

Welcome back! I hope you've all had an enjoyable Summer Break - I've been looking forward to seeing all of you, and beginning our new journey learning together in Year 6 as part of Ruby Class.

In Creativity, we will explore the causes and main events of the Second World War. Pupils will find out how Britain prepared itself for war and the war's impact on civilian life. Also, pupils will learn about the Battle of Britain and how it proved to be a key turning point for the Allied Powers. They will also hear about Anne Frank and discover what her story tells us about the treatment of Jewish people by the Nazi Party. Furthermore, pupils will research the causes and consequences of the end of the Second World War and investigate the legacy of the war in Britain. We will also look at how the 'Make Do and Mend' campaign aided the War Effort, and develop our darning and stitching skills in Design and Technology.

In Science, we will be investigating how light behaves, travelling in straight lines from a source or reflector, into the eye. Pupils will explore how we see light and colours, and phenomena associated with light, including shadows, reflections and refraction. We will also be learning about Evolution and Inheritance, how living things on Earth have changed over time and how fossils provide evidence for this. Pupils will learn how characteristics are passed from parents to their offspring and how variation in offspring can affect their survival, with changes (adaptations) possibly leading to the evolution of a species.

Snacks + Water

Key Stage 2 children can bring in their own fruit from home to eat at break time. Milk can be also 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 be taught by myself (Mr Downings) with support from our brilliant Teaching Assistants, both in class lessons and during interventions sessions, which will give extra targeted support to pupils. I am looking forward to continuing to help your child to make progress this year.

This year, 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.

At the end of the day, all children will be dismissed from the main gate. Now that your child is in Year 6, if you wish for them walk home unaccompanied, please let either Mrs Kilford or myself know.

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 autumnal weather, pupils should also wear a coat to school as outdoor learning is an integral part of our Curriculum.

PE

This year, PE sessions for Ruby Class will 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 removed.

Reading

Pupils need to have their reading book and Reading Diary in school every day. We recommend that children read their 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 new reading records this 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 on group and individual texts.

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 complete weekly homework tasks using CPG Year 6 Revision Guides. Homework will begin from the start of October.

Year 6 SATS

I realise that some children may start Year Six considerably more anxious about some of the challenges that lie ahead such as SATS (which will be held from Monday 13th May 2024 to Thursday 16th May 2024) and their transition to secondary school later in the year. However, Year Six also brings lots of opportunities for children to grow in self-confidence, take on new responsibilities and have fun along the way. If you, or your child have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Kilford or myself.

Secondary School Applications

It's now time to start thinking about which secondary school your child will go to (the deadline for applying is towards the end of October) and although I haven't heard directly from either schools, according to their own school websites, the dates of open events are as follows:

Lady Manners School

Thursday 28nd September 2023: 4.30 – 6.30pm

Hope Valley College

Thursday 5th October 2023: 5.30 – 7.30pm

- **Please continue to check each schools' own website for further details.**

Residential Visit

The Year 6 Residential Visit is always a massive highlight of the children's time here at Bishop Pursglove. I will look forward to giving you more details about this later in the school year.

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

Kind Regards

Mr Downings – Year 6 Class Teacher

