



## Bishops Tawton Primary School Newsletter

<http://www.bishopstawton-primary.devon.sch.uk/>

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Dear Parents/Carers,

28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

As we come to the end of the first half of the summer term we have been planning our way forward for the last part of the year. The guidelines for schools haven't changed; we still need to keep all of our safety procedures, risk assessment and protocols in place.

*\*In all schools we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible May 2021*

Much as it may be tempting to think that we can open up the school site and put on events that involve parents joining in, we remain mindful and cautious. The virus is still out there and we still need to be careful, having had no cases and no bubble closures the staff feel it would be a shame to risk this now by trying to hold events like we have done in previous years. Only last week a local school had to close down two year groups.

With this in mind the teachers have planned what they feel will be reasonable activities for next half term, please be patient and understanding of our position.

See below the key information that may be helpful for you

Resources/items at home - Children can bring books/certificates etc in from home but they will be quarantined for 72 hours before used/shown

*\*Pupils and teachers can take books and other shared resources home, although unnecessary sharing should be avoided. Similar rules on hand cleaning, cleaning of the resources and rotation should apply to these resources (May 2021)*

Books taken home need to be put into quarantine boxes on return.

The online reading resources remain in place for now.

Hand washing, bubbles, additional cleaning regimes and routines mean that there is less time in the school day which means teachers have to prioritise how much and of what can be taught when and how.

The children are receiving a broad and balanced curriculum; however, based upon on-going formative assessment the teachers are prioritising the key learning necessary for their next stage in their education.

*\*Where appropriate, teaching time should be prioritised to address the most significant gaps in pupils' knowledge.*

*You should ensure that curriculum planning is informed both by an assessment of pupils' starting points and gaps in their knowledge, and an understanding of what is the most critical content for progression. To achieve this, you may need to make substantial modifications to your curriculum and should make effective use of regular formative assessment while avoiding the introduction of unnecessary tracking systems.*

*You can use existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important content in which pupils are not yet secure (May 2021)*

Teachers are carrying out more duties and are sometimes having to help cover paid child care after school. They will not be hosting after school clubs next half term, this supports their wellbeing and work-life balance.

Transition to the next stage/class is a priority; teachers will plan activities within school to make this process as smooth as possible for the children.

Reports, transition day and class groups will be shared later this year due to the gaps in attendance for all children. You will also receive your child's annual report; you will have the opportunity to discuss this with the teacher by making an appointment with them if you wish.

The teachers would like to hold a 'sports' event. This will happen for each bubble on different days: Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Unfortunately, the parents won't be able to be involved this year but we know the children will have a great time and will have a certificate to share with you afterwards.

*\*You should avoid large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship with more than one group (May 2021)*

## PE KIT

One of the practices we wish to keep is the children wearing their PE to school for the day. It is important that this is standard school uniform PE kit in order to maintain our high expectations. Please note: Plain black leggings/shorts and school logo grey hoodies/T shirts (no fashion items) Your child should wear their burgundy school jumper if they don't have a school badged hoody and a plain white T shirt if they don't have a school badged grey T shirt.

[The thrift shop](#) is a great place to go for additional uniform items, don't forget to donate any unwanted uniform items to school.

There will be no further day trips planned next half term but each class will embark upon a local area/school site 'outdoor adventure' (walking distance) We will be reviewing our selection of residential trips based upon uptake in recent years and providers remaining available to us. We have been very lucky to have been able to send our Y6 group away last week, they had an amazing time and behaved impeccably – thank you to the hard work of the staff who made this possible. A selection of photographs from this trip are available on the [website](#).

There will be an arts week in July, we won't be inviting parents in to the school to view the art but hopefully we can utilise the village to display the children's art work – we will be speaking to the Parish council about this.

We will keep our drop off and pick up routines. Thank you for your patience with this. Please continue to be mindful of residents and road safety.

**There remains a large amount of parents requesting to pick their child up early 'to avoid the queue' and also arriving late. This impacts upon the day for the child, they can lose significant learning time and feel less settled if they arrive late.** Please talk to us if this is a particular problem for you as we may be able to help.

The breakfast and after school club will continue to run, please book in advance [via eduspot](#).

*\*Schools should consider how to communicate this to parents and remind them about the process that has been agreed for drop off and collection, including that gathering at the school entrance and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed (May 2021)*

We can now hold meetings with parents in school; we will try to hold face to face meetings as much as possible. We know that the vast majority of concerns can be resolved through conversation followed by support and care for your child and or family.

Class emails/individual teacher emails are closed: If you email the class email or the teacher direct you will not receive a reply. You need to email [families@bishopstawton-primary.org](mailto:families@bishopstawton-primary.org) you may then be directed to an appointment or your query may be answered by email, depending on the nature of the query.

Please be mindful before making enquiries as many of the answers may be on the website. You can also call the office but again, please be mindful of what you need to ask about before making the call. Thank you

We realise that you may hear about other schools approaching things in different ways, that doesn't mean it is the right way or the way in which every school has to operate. We read and follow the guidance; we have carefully considered this all along and have not rushed into things. This has helped us to stay safe and to feel secure within a very challenging time. Lockdown is lifting more widely but we are choosing to be patient and to gradually change things in school. The children are used to their routines and feel safe with this.

We have learned that some of our new ways of working are improved and we will be keeping some of these practices, we will also be thinking about moving forward with the best ideas that work well for the children. This may well look very different to the experience that older children have had but that doesn't mean it is less good!

The Parent Forum will start again, look out for an invite to meet, come along and share your ideas.

I am proud of the staff team, all members of staff work incredibly hard to care for your children, despite our own personal situations we have worked wonders this past year and continue to put all of our energy and time into ensuring the children have the best educational experience without taking our minds away from their emotional wellbeing.

As a team we are proud of our school and the children, we hope you can join us on the next part of our journey, moving forward and building upon what we have learned through reflective thinking and strategic planning, rather than repeating things because we have always done it that way.

With very best wishes for a relaxing half term break, I hope the sun shines on you and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Melanie Smallwood (Head Teacher)