manager and nurse at [Stradbrook Dental & Implant Clinic](#), teaching them all about their teeth, how to brush them and look after them by eating and drinking healthily. The children had a go at brushing the teeth of some toothy soft toys! Each child received a goody bag to take home, including an egg timer to ensure they brush their teeth for two minutes.



Year 5 Rainforest workshop

Rainforest expert [Andrew Smith](#) hosted an immersive workshop for Year 5 today. Andrew films insects for the BBC and is a tarantula expert! He took the children on an imaginary trip into the Amazon, where they encountered creatures, plants and artefacts.



Headteacher Heroes – winners this week for showing this month's value of CREATIVITY:

Badgers – Logan
Squirrels - Marcus
1A – Amelia
1BF – Ben
2F – Archie
2A – Sienna
3A – Ambrose



3FW – Flynn
4R – Tommy
4M – Louis
5N – Jonah
5H – Mira
6C – Chankya
6S – Zander



Times Tables Rock Stars – highest scores this week:

3A – Elizabeth
3FW – Kamila
4R – Leo
4G – Reggie
5H - Oliver
5N - Vritika
6S – Laurie
6C - Alex

Gold book

Austin, Seb and Laurie (6S) – for their DT project building a realistic playground using junk modelling
Teddie L, Aoife and Ted (3FW) – for Christmas-themed writing using adverbs and expanded noun phrases
Chloe and Lia (4R) – producing and performing a play based on their class book
Ambrose (3A) – well constructed sentences in his English work



Bishop Chavasse Shield winner

Well done to Ritanya - she wins a £7 book token for showing kindness to a classmate, giving them her prize during a game.

Attendance

In third place with 98.33% is 1BF; in second place with 99.21% is 3FW and in first place with an unassailable 100% is 5H!



Out of school achievements

Meaghan (5N) – trophy for 'pupil of the year 2025' and moving on to yellow belt with a white stripe in Taekwondo.

Heather (Squirrels) and Jacob (Squirrels) - both completed their 11th Junior Parkrun and received half marathon wristbands.

Jacob (right) also completed a 5km charity run 'Mental Elf' supporting West Kent Mind charity in December.

Lucie (2A) – medal for Razzamataz.



PTA update

The Bishop Chavasse PTA Disco will be on Friday 6th February 2026!

After the popularity of last year's disco we are once again having a GLOW disco featuring a fantastic DJ ready to take requests and have the children dance the night away! There will also be a team of face painters ready to make the glow experience more spectacular with neon glow face paints. These will be illuminated by UV lighting in the hall. For the best results at a glow party we encourage the children to wear white! Children will receive sweets and unlimited drink refills (allergies will be checked and taken into account beforehand).

The cost of the disco will be £5 per child. If you are a family with 3 or more children attending the school please contact the PTA via email at pta@bishopchavasseschool.org.uk to discuss a family discount for your children. Tickets



go on sale on Arbor at 6pm on Friday 9th January! Ticket sales will close Wednesday 4th February at 4pm. After this point tickets will not be sold as numbers will need to be finalised and confirmed.

We will be holding three discos to ensure as many children as possible can attend:

3.45pm – 4.45pm: EY, Years 1 and 2

5.15pm – 6.15pm: Years 3 and 4

6.45pm-7.45pm: Years 5 and 6

There will be a chill-out room for any children to take a break from the partying.

For the EY/Y1 & Y2 disco, children attending will be looked after at school from 3.15pm to get changed into their disco outfits and have any pre-disco snacks.

Please note that after school clubs will be running as usual: if you do not wish your child to attend their club, you will need to let us know beforehand.

We would love any parent/carer volunteers to help out. If you are available and would like to volunteer please complete the following form: [Volunteer for Disco – Fill out form](#)

or email pta@bishopchavasseschool.org.uk and let us know which disco(s) you can help at.

We will send further details nearer the time, including club dismissal instructions, but if you do have any questions now, please email us.

Even more excitingly, our next **PTA meeting is on Tuesday 13th January at 8pm** – please do join us to hear what's happening in 2026 and get as involved as you would like!

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/37123912666064?p=E8XvstX4RMOGUArDFU>

Meeting ID: 371 239 126 660 64

Passcode: DG3W5Ca3