

Welcome back! I hope you've all had an enjoyable Christmas Break – Thank you very much for the kind gifts I received from you and your child. They have all been very much enjoyed!

In Creativity, we will be studying a local upland area and noticing how the weather changes. Back in the classroom, pupils will use a range of maps, information books and websites to help write a recount of our visit. We'll find out where the highest mountains are, learn how to use a compass and make 3-D mountain models. Inspired by the magnificent mountains of the world, we will be completing graphs showing heights, look at webcam and satellite images and create wonderful weavings. Using our Literacy skills, pupils will write mountain-shaped poems and explanation texts about the water cycle. We'll also examine how mountains are displayed on a map, and look at changing states of matter.

Towards the end of the unit, we will even be writing exciting narrative stories about the Yeti.

Snacks + Water

Key Stage 2 children can bring in their own fruit from home to eat at break time. Milk can also be

purchased via the Cool Milk Scheme.

Please send your child in with a named bottle of water each day. No juice or squash please.

School Uniform

Please ensure that all clothes are labelled with your child's name, so that it can be identified easily and that appropriate black footwear is worn in school. Due to the cold weather, pupils should also wear a coat to school as outdoor learning is an integral part of our Curriculum.

Classroom Organisation

Ruby Class will continue to be taught by me (Mr Downings) with support from our fantastic teaching assistants, both in class lessons and during interventions sessions (where necessary), which will give extra targeted support to pupils.

Power Maths will again be taught separately in discrete year groups. Please continue to support your child in developing their mental arithmetic skills at home – particularly their fluency in multiplication and division. All children have login details to access Times Table Rockstars, which will help with this.

At the end of the day, children will continue to be dismissed from the main gate.

PE

This term, PE sessions for Ruby Class will still be on Tuesday and Wednesday, and will take place outside where possible. Children should attend school in their PE kits on these days. Please ensure that they are dressed appropriately for the weather and that their footwear is suitable for physical activity outdoors. Children with long hair must also be able to tie it up for PE, and all earrings must be taped over.

During the term, pupils will be developing skills in Gymnastics, Netball, Football and Hockey.

Reading

Pupils need to have their reading book and Reading Diary in school every day. We recommend that children read their banded reading books at home for 15 minutes each day.

Please encourage your child to sign or write in their diary after they have read. A member of staff will check their records each week. Their Reading Records also contain a list of the compulsory spelling words from the National Curriculum.

Children will also have a teacher led Guided Reading session each day and will be heard reading regularly in school by an adult.

Need to chat?

Please don't hesitate to get in touch via email at: mark.downings@bishoppurglove.derbyshire.sch.uk if you have any questions or concerns.

Art Shirts

It would be very helpful if you could provide an old shirt or t-shirt (that your child could keep in school) to put over their uniform to help protect it when we are using paint and other messy stuff!

Homework

Pupils will continue to complete weekly homework tasks using CGP Revision Guides. Homework information will be sent via the school's app messaging system.



Spring Term Key Dates

- Thursday 5th February – Year 5 + 6 Netball Tournament (Longstone School)
- Thursday 12th February – KS2 Visit Derby Open Centre
- Friday 13th February – Last Day of Spring Half-Term 1 (February Half-Term)
- Monday 23rd February – Children Return to School: Start of Spring Half-Term 2
- Tuesday 24th February – Year 6 SATS Club Begins
- w/c: Monday 2nd March – Parents Evening (Dates and Times TBC)
- Friday 27th March - Last Day of Spring Half-Term 2 (Easter Holiday)
- Monday 13th April – Children Return to School: Start of Summer Half-Term 1

KS2 SATS Assessments (Year 6)

This year, KS2 SATS Tests will be held from Monday 11th May 2026 to Thursday 14th May 2026 (Inclusive). In order to help the children to prepare for these tests and to reduce any anxieties about them, we will begin doing Practice SAT papers as part of our weekly English and Maths lessons. Practising questions under timed conditions and reviewing them together, will help your child to develop their test technique and strategies to help them understand the question and respond fully. Questions and papers will be repeated regularly to embed these strategies and help develop a positive mindset to sitting these assessments in a few months' time.

In addition, as part of our preparation for these assessments, I will be running an after-school SATS Club for all Year 6 pupils. This will begin on: **Tuesday 24th February**, and run up until SATS week in May. Over the last few years, the club has been extremely well supported. A consent letter regarding this after-school club will go out to parents later this half-term.

We are also hoping to continue to run our KS2 SATS Information Workshops for both Year 6 Parents and Pupils before the SATS assessments in May, in order to give you and your child an opportunity to learn how the tests work and what extra support some pupils may receive in order to help them complete the tests. Further information regarding these workshops will be provided later in the term.

Year 5 + 6 Residential Visit 2026 – White Hall Outdoor Centre

The Year 5 + 6 Residential Visits are always a massive highlight of the children's time here at Bishop Purglove. The Residential Visit to White Hall Outdoor Centre is booked for 17th- 19th June 2026. Further information about the Residential Visit activities schedule and kit lists will be provided by White Hall Centre nearer the time of the visit.

Class Trips and Visits

In order to enrich our curriculum learning experiences, we are in the process of planning several trips/visits this term. In February, pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a Netball Festival at Longstone School (05/02/2026), and all KS2 pupils will be invited to attend Derby Open Centre, where they will participate in a Faith Trail, taking in different places of worship from other major World Religions (12/02/2026). More information about these visits will be sent out in separate letters over the coming few weeks.

We are also in the process of arranging a Primary Spiritual Retreat Experience at the Peak Centre in Edale (Date TBC), for the pupils in Ruby Class, in conjunction with Reverend Fiona Kouble from St. John's Church.

Once again, I look forward to working with you and your child throughout this term.

Kind Regards

Mr Downings – Year 5 + 6 Class Teacher