

Autumn
2021

BISPHAM DRIVE JUNIOR SCHOOL

21st Century Learning for the 21st Century Child



26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

While we are still counting down to the return of normal operation on Wednesday December 1st, I must sound a note of caution. We have had some new cases come into year 3 and while at the moment this is not enough to require us to extend safety measures beyond next week, if we get further cases in in the next few days it could do so. With that in mind I urge you to continue to be cautious and if you are in any doubt get a PCR test. If we can keep cases away from school we can look forward to a more normal Christmas.

We did a poll last week about the years 3 and 5 performances and while the result was mixed there was a clear preference to having family members attend in person. Rehearsals have not been easy with safety measures in place but we really want to give the children an audience. With this in mind our plan would be to make one ticket per child available for each performance. This is not ideal but as there will be 60 children , plus staff in the hall for the performance, another 60 adults would place us at a limit we feel comfortable with. We would also ask those attending to do a lateral flow test and wear a mask. We will be using all the ventilation we can to help mitigate any risk when we are so close to the Christmas holidays. All of this remains dependent on nothing changing locally or nationally in the interim. We will record it for those of you unable to attend.

I hope you enjoy the wintry weekend and will see you next week.

Andrea Goetzee Headteacher

Notices

Forest School - This will resume next week with Group 1 children taking part. As Group 2 children missed their session last week we have scheduled an extra session for them next Friday. Fortunately, nothing had actually been lost as Forest School was not actually scheduled in order to allow in school academic assessments. These assessments have been pushed back to week commencing December 6th but we will keep Forest School so that by the end of term all children will have had an equal number of sessions.

Traffic enforcement - I politely remind you not to park on the yellow lines outside school as this poses a danger to families arriving and leaving. This morning I observed the camera car circling school and understand that at least 2 cars were photographed and will receive a fine. We do not know when they will come but they are seen regularly.

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.

Wonderful Anniversary

This week saw us mark a milestone for one member of staff. On the 25th November 1996 Mrs Wilford came to the school for one day's supply work, the rest as they say is history. For 25 years she has given unstinting support to the school and its pupils. You may know her as a Teaching Assistant, an ELSA or a smiling face at the school gate. All together she is so much more; valued by pupils, parents and colleagues, we are lucky to have her and I wanted to celebrate and share this anniversary with you.



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

I thought it was important to keep sharing this.

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/?utm_source=Sprint1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=parenting-



Headteacher's Awards

| | | | |
|-----------|----|---------|---|
| Orion | 6 | Pegasus | 3 |
| Hydra | 3 | Leo | 7 |
| Columba | 2 | Volans | 3 |
| Andromeda | 12 | Phoenix | 4 |

Heroes

Orion: Ingrid Lau

Pegasus: Eva-Lily Faulkner

Hydra: Arthur Everingham

Leo: Holly Leggat

Columba: Luca Chell

Volans: Darci Blasdale

Andromeda: Oliver Hart

Phoenix: Kara Turner

Heroes

We hope that this is the last week that we have to have a virtual Heroes' celebration. So, once more, teachers have videoed their tribute to this week's Heroes and you can view this on our YouTube channel. I look forward to seeing them for the (socially distanced) Heroes' Tea on Monday and hope for a face to face assembly next Friday.

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.