

Bishop Road Primary School

Bishop Road, Bristol BS7 8LS



Head Teacher: Gillian Powe

Deputy Head Teacher: Joe Emissah

Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Update Letter

The term is racing by and children have enjoyed what may be the last of the good weather as the autumn equinox this week brought such a stark end to the summer warmth. The drop in temperature has not halted the enjoyment of Year 3 children as they began their outdoor learning sessions at the school field. This aspect of our school curriculum is greatly enjoyed by all and, as in previous years, all classes will look forward to their series of lessons which are always rewarding and often muddy. With the change of season, please do ensure your child is dressed appropriately for playtimes and breaktimes which will continue in all weathers!

Covid absence reporting – email first

With a large school community it is hugely supportive when information goes directly to the most relevant member of staff. You can greatly help the administration of the school by following the guidance below:

- From today all covid-related absences should be **emailed before 8 am each day** to info@bishoproadschool.co.uk.

For any other absences, including general illness, please call the school office and leave a message. If you have emailed about a covid-absence and also want to speak to a member of staff, please do call the office but we ask that all families follow the daily 8 am email deadline in the first instance.

- If you are awaiting a test result, we ask that you email every day of the absence before 8am. In this instance, work will be provided.
- If you have a negative test, please email to confirm you have a negative result and that your child will be returning to school.
- If you receive a positive result, please email and confirm the earliest day on which your child may be able to return to school. This will be a minimum of 10 days. Please see [government guidance](#) for further details.

Following this system greatly aids us in ensuring children who need home learning work and support receive this promptly without unnecessary communication and follow up calls to establish the reason for absence.



Parents' evening

This year parents' evening appointments will be held virtually via Zoom, with meetings staggered for different year groups over the weeks commencing 5th & 12th October. We trust that this appointment will provide an opportunity to talk with the teacher about your child's start to the new academic year and how they have settled in this term. Further information about booking your appointment will be sent out on Monday 28th September during the day and the appointment times will be released from 6pm the same day.

Please support our vulnerable families

As the national situation continues to change, we would ask parents and carers to pay particular attention to social distancing when entering the school site. The confluence points where people are joining the one way system from different directions (when entering from the pavements on Bishop Road and Monk Rd) are an area in which everyone should take additional care to maintain social distancing. This is particularly important for the members of our community who are vulnerable and were previously shielding. If we are all mindful of the need to social distance, especially at these areas of the school, it reduces risk and worry for many of these higher risk members of our community.

School meals

The school decision to limit contact between groups of children to individual classes (as opposed to year groups) is planned to reduce the impact on the community in the case of any positive tests. We hope this will minimise any absences by keeping contact groups to 30, but this approach restricts our use of halls for lunches and has many knock-on organisational consequences, in particular around lunches and playground use.

Having commenced school meals this week, some of the logistical challenges around serving hot meals to each class have meant we have had to review the meals offer. From Monday 5th October, we will be offering a simplified school meal offer which will be a cold roll or wrap. We are working with the caterers to explore ways of returning to hot school meals as early as possible, and will update you as soon we are able to. If you have booked a hot school meal, your child will automatically receive a cold packed lunch from the kitchen. Only if you want to change your child's meal pattern, complete [this form](#) by 5pm Tuesday 30th September. Next week, hot meals will continue.

- The children will have a daily choice of a ham, cheese or tuna roll with a biscuit/cake and a piece of fruit on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- On Tuesday and Thursday, this will be a wrap with the same fillings to choose from.
- Allergies will be catered for. Please call the school office if you are concerned about your child's dietary needs.

This is a short term and necessary change and we will be developing a wider menu for Term 2 in November. Thank you for your understanding as we adapt to so many changes in the running of the day.



Home learning

The new home learning arrangements using the Class Dojo platform are almost ready to be used by children, with the vast majority of parents having completed the web form to enable us to set up accounts. Early next week, we will begin using Class Dojo to provide home learning for both individual covid-related absences and any class closures. Mr Barr will send further details for families at the beginning of the week to ensure you are able to access this immediately in the case of covid-related absence.

If you have not signed up to the learning platform please visit [this link](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Emissah
Deputy Head Teacher

