

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 5 and 6 as part of Ruby Class.

In Creativity this term we will be looking at the Dynamic Dynasties of Ancient China. We will learn about periods of ancient Chinese history, and explore a timeline of the first five Chinese dynasties. Pupils will learn about the legends surrounding the beginning of Chinese civilisation and the history of the Bronze Age Shang Dynasty. We will also be investigating evidence found in the ancient city of Yin, and study oracle bones - learning about religious beliefs and the bronze artefacts that set the Shang Dynasty apart from other civilisations. During our topic, we will study the hierarchy of the Shang Dynasty and discover who was powerful and who was powerless. Pupils will also look at warfare and find out how bronze technology gave the Shang Dynasty an advantage over their enemies. We will learn about the life of the great military leader, Fu Hao, and look at significant aspects of life after the Shang Dynasty, including the work of Confucius in the Zhou Dynasty, the short but significant reign of Emperor Qin Shi Huang of the Qin Dynasty and the importance of the Silk Road created by the Han Dynasty. To end the project, pupils will investigate how ancient China's lasting legacy can be seen in the world today.

### *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 Mrs Jackson and Mrs Ward, our brilliant Teaching Assistants, both in class lessons and during interventions sessions, which will give extra targeted support to pupils. I am in the fortunate position of having already taught the majority of pupils previously last year or in Year 3 + 4, and I am looking forward to continuing to help your child to make progress again 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.

### *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](mailto: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 5 and 6 Revision Guides. Homework will begin from the start of October.

## **Year 6**

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 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022) 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.

It's now time to start thinking about which secondary school your child will go to (the deadline for applying is the last day 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 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021: 4.30 – 7.30pm

### **Hope Valley College**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021: 6pm

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

## **Residential Visit**

The Year 5 + 6 Residential Visits are always a massive highlight of the children's time here at Bishop Purglove. Hopefully 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 5 + 6 Class Teacher

