

Autumn
2021

BISPHAM DRIVE JUNIOR SCHOOL

21st Century Learning for the 21st Century Child



19th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

While I don't wish to speak too soon, it seems that our small outbreak has settled down and many of those originally affected have returned to school. I have been asked by some families, who have regular contact with vulnerable relations, which year group the outbreak is centred around. I don't think I am breaking any rules to say that this began in year 6 and the majority of cases are linked to this. While we do have other cases we can find no direct link and therefore they must be just incidental and on their own do not meet the threshold for a further outbreak. I continue to monitor the situation closely but as it stands we are on course to return to normal operation on December 1st or the first day of your Advent Calendar as I say to the children when they ask.

As we eagerly anticipate getting back to normal there has been one event affected by the safety measures. The BFG have decided that it would be advisable to cancel the Christmas Disco as it was scheduled to happen so close to the end of the safety measures. We will refund any monies already paid for tickets as soon as possible. The BFG also tell me they plan to replace it with a similar event close to February Half Term and themed around Valentine's Day.

I am certainly looking forward to a return to normal even more so having looked at the weather forecast for next week. Standing outside for nearly two hours each day is important to welcome the children and say good evening but it's not much fun in the near freezing temperatures predicted. Please put an extra layer on the children too as we still need to ventilate classrooms. Have a good weekend.

Andrea Goetzee Headteacher

Notices

Forest School - Miss Carr is poorly and so there will be no Forest School next week. Please do not worry if your child misses this week, we will ensure that it all evens out over the course of the school year.

Performances for years 3 and 5 - While the disco has been cancelled, no firm decision has been taken on the Christmas shows being rehearsed by years 3 and 5. While rehearsals are currently somewhat challenging we still want to give the children the opportunity to perform. The question is how does it get viewed. There are two options, we video a performance and share it on our Youtube channel or we have an audience in school. If we were to do the latter we would have to limit numbers and ask attendees to do a lateral flow test before coming. Even with these changes in place we could not say there was no risk to attending and as it will be so close to the festive break we have to be mindful of this. I have talked to a number of parents and views are mixed. Therefore I thought it would be fair to canvas wider opinion and will this afternoon send a poll via Weduc to parents of children in years 3 and 5 offering them the choice. The poll will close on Monday 22nd November at noon and I will message results soon thereafter.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - The Christmas lunch is available to order on Weduc. The deadline for orders is 4.00 pm Monday December 6th after which we will not be able to make any amendments due to food order lead times. Please also note that while there will be a vegetarian option, no meal deal will be available on the 15th.

Times Tables - Now that our maths teaching has moved on to multiplication and division a number of teachers have noted that children's inability to recall times tables is holding them back. Please help them to learn these as it will make an enormous difference.



Key Dates

December

6th/7th Year 5 show

10th Human Rights Day

13th/14th Year 3 show

14th Reading Reward afternoon

15th Church visit, Christmas Lunch, Theatre in school

16th Christmas Party Day

17th Christmas Jumper Day

17th Behaviour Reward & End of term



Supporting Children's Emotional Health

The charity Place to Be has launched a new website to support parents in supporting their children you can find via the following link https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/?utm_source=Sprint1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=parenting-smart



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|-----------|----|---------|---|
| Orion | 1 | Pegasus | 3 |
| Hydra | 8 | Leo | 4 |
| Columba | 12 | Volans | 3 |
| Andromeda | 20 | Phoenix | 7 |

Headteacher's Awards

HEROES

Orion: Oli Belton

Pegasus: Mailliey McCarrick

Hydra: Cameron Murray

Leo: Sienna Carlton

Columba: Ruben Stevens

Volans: Tom Webb

Andromeda: Jonah Buchanan

Phoenix: Jay Gregg

Forest School: Rosie Hutchinson

Heroes

Currently we have to limit the number of people coming into school and we are unable to have parents in for a Heroes' Assembly. We did not want children to miss out on the chance of being a Hero and having a (socially distanced) Heroes' Tea. This week, teachers have again recorded a short video to talk about their Hero. It was watched by most in school today, you can find it on Google classroom.

Information about illness

As you will be aware the contingency planning for schools has changed to ensure that children will see far less disruption to their education even in the event of positive cases. It would be a real help if you informed us if a family member tests positive. While this will not affect your child's attendance in school it will help us monitor what is happening in our community and enable us to place enhanced mitigating activities to prevent it becoming a significant problem in school.