



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 + 6 as part of Ruby Class. Thank you to all of you at home who have allowed pupils to bring in artefacts from the First and Second World War so far. We have really enjoyed looking at them and sharing the stories behind these precious objects.

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. In addition, pupils will research the causes and consequences of the end of the Second World War and investigate the legacy of the war in Britain. In Design and Technology, we will also look at how the 'Make Do and Mend' campaign aided the War Effort and develop our darning and stitching skills.

Later in the term, we will be studying Buxton, as part of our Local History unit. Furthermore, 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.

PE Days and Activities

This term, PE sessions for Ruby Class will be taught on Wednesday (by the Peak Active Sports Coach) and Thursday afternoons. During these sessions, pupils will practice developing skills in Cross Country, Tag-Ruby, Dance and Badminton. Children should attend school in their PE kits on these days.

Please ensure that your child is 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 taped over. Other items of jewellery should not be worn.

School Uniform

Please ensure that all items of uniform 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 forthcoming seasonal changes and the onset of autumnal weather, pupils are expected to bring a coat to school as outdoor learning throughout the year is an integral part of our Curriculum.

For further information about the School's Uniform Policy and PE Kit, please view the school's website or speak to the Headteacher - Mrs Craig.

Need to Chat?

At Bishop Purglove, we believe that effective communication between home and school is integral to helping support your child's progress in the classroom. Most communication from school is now done digitally via Arbor or posted on the Ruby Class Page on the school website. Please sign up to the School Arbor Messaging Service by contacting the School Office.

However, if you need to contact me directly regarding your child's progress in school, then please do not hesitate to get in touch via my school email address at: mark.downings@bishoppurglove.derbyshire.sch.uk

Teaching and Learning in the Classroom

Ruby Class will be taught with support from our brilliant Teaching Assistants, both in class lessons and during interventions sessions, which will give extra targeted support to some pupils.

This year, we continue to use the White Rose (Mixed-Age) Maths scheme. Here, although all pupils share the same teaching input at the beginning of the lesson and have opportunities for working and discussing ideas together with their peers, subsequent activities and tasks are carefully adapted to allow pupils to work on their own individual Year Group objectives.

Pupils will also participate in a daily Mathematical Fluency session to develop their recall of mathematical facts and calculation strategies. Please continue to support your child in developing their mental arithmetic skills at home – particularly their fluency in recalling multiplication and division facts.

Break Time Snacks and Water Bottles

In Key Stage 2, pupils can bring their own fruit or healthy snack from home to eat at break time. Please also send your child into school with a refillable water bottle each day.

Reading

Pupils must have their banded reading book and Reading Diary in school every day. They will have a daily Guided Reading session and be heard reading regularly in class by an adult. They will also have opportunities to choose books from the School Library or Class Reading Corner and listen to adult-led reading sessions using our Class Novel.

In addition to reading in the classroom, we recommend that children read their banded reading book at home for 15 minutes each day. Please encourage your child to record what they have read in their diary, which will be checked regularly by a member of staff.

Reading Records also contain a list of compulsory Year 5 and 6 spelling words from the National Curriculum.



Autumn Term - Key Dates

Wednesday 9th September – Tideswell War Memorial Visit
 Thursday 17th September – Year 5 + 6 Football Festival (Bishop Purglove)
 Friday 25th September – Year 5 + 6 Cross Country Festival (Bakewell Junior School)
 Monday 28th September – Harvest Festival (St John's Church: 9.15am)
 Thursday 15th October – Year 5 + 6 Tag Rugby Festival (Longstone School)
 Friday 23rd October – Show Racism the Red Card Day
 Friday 23rd October – Last Day of Autumn Half-Term 1
 Monday 2nd November – INSET Day (School Closed to Pupils)
 Tuesday 3rd November – Pupils Return to School: Start of Autumn Half-Term 2
 Friday 27th November – Christingle Service (St. John's Church)
 Friday 18th December – Christmas Service (St. John's Church: 9.15am)
 Friday 18th December – Last Day of Autumn Half-Term 2 (Christmas Holiday)
 Monday 4th January – Pupils Return to School: Start of Spring Half-Term 1

Homework

From October, pupils in Year 5 and 6, complete a weekly English and Maths Homework task using CGP Revision Guides. Tasks are usually based on what pupils have been learning in class or set as a pre-learning task as the concept may be taught in class soon. Some pupils may also have the questions that they are expected complete highlighted for them by an adult in school.

To help promote greater independence, organisation and responsibility for their own learning, Homework activities and deadlines are recorded on the noticeboard at the front of the classroom where pupils are expected to note down ready for completion. A message will also be sent to parents via Arbor.

Class Trips and Visits

This term, pupils in Ruby Class will be able to take part in several Sports Festivals Bishop Purglove will be hosting a Football Festival (Thursday 17th September). Pupils will also be able to participate in a Cross Country event (Thursday 25th September) at Bakewell Junior School, followed by a Tag Rugby Festival at Longstone School (Thursday 15th October).

We are also currently planning a possible visit to Buxton as part of our Local History unit later in the term (date TBC).

Art Shirts

For Art and DT sessions - when we are using paint and other messy products - it would be extremely helpful if you could provide an old shirt or t-shirt (for your child to keep in school) so that they can put over their uniform to help protect it.

Year 6 Information

Secondary School Applications and Open Events

It is now time to start thinking about which Secondary School your child will go to (the Deadline for applications is: Saturday 31st October 2026).

Dates of Open Events at local Secondary Schools are as follows:

Lady Manners School

Thursday 1st October 2026: 4.30pm-6.30pm

Hope Valley College

Thursday 24th September 2026: 5.15pm-7.30pm (Book Attendance Online via the Hope Valley College website)

Please continue to check each Secondary Schools' own website for further details as dates/times may be subject to change.

Key Stage 2 SATS Assessments 2027

At Bishop Purglove, we realise that some children may start Year Six considerably more anxious about some of the challenges that lie ahead such as KS2 SATS (which will be held from Monday 10th May 2027 to Thursday 13th May 2027 inclusive) 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 speak to either Mrs Craig, Mrs Hall or myself.

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

Kind Regards

Mr Downings – Ruby Class (Year 5 + 6) Class Teacher