



Bishopstone Church of England School, Bishopstone, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 2PW



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www.bishopstoneschool.org

Wednesday 6th July 2016

Dear Parents

A very warm welcome back to Bishopstone School and a new and exciting year. After the long summer break research has found that the children take a little while to get educationally up to speed again. In order to try to gain quicker momentum and to tie in with the implementation of our new maths teaching, we have decided to split the children into more intense focus groups for the first term. This means that we will be teaching, in the morning, as follows:

Reception and Year 1 – Miss Pearson

Year 2 – Miss Lindsay (English and Maths) and Mrs Warrick (PSHE/RE)

Year 3 and Year 4 – Mrs Morris for English, Mr Anley for Maths

Year 5 and Year 6 - Mrs Morris for English, Mr Anley for Maths

Due to an increased teaching timetable for myself it means that for this term, if you wish to speak to me the best time is in the afternoons and also at the end of school. Before school will be more challenging as I will be preparing resources for teaching. If an emergency then of course, please do let me know.

On a Wednesday morning we are delighted that we will be working with Skillforce again. This time they will be concentrating on working with Year 1/2/3. The children will be completing their Character Award - <http://www.skillforce.org/what-we-do/programmes/skillforce-character-award/>. We are very excited to be part of their brand new trial award and feedback from this will be given regularly.

A few admin pointers, in order to start the year off without congestion in school could you please reinforce the following with your children, as we will do in school.

Please can children arrive for school promptly, between 8:50-09:00 so that they can line up on the playground together. Children do not need to enter the school prior to the bell ringing, to hang things on their pegs/lockers until it is time to come in. Musical instruments on a Monday morning need to remain on the playground with your child as we intend to take them directly to the village hall once the bell has rung, to allow a smoother flow between Music and French lessons in the afternoon. Instruments must also return home with all children as we no longer have any storage space in school due to utilising all areas for teaching in the new focus groups. Music starts *NEXT MONDAY* (12th).

As we will be using every available space in which to teach, including the library, please can we continue to have good-byes in the playground. If adults are passing through the classrooms after 9am the children will become distracted and it will not allow a prompt start to the day.



Headteacher Miss Emma Lindsay





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P.E will start this Thursday so the children will need their kit in school, no P.E kit means they will not be allowed to join in due to Health and Safety. Hair should be tied up if shoulder length, this is even more important on P.E days. The only jewellery that is allowed in school continues to be stud earrings and a watch.

Additional things to be returned to school – water bottles for the classroom. A letter will be sent home when children are required to bring in Forest School attire.

If your child has moved into Year 3 then they no longer come under the Government scheme of free fruit. They may wish, as any child in school can, to bring in a healthy snack/fruit for break time, which will tide them over until lunch.

The usual 'Yearly dates' will be out this week, we are just awaiting confirmation of events from external providers such as photos and the all-important Christmas dinner! However many are already provisionally on the school website for you to access.

Club list will be issued tomorrow after confirmation from Mr Sawyer for sports.

Teacher timetables/planning will be uploaded on to the school website, as always, in the next two weeks – medium term planning and weekly phonics. On **Wednesday 14th September at 6pm** will be the normal meeting where teachers will go through classroom admin/teaching topics and it is your opportunity to ask any questions about the curriculum or how things are working within the school this year.

Our new school meal providers began today. It will take a few days for a new routine to be created but the children cleared their plates! We have mentioned to them when feeding back today about portion size, as we feel that the children could be served initially with more (they were invited to go up for seconds which many did!). From tomorrow there will be a range of salads for the children to have in addition to their main choice. We have also asked for a different way to serve the 'platter of fruits' so that we can make sure that all children get a fair choice. Once it has settled down it would be lovely to invite those parents that are able to come and join us for a lunchtime session.

All staff completed a day's intensive first aid training on Friday. The Thursday inset was spent finalising the new teaching arrangements and resources for this term.

Over the week we have the initial bombardment of 'paper forms' but we will then be reverting to parentmail as normal. Please let us know if your mobile number/email address changed over the summer so that we can update the systems.

Best Regards

Miss Lindsay



Headteacher Miss Emma Lindsay

