

# Bishop Road Primary School

Bishop Road, Bristol BS7 8LS



Head Teacher: Gillian Powe

Deputy Head Teacher: Joe Emissah

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Head Teacher Letter No.2/20-21

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have arrived at the end of a very busy term one and I am so grateful for all the encouragement and good will we have received as we reopened. OFSTED visited last week and we explained how we had focused on returning to full time education for everyone as soon as possible. These interim visits are fact finding exercises for the DFE but we found time to express our views about some of their expectations. We affirmed our community's supportive and positive response and the children's enthusiasm to be in school once more. There will be a letter to you all in due course but it is very short and of limited scope. There are no judgements, but of course if there had been concerns the nature of the visit would have quickly changed.

## Remembrance

Year 4 are preparing a remembrance assembly as usual this year. It will be experienced on line in the classrooms. Although we have no poppies for sale any donations we receive will be forwarded to the British Legion.

## Admissions

The closing date for Reception place applications for September 2021 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 whilst Secondary place applications are due on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Please remind your friends and acquaintances, as it is not unknown for someone with a sibling in our school to forget to apply. Please contact school if you have any concerns or questions.

Mid-term break is upon us and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November is an INSET Day so school will be closed to pupils as usual. Staff are completing a zoom course from an inspirational speaker on resilience and positivity both for themselves and the children. This was booked before the pandemic but has come at a very appropriate time for us all.



## Term 2

As we return on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November we may find ourselves with continuing disruption but we are still going to celebrate the festive season. We will decorate the school, make lovely cards to take home and generally celebrate the season of goodwill as is our tradition. Each year our wonderful nativity plays are enjoyed by children and visitors from far and wide. Alas, these are impossible to organise this year so we are going to do our very best to produce an alternative.

Please bear with us as we are in uncharted waters! Working under the present regulations, each year group will practise its own traditional carol and will sing it in groups. Each year group will have a specific recording day. As a result, we will produce a whole school celebration in which all children will appear albeit rather briefly. It will be available on the weekend prior to the end of term two for you and your families to enjoy via our website.

Those of you who recall the whole school beach trip will no doubt remember the organisation involved and this is of similar proportions. We cannot use more modern songs due to licensing issues but it will still be a great occasion I am sure. We have to start very early next term of course and I thank you in advance for your help and encouragement. Permission will be sought for your child's involvement early next term when the children will be told more details.

We are all becoming accustomed to enjoying things on a restricted basis so I hope you have a good half term with some relaxation and enjoyment. Children have worked really hard this term and I am sure they are looking forward to the break.

Thank you all.

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Powe  
Head Teacher

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## PTFA

The PTFA continue to be extremely grateful to our whole school community for their continued support, kindness and compassion especially during what has been a very difficult few months. This year our PTFA will not be able to run as many events for the children as they would in a normal school year, and we know this will be a disappointment to you all. We are very pleased to hear that recently many families did join and enjoy the first Bishop Road virtual discos! Sadly, with fewer events, it will have a direct impact on the amount of money that the PTFA will raise, and they expect to lose approximately £25,000 in income this year.



Each year the PTFA, which is a registered charity, donates all its profits to support our children's learning. Pledges are made each year for our Book Fund, Wider Learning (including outdoor learning) and the Enrichment Fund, which pays for all the amazing special extra activities like Explorer Dome science shows and pirates that do maths! Over the years the PTFA have also funded larger standalone projects including the climbing wall in the gym, the stages with light and sound system that we use for all our school plays and our wonderful outside classroom – The Story Garden. None of these would have been possible without the additional funds raised by the PTFA.

Last year the PTFA set up a regular giving programme, this was in response to requests from some parents, who wanted to support the school by contributing directly to the PTFA, but due to family and work commitments were unable to regularly volunteer their time. Should any parent or carer wish to support the PTFA in this way it is now possible to make a small regular donation via direct debit or one off gift via the PTFA website. Details can be found on the PTFA website under the 'Get Involved' tab. ([www.ptfa.bishoproad.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.ptfa.bishoproad.bristol.sch.uk))

Once again we want to extend our thanks to the wider school community for all your recent messages of support and encouragement.





### **Community Reminders – Please keep for Reference**

In addition to these annual reminders, the school website includes lots of information about the procedures for day to day running of the school as well as information and links relevant for all parents and carers.



### **Contact Details**

Please ensure we have up to date contact details. Details must be checked on the School Gateway 'about me' section where changes can be communicated online. The inability to reach a parent or carer causes distress to children. Communication to parents is now made by text or email.

### **School Dinners and Money**

- Meal patterns are set for the half term and can be notified to the office in the last 2 weeks of term when we will send out a form for you to complete online.
- Meals for key stage 2 must be purchased in blocks of 10 dinners / £23.00 or more.
- If your child is at a medical appointment in the morning and arriving before lunch you must inform the office of your lunch choice for that day.
- Please pay for dinners online. Paying online is quicker and easier for you. It saves the school money and is much more efficient. Only the priority one contact can make payments on the School Gateway. Go to [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com). If you are a first time user select 'new user' and enter the mobile and email of the priority 1 contact. The system will then send you a PIN code and you are ready to pay.
- If you have to pay by cheque these need to be made payable to 'Bristol City Council'.
- If you are paying by cash this needs to be the exact amount as there is no change available in the office.

### **Leave of Absence**

All school time is important for children, and missing lessons often means it is hard to catch up. Head Teachers are no longer permitted to grant absence for holidays. **(Taking periods of unauthorised absence results in parental fines).** Requests to attend religious events, funerals and for other circumstances should be made on the special leave of absence form. **(All applications must be submitted at least 10 school days prior to absence).** Please note that I am not able to grant authorised absence for trips to the theatre, birthday parties and other non-essential events. Centralised records are kept of all absences and are regularly monitored by the schools' Educational Welfare Officer (EWO).

Due to the commitment of Bishop Road parents to their children's education and the efforts of the school, we are one of the highest attended full primary schools in Bristol. Thank you to everyone who has supported the children, staff and school in this way. There is further information about attendance on our website.

### **Playground Safety**

Please do not allow children to break school rules by skating, biking or scootering across the playgrounds, putting others at risk of collision, or by climbing on trees or playground equipment. Also note it is not possible for us to store equipment during the school day. We would also point out that health and safety considerations do not allow us to have buggies or prams in school corridors.

### **Lost Property**

Please name your child's clothing. There is a considerable quantity of valuable unnamed items left every week. Named items will be returned to the child's class. At present due to Covid restrictions, we are unable to leave unnamed items out in lost property.

### **Ready for school**

Please make sure that your child arrives at school with everything they need for the day. It is not possible to deliver forgotten items around the school due to Covid arrangements.

### **Car Parking**

There are clear 'no parking' areas designated outside the school in Bishop Road and Cambridge Road. We please ask that you comply with these restrictions so as to make the area safer for all parents, pupils and families at the start and end of the day.

### **Healthy Schools**

We are striving to maintain and enhance our healthy school's status. Please encourage healthy snacks, lunch boxes and readiness for PE lessons.

### **Equality**

We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith, religion, beliefs or socio-economic background. The Equality Act provides a framework to support our commitment to promoting equality, tackling discrimination and fostering good relationships. We expect the principles of equality to be upheld and respected by all those who learn, teach and visit here. We publish an Equality Policy and Plan on our school website.

### **Safeguarding**

We want to make sure that children are given the best chances to thrive and enjoy optimum life opportunities. Through the range of safeguarding policies and practices in school we hope to work with all groups in the school community to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children is of the highest standard. Mr Emissah is the school Safeguarding Lead, Miss Kingston and Mr Barr is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead. For further information, including guidance and links for E-safety, please visit the school website.

### **Medication and Pupil Safety**

Safety and care of children encompasses many areas of school including the administration of medication. At Bishop Road we follow the Local Authority guidance and have clear protocols about storing, administering and disposing of medication. Please can I remind you that both prescribed and over the counter medicines must not be carried by your children in school. Medication must be given to the office where it will be bagged, named and delivered to your child's class for administration by the teacher or LSA. This is for the safety of both your child and the rest of the school community. Please do not hesitate to contact the office staff to discuss any element of these arrangements further. There is also a policy detailing the school procedures and arrangements available on the website.

### **Anaphylaxis**

In Britain at least one percent of the population suffers from an extreme life-threatening allergy to certain foods, medications or insect stings. For them, exposure to even a minute amount (1/5000th of a teaspoon) of the substance to which they are allergic can trigger anaphylactic shock. Exposure to nuts is the most common cause of death due to anaphylaxis. Reactions to nuts can be triggered through skin contact and by inhalation of dust particles. This is rarely the case for other common food allergies, as the smallest amount required to trigger a reaction is one hundred times smaller for nuts than for other common food allergens. Reactions to nuts especially peanuts are generally more severe than reactions to other foods.

Therefore, it is recommended that allergies to peanuts and nuts require the most stringent management plans. Strong initiatives to control exposure to peanut products and nuts are warranted.

For all the above reasons, and because nut allergy is the most common food allergy, the school has a no-nut policy, which asks that parents should not send in high-risk nut containing foods in packed lunches such as nut spreads, nutty chocolate/cereal bars, packets of nuts, pesto or any foods obviously containing nuts. This does not include foods which are labelled as “may contain nut traces”. Cooked school dinners do not contain nuts but they are not guaranteed to be free of nut traces. However, the caterer will provide special meals for children with any food allergies.

### **Meeting your needs**

If you require any specific support, particularly if you have a disability of any kind, please contact Mrs Cooper in the school office who will be happy to liaise with you regarding how we can support you and meet your needs as a parent/carer in our school community.

### **Feedback**

We are a school striving to improve and develop. We welcome feedback, compliments and complaints. You can contact us on our general school email at [info@bishoproadschool.co.uk](mailto:info@bishoproadschool.co.uk). Our complaints procedure can also be found on our school website.