

Autumn
2021

BISPHAM DRIVE JUNIOR SCHOOL

21st Century Learning for the 21st Century Child



3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thankfully, we were able to return to normal operation this week which has been very positively received in school. Thank you for your support with the safety measures, it went a long way to helping us contain the outbreak and keep the number of infections relatively small. I hope that we don't have to do that again.

Thank you also for your help with the half day closure on Monday when a burst pipe meant our heating system couldn't get up to pressure on the coldest day of the term so far. Annoyingly, the Weduc system had gone down just when we needed to send the message out but the power of social media came to our aid. Many thanks to those of you who shared the news via your WhatsApp groups it helped us get the children home from a very cold school much quicker than we thought would be possible.

This year we have returned to having a Christmas tree in the school hall and a wonderful tree was donated by one of our families. They have asked to remain anonymous but I want them to know how much this is appreciated and I have put a picture of the decorated tree on the next page.

Rehearsals for the years 3 and 5 Christmas performances are well underway and next week we look forward to welcoming some family members into school to see all their hard work.

Have a lovely weekend.

Andrea Goetzee Headteacher

Notices

Start of the day for Year 3 children - It was noted by staff that our Year 3 pupils were much more settled and ready to learn when they were coming directly into their classrooms rather than going onto the playground. Therefore, from next Monday we are going to trial continuing this.

Teachers will be in their classes from 8.45 am when the gates open but teaching will not begin until 9.00 am. If you have older children you can either accompany them to the playground or just send them round as there will be staff outside to welcome them.

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.

P.E. Kit - I have noticed some slippage in the standard of kit being worn by children in school. P.E. kit is part of our school uniform and children are expected to wear the correct clothing. Please ensure your child comes appropriately dressed and encourage them to see this as part of being proud to be a pupil at Bispham Drive Junior School.

Lost property- Once more we are starting to accumulate jumpers and a few coats. If your child has lost something you can now locate lost property on wall hooks at the back of the dining hall. Unfortunately, we cannot hold onto this indefinitely and will be clearing it out at the end of term. We always check for names and that we return named kit to children directly.



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



Life Skills - Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is a key part of our curriculum. It covers a multitude of areas including staying healthy, forming positive and recognising negative relationships, staying safe and managing money. We teach it throughout school but my conversations with children tell me that they find it hard to describe it as a subject. In order for them to understand what we are teaching and its importance in their wider lives beyond school I have decided to rename the subject as 'Life Skills'. It's simple and will be much easier for the children to relate to in terms of its relevance to their real life experience.



Countdown to Christmas 2021

Headteacher's Awards

Orion	4	Pegasus	2
Hydra	3	Leo	1
Columba	5	Volans	1
Andromeda	4	Phoenix	3

Heroes

Orion: Lyla Kelly

Pegasus: Alfie Kemp

Hydra: Rosie Hutchinson

Leo: Shanza Ayoub

Columba: Connor Plummer

Volans: Dexter Wright

Andromeda: Callum Pierce

Phoenix: Ross Wilkes

Forest School: Amelia Kee



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.