

Spring
2022

BISPHAM DRIVE JUNIOR SCHOOL

21st Century Learning for the 21st Century Child



21st January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

After using last week's bulletin to launch all the key dates for this term I realised that I had left one very important date off the list. World Book Day is on Thursday March 3rd this year. As this year marks the 25th Anniversary of this celebration of children's writing it is sure to be even bigger and better than before. I am pointing this out because any World Book Day activities inevitably involve dressing up as book characters and I thought you might welcome a little notice to think about costumes. There are lots of ideas online and I will certainly be trying to think of a good costume myself. Please nobody say Miss Trunchbull from Roald Dahl's Mathilda as I am likely to get very upset.

All jokes aside, this has been another good week in school and staff are buzzing about how hard the children are working. Support groups and individual tutoring is taking place and I have loved sharing stories of real progress with many of the children involved.

I have also enjoyed seeing the children doing Forest School activities although a bit less the mud they seemed to enjoy so much. It is so important that we keep increasing the level of normality for them. To that end I will be resuming whole school assemblies next week and looking at other ways to mark the step down from Plan B. I want to keep our focus in school completely on looking forward and being positive as I am sure we all do.

Have a lovely weekend.

Andrea Goetzee

Headteacher

Notices

WhatsApp Supervision - In the past I have been made aware of inappropriate content being posted on pupil WhatsApp groups in years 5 and 6. I have now been alerted to this happening in year 4. While the minimum age for WhatsApp is 13 I appreciate many parents allow their children access to the app. If you do can I urge you to regularly check what your children are writing and sharing as it is my experience that they can get carried away and become involved in negative behaviours very easily. While this happens at home and is technically beyond the remit of the school parents usually come to us for support in dealing with the fallout from such groups.

Appeal for Wii games and board games - Ms Town and Mrs Simpson the ladies who run our wonderful After School Club have asked me to send out an appeal for any Wii games or board games as the children are really enjoying playing games. So if Christmas gifts have got your cupboards groaning then we are happy to take any you might care to donate.

Looking forward to next year

While I am in no way wishing this year away I wanted to let you know that next academic year will be a very special one for Bispham. In January 2023 the school will celebrate its 60th anniversary. I will be declaring the academic year 2022 2023 our Diamond Jubilee Year.

I would love to have a year of events to mark this occasion and these will take time to organize. I would like a team of people to work together to plan and set these events up. To this end I am putting an initial call out for people who would like to be part of this group. Ideally I want parents, pupils, staff and governors to come up with ideas and help organise celebratory events. Meetings need not be more than monthly in these early days. Please contact the school office.



Key Dates

January

31st - February 2nd Bikeability in year 5

February

7th - 13th Children's Mental Health Week with the theme 'Growing Together'

8th Safer Internet Day

11th End of Half Term

21st Return to school

March

1st St David's Day service uniforms allowed in school

3rd World Book day

w/c 14th March Assessment Week

17th St Patrick's Day service uniforms allowed in school

18th Red Nose Day

21st Ancient Egyptian Experience Year 3

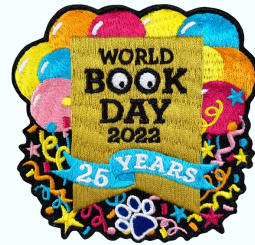
28th - 30th Volans residential

30th - April 1st Columba residential

1st End of Term

April

19th Return to school



Headteacher's Awards

Orion	5	Pegasus	0
Hydra	6	Leo	3
Columba	0	Volans	1
Andromeda	1	Phoenix	1

Heroes

Orion: Oscar Jarvis

Pegasus: Ursula Fagan

Hydra: William Westby

Leo: Macey Dean

Columba: Amelia Newton

Volans: Lucas Swann

Andromeda: Jacey-Leigh Hibbert

Phoenix: Oliver Bailey

Forest School: Elliott Benton

60 Reads

We are already counting down to the next Reading Reward Tea. Due to the Year 5 residential at the end of this term, the tea will take place on Wednesday 20th April. The 60 reads will be counted in your child's P.O. from December 11th 2021 to March 28th 2022. There is plenty of time to make the total and we hope we will see the largest number of children yet taking part.

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.