

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 Frozen Kingdoms, where your child will learn about the regions of the Arctic and Antarctic. They will learn about the similarities and differences between these two regions, including the climate, landscape and natural resources. They will also continue to develop their use grid references, lines of latitude and longitude, contour lines and symbols to identify the geographical locations of the Arctic and Antarctic, and how these, along with the tilt of the Earth, affect day length and warmth. In addition, pupils will investigate polar oceans to learn how they differ from other oceans on Earth and how climate change increases Earth's temperature and leads to rising sea levels. They will learn about the indigenous people of the Arctic, including how their lives have changed over time, and about the positives and negatives of tourism in Antarctica. Furthermore, pupils will also learn about classifying animals, animal adaptations and evolution, and polar exploration and discovery.

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.

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 be dismissed from the main gate.

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.

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.

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 CPG Revision Guides. Homework information will be sent via the school's app messaging system.

Year 6 SATS

Year 6 SATS will be held from Monday 13th May 2024 to Thursday 16th May 2024. In order to help the children to prepare for these tests and to reduce their 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.

Further information regarding KS2 SATs will be provided later in the term.

Residential Visit

The Year 5 + 6 Residential Visits are always a massive highlight of the children's time here at Bishop Pursglove. The Residential is booked for 5th- 7th June 2024. Further information about the Residential will be provided nearer the time of the visit.

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

Kind Regards

Mr Downings – Year 6 Class Teacher