

Bishop Road Primary School

Bishop Road, Bristol BS7 8LS



Head Teacher: Gillian Powe

Deputy Head Teacher: Joe Emissah

Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

The government's decision to close schools has generated a significant challenge for everyone. Thank you to many parents and carers who have sent in words of support and encouragement to the staff team this week. This is a difficult time and the pressures of a further national lockdown are significant for us all.

Remote education

A number of parents have expressed concerns about the plans for remote education. Our plans for this academic year were principally devised to maintain provision for individual pupil absences and whole class closures. The third lockdown has presented a number of new challenges, including a 200% increase in demand for key worker provision. The lateness of announcements and unforeseen change in expectations relating to key worker provision had an impact on our approach to remote learning in the short term. Having now resolved these issues, since Wednesday, we have prioritised the review of our plans for remote education for next week, which are being adapted to extend the interactive element. Principally, this will involve increasing opportunities for children to interact with their teacher and peers on Zoom. I will update you before the end of the week with our revised plans that we intend to implement early next week.

Places for school based provision

There is considerable disappointment and frustration for many families about not being able to secure a place in school. The Department for Education has set a broad criteria for eligibility with limited consideration about how schools can accommodate large numbers of children.

The guidance for allocating school places (included in my letter 5.1.20), which is supported by the Local Authority, has resulted in a significant increase in the number of children in school compared to the last lockdown. This week, over 40% of the whole school community met the eligibility criteria, making allocating places exceptionally difficult. We have not been able to meet the demand and are **unable to allocate any further places at this time**. If any family's circumstances change, meaning places are no longer required, please notify us via info@bishoproadschool.co.uk.



I understand the unique challenges and acute pressures that many of you are experiencing at this time. Thank you for all your efforts as you strive to support your children through this period of remote education that the pandemic has forced upon us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Emissah
Deputy Head Teacher

