

# Bishop Road Primary School

Bishop Road, Bristol BS7 8LS



**Head Teacher: Gillian Powe**

Deputy Head Teacher: Joe Emissah

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Head Teacher Letter No.1 /22-23

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school everyone! It is exciting to see so many children entering school so enthusiastically, some of course for the very first time. We hope new children and families will soon settle in and become part of our community. We also welcome new teachers and support staff to the team. I'm sure you will support them in their roles.

## INSET Days

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022 are our INSET Days (statutory staff training days). The first is for the development of our new whole school ornithology project. All the children will be visiting Slimbridge with their classes and the centre's education staff will ensure we make the most of the opportunity. We share a whole staff meeting on Friday to refocus our priorities and objectives and finish with a child protection course.

We always work as a team and encourage new staff to feel part of that during these sessions. In this way we ensure children all experience a similar education across the school. Thank you for all your encouragement and support and we trust you will be enthused by the project and all other developments during the year.

## Census Day

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October we take the school census. Our funding is mainly based on the number of children on roll at that time. We also receive money according to the number of children who take a free school meal on that day. Please only let us know if **you are unhappy** for your child to have a free meal in Reception, Years 1 or 2. The menu will be Fish and Chips and a vegetarian option. Thank you!

## Educational Landscape

We have prepared for this term aware that all our financial plans are in flux. There is no energy cap for schools and our heating costs will rocket by a factor of 3 and quite possibly more. We know of no forthcoming support for this situation. It is inevitable that our services will be cut as will be those of other local schools.



For many years education has been in the midst of apparent perpetual evolution and crises of various kinds and this period is no exception. We are aware also that the whole community will have personal difficulties with energy and we may have to consider the appropriateness of some of our trips, visits and activities for example.

I am keen not to cancel any previously promised events but things may change in the future. We will continue to maximise opportunities to the best of our skills and knowledge.

The staff at Bishop Road maintained their dedication during Covid and previous budget cuts and this will continue to be our intention. Nevertheless, the difficulties we face from rising costs will have a definite negative impact and will certainly cause significant pressure.

In contrast, thank you for all your positivity. It is hugely appreciated. I enclose the date list for this term and look forward to seeing you all again in due course. There are certainly no plans or perceived need to cancel our end of year celebrations!

May I wish you all a happy year for your children as they enjoy a further step in their learning journey.

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Powe  
Head Teacher



### **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.

### **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 / £23.50 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 all your child’s clothing and other items. There is a considerable quantity of valuable unnamed items left every week. Named items will be returned to the child’s class other items will be left in the lost property box under the Boat Playground.

### **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 Mrs Metcalfe and Mr Barr are the Deputy Safeguarding Leads. For further information, 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 using the contact form on the school website. Our complaints procedure can also be found on our website.