

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 and beginning our new journey learning together in Year 5 and 6 as part of Ruby Class!

Our School Recovery Curriculum will 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 during the Autumn Term, 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 have also been adapted to accommodate Government recommendations, and will continue to change over the course 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 six months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

PE

This year, 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 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. Due to COVID-19 guidelines and the new 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!

Creativity

Our Creativity topic for the first half term is **Sow, Grow and Farm**. In this unit, your child will learn about allotments in the United Kingdom and how the Government encouraged people to have them to support food rationing during the Second World War. To support this, we are also planning to visit Mrs Clements' allotment to see what kind of things are grown there. Children will learn about food webs and animal life cycles, including how living things are dependent on one another within a habitat. Pupils will also investigate the different ways that plants reproduce and will dissect flowering plants to identify the different structures. They will have the opportunity to learn about farming in the United Kingdom and the techniques used in modern farming, including the challenges that farmers face. In addition, they will learn about the benefits of eating seasonally, and about the pros and cons of importing food. They will also learn about world farming and how the different climate zones affect where different foods can be grown.

Next half term, we are going to travel back 5000 years to Ancient Egypt, cruising along the Nile and entering a world of mysteries, curses, mummies and **Pharaohs!** Your child is going to learn first-hand about the gruesome, yet fascinating, process of mummification. They will write a report about Howard Carter's famous discovery and use different sources to research Tutankhamun's tomb. Pupils will also consider whether it was right to open Tutankhamun's tomb, or whether it should have been left as it was. Our work will inspire us to write some exciting Egyptian mystery stories and non-fiction books and the Internet will provide children with information to make fact files. In addition, pupils will draw Egyptian artefacts in detail, focusing on symbols and design features. Studying historical sources will help your child learn more about the Pharaohs, the Egyptian gods and ancient religious beliefs. They will also find out about the food that was eaten at the time, and COVID guidelines permitting, be able to make some delicious Egyptian bread!

Year Six

In light of the events of the last few months, 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 10th May 2021 to Thursday 13th May 2021) and the transition to secondary school. 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.

It's 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 (ONLINE OPEN EVENT VIA GOOGLE MEET – REPLACING NORMAL OPEN VISIT DUE TO COVID 19 – Sign up on the LMS Website)

Thursday 24th September 2020: 4.00 – 5.00pm

Thursday 24th September 2020: 6.00 – 7.00pm

Hope Valley College (OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 5 + 6 PUPILS)

Thursday 1st October 2020 (Time TBC)

- **Please continue to check each school's own website for further details as understandably, events might need to change unexpectedly in this period of uncertainty.**

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. However, I am sure that you appreciate that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, at this present moment I cannot say for certain whether a visit will take place at all.

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