

Bishop Road Primary School

Bishop Road, Bristol BS7 8LS



Head Teacher: Gillian Powe

Deputy Head Teacher: Joe Emissah

Thursday 11th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update Letter

We have all been eagerly awaiting the government's review of their initial plans to return all pupils to school for a month prior to the summer break. The decision not to proceed with this plan will have come as a disappointment to many, preventing the much valued time in school to support children's conclusion of this academic year. Instead of wider reopening, the government have stated that they will be creating a 'priority list' detailing which further small groups of children could be invited back this academic year in order of priority. At this stage, the details of how children will be prioritised has not been shared with schools.

Based on the first days of welcoming children back this week, we anticipate that we have further capacity to accommodate the return of more children this side of the summer. However, at this time, unless the government amend their existing guidance, it will not be possible to extend beyond a maximum of one additional year group or an equivalent group of 'priority list' children. This is not a reflection of school resources, but rather the incompatibility of operating with fixed teaching groups for both year groups and key workers simultaneously.

I know this will come as a disappointment as, consequently, the majority of the children currently not in school will be highly unlikely to return this academic year. As we await the advice on this next stage of reopening, we continue to plan for various different arrangements to enable us to act swiftly when the advice is provided.

Some parents may be surprised to know that the information schools receive is largely from press briefings with no advanced information produced for schools or the Local Authority. In this regard, we all share a degree of frustration that we are limited in our ability to give a full picture at present. If the government does not provide further guidance in a timely fashion, we will make a decision about how best to proceed.



Home Learning – the summer term and beyond

We understand the challenges of delivering home learning to one or more children in the current situation and are hugely appreciative of the time invested by parents and carers in this process. As families of children in Years 2 – 5, we know you have continued to spend time supporting your children over many weeks and in a situation where now, for many, their siblings have begun to return to school. Thank you for your commitment in this; the hours of energy will all contribute to the best possible reintegration for your children when the time for their return to school arrives.

At the current time, nearly all teachers are undertaking a fulltime teaching commitment with only a small number of staff working to produce home learning. We hope to be able to maintain this provision until the end of term and teachers will continue to produce letters and videos for their classes on alternate weeks as usual.

The current format for home learning will not extend beyond the summer term. We are already considering how home learning in the future could link to part time schooling in a way that supports children and families more effectively but clearly this would be a different approach to that undertaken in the extraordinary circumstances this school year.

We know families will be managing the home learning process differently and many have found other resources from The [Oak National Academy](#), [BBC Bitesize](#) and other resources too. Regardless of how you have approached this process in your family, above all else we highly recommend you prioritise time spent reading to and with your child each day. This time is a great investment and will support them most broadly.

As the small number of staff continue to produce weekly home learning, they will be varying some aspects of the format. They will also indicate some work is recommended and optional; this is to support families of children in school on a part time basis to identify what work they should undertake with their children.

Communication

The Year Group email is the principle communication into school for the remainder of this term. Please mark your email for the attention of your child's current class teacher. Please include the teacher's name or class name in the subject. Teachers will be checking this account regularly and will read and respond as soon as possible. We will aim to respond, by email or with a call, by the end of the next school day if not before.

Year group email addresses are below and can also be found on the contacts section of the school website.

yearR@bishoproadschool.co.uk

year1@bishoproadschool.co.uk

year2@bishoproadschool.co.uk

year3@bishoproadschool.co.uk

year4@bishoproadschool.co.uk

year5@bishoproadschool.co.uk

year6@bishoproadschool.co.uk



Cultural moments

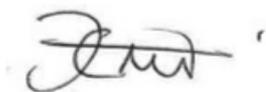
Our children are witnessing many events that will form distinct memories and shape their development and personal stories. Our city has played a significant role in a much wider historical narrative and this is rightly integrated into our teaching at Bishop Road. The power of educators (teachers and parents alike) to encourage children to analyse and discuss challenging topics is very important. So often I find that children at a primary age bring a wonderfully refreshing openness with their readiness to see everyone as equal- naming unfair treatment and helping others.

One of our core school values 'accept and value one another' is born out of a passion to create a culture of inclusion and unity. This is supported through Black History Month, school assemblies and our relationship with SARI (Stand Against Racism and Intolerance), who this year joined us to deliver assemblies to all. These messages are an important part of how we educate the children of Bishop Road and achieve an integrated and welcoming culture with a zero tolerance approach to discrimination.

If you are interested in resources to support any discussions you may be having at home I recommend the Black Bristolians online resource archive - [see link](#).

At a time when there is great pressure on families and everyone in schools alike, thank you for your understanding. The staff team have been greatly encouraged by some of the words of support. We will continue to develop our plans in preparation for an additional year group or specified 'priority list' children to return later this month and will contact you at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Emissah
Deputy Head Teacher

