

# Bishop Pursglove Church of England Primary School

*Reach Higher, Love Wider, Think Deeper*



**DDAT**  
Derby Diocesan Academy Trust

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back to school. I hope that you all had a lovely Easter break and that all the children are refreshed and raring to go for a busy Summer Term!

## CREATIVITY

This half term, we will begin our new Creativity topic: Alchemy Island, where we will be looking at maps of this mysterious Island and using co-ordinates to plan our journey in our quest for gold! We will also be examining samples from the Island and explore the properties of materials and experiment with changes of state. After this, we will research and find out all about gold. In English, we will write soliloquies and poems inspired by the Island's magical powers and dramatic landscape. The coding programme Scratch will help us to plot and correct errors in our quest, and we'll use technology to create beautiful digital images. We'll compose raps and use sound effects and mood music to reflect the atmosphere on Alchemy Island.

## CORE SUBJECTS

Work will continue in English and Maths where every child will be taught at a level appropriate to their ability. Your child will also have daily Guided Reading sessions which, will be used to help improve your child's reading comprehension skills and reading fluency.

Please continue to encourage your child to read regularly at home for a least 15 minutes a day, as this helps to develop their reading skills, widen their vocabulary and improve their writing in other areas of the curriculum. I am really pleased that children are actively recording what material they read at home or at school in their Reading Record book, and I am keen for this positive attitude to continue. Reading Records also contain a list of the compulsory Year 5 and 6 spelling words from the National Curriculum, which your child needs to practise regularly.

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Derbyshire Healthy Schools  
Community Award

Head: Lynne Kilford  
01298 871282

[enquiries@bishoppurglove.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@bishoppurglove.derbyshire.sch.uk)

In Ruby Class, staff are also encouraging children to independently take their Spelling Journals home each evening to practise any work learnt in their daily spelling sessions. Although it isn't mandatory that the children do this, I ask for your continued encouragement here too, as it not only prepares your child for the increased responsibility and expectation of further independent learning at Secondary School, but it will significantly benefit their learning in other curriculum areas.

### HOMEWORK

This term, your child will continue to complete a weekly homework activity from the CPG Books sent out in October. Since returning back to school in early March, following Lockdown, I have been really pleased with the children and their engagement in returning their homework on time in order for it to be marked on Friday afternoons. Most homework tasks focus on consolidating learning done in class during the week but occasionally I do set tasks that focus on future learning coming up in order to help preliminary assess the general ability of each year group. Please don't worry if your child finds the task challenging, but continue ask them to tell me what they found difficult when they return their work, so that Mrs Jackson and I, can provide further tailored support in class.

### PE AND UNIFORM

PE will continue to take place on **Tuesday (Sports Coach), and Wednesday**. I would be grateful if you can ensure that your child comes to school dressed in a suitable PE kit (white T-shirt and black shorts). The majority of activities are likely to still take place outdoors, due to current COVID 19 guidelines. On non-PE days, children should continue wear appropriate school uniform. Leavers Hoodies for Year 6 pupils have been ordered, and will be given out to pupils to wear once they have been delivered.

### SUMMER TERM EVENTS

As we enter the Summer Term, it is a particularly busy and exciting time of year for pupils in Upper Key Stage 2. Although, COVID 19 restrictions are being gradually relaxed, it is still highly unlikely that a Residential Visit will take place. We are currently hoping to be able to do a Key Stage 2 Production and Leavers Service – however, we cannot yet be sure what form that these highly anticipated and enjoyable events will take. Both Mrs Kilford and I will keep you informed of any changes in the current situation, but we thank you for your continued support and understanding at this time.

We are pleased to announce that Year 6 pupils have been chosen to take part in the DARE 25 programme, carried out by Life Skills Education. This 10 week, hour long series of workshops aims to help pupils make informed decisions and develop their understanding of how to keep safe and healthy. It also compliments learning done during our PSHCE sessions in class. A letter for Year 6 parents, giving further information about the DARE 25 programme, will be sent home with your child.

Ghazala Ahmad-Mear, who I am sure many of you will know, is also delivering a School Climate Challenge workshop to pupils in Ruby Class over the next week. During the session, pupils will be developing their knowledge and understanding of the choices that they can make to help reduce the impact of Climate Change upon the planet. They will also be looking at her expedition to the South Pole This workshop supports learning done by pupils during our 'Frozen Kingdoms' topic last term.

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## CLASSROOM

Please continue to encourage your child to come into their classroom quickly each morning so that they can be registered on time. If you have any problems or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to discuss them with me via telephone or email at: [mark.downings@bishoppursglove.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:mark.downings@bishoppursglove.derbyshire.sch.uk). I am also happy to arrange a meeting at another time if we need to discuss something at length. Letters and other information are also posted on the school website under "Classes" in the Ruby Class folder.

I look forward to having another enjoyable and successful term with your child.

Yours sincerely

Mark Downings – Ruby Class Teacher