

Wow - it's been an incredibly long time since we were all back in school together, but I've been looking forward to welcoming you all back and getting back to some kind of 'normality' continuing our learning journey in Year 5 + 6!

Our School Recovery Curriculum will continue focus on rebuilding relationships and celebrating our community, as well as making space to explore where we are now and where we want to be. Although no formal assessments will happen at the moment, discussions with children, together with activities to identify potential knowledge gaps will take place, and teaching will be adapted accordingly in order to support pupils where necessary.

In addition, our learning environment and teaching methods remain as they did before Christmas, in order accommodate Government recommendations, and will continue to change over the remainder of the year. Although staff appreciate that Upper Key Stage 2 is an important time for you and your child during their journey through primary school, as always, pupil wellbeing is at the heart of our curriculum, and nurturing our children so that they can thrive is our focus as we return to school after the upheaval of the last few months.

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 continue be taught by myself (Mr Downings) with support from Mrs Jackson, and our student teacher Miss Harrison – some of you will have met Miss Harrison already via our Class Zoom Meetings. Support will be provided both in class lessons and during interventions sessions, which will give extra targeted support to pupils.

Power Maths will continue 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.

To reduce the number of people congregating outside school, pupils in Ruby Class are encouraged to be dropped off at the bottom of the School Drive or continue to walk to school themselves. At the end of the day, all children in Ruby Class will be dismissed from the School Playground. Please refer to the 'Reopening Letter' on the school website for the staggered start times.

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 changeable weather conditions, pupils should also bring a coat to school.

PE

PE sessions for Ruby Class will be on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and will take place outside. 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 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 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. Due to COVID-19 guidelines and the revised timings of the school day it will be much more difficult to catch up on the gate but I know that good communication is key to supporting your child in school.

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!

Returning to School + Social Distancing (08.03.2021)

In addition to Mrs Kilford's Reopening Letter sent out earlier this week, I would like to reiterate the importance of social distancing – particularly to parents/guardians and children in Year 5 + 6. In order to keep school fully open, it is imperative that all of our school community adheres to current Government Guidance. Furthermore, following the Prime Minister's tentative announcements towards reducing Lockdown restrictions over the coming months, I am sure that you will agree that further closures to class 'bubbles' and a return to Remote Learning, is not in the best interests of anyone associated with our school.

Upon returning to school on Monday 8th March 2021, pupils should bring in any books/resources (including Power Maths and CPG Homework Books) that have been sent home over the last few months so that they can be placed in quarantine for 72 hours before being disinfected.

Creativity

Our Creativity topic for the remainder of this half term is **Time Traveller**. In this unit, your child will learn about the Human Life Cycle, what happens to our bodies and brains as we get older and how we cope with these changes. We will also be looking at how the local community has changed over time, and using the text: Tom's Midnight Garden, look at the possibilities of time travel and decide what stage of our lives we would like to visit or revisit. As part of this unit, we will also complete self-portraits, and create our own artwork inspired by Salvador Dali's Masterpiece: Clocks.

Residential Visit

The Year 5 + 6 Residential Visits are always a massive highlight of the children's time here at Bishop Pursglove. Under current Government Guidance, School Trips are not permitted at the moment. Hopefully, this will be reviewed as we pass through the various stages of the Government's Post-Lockdown Plan. As ever, we will keep you informed of developments as they happen.

Once again, I look forward to continuing to work with you and your child throughout the remainder of this school year.

Kind Regards

Mr Downings – Year 5 + 6 Class Teacher