

Autumn  
2023

## BISPHAM DRIVE JUNIOR SCHOOL

21st Century Learning for the 21st Century Child



Toton  
Bispham Drive  
Junior School  
*Ad esse optimum*

September 15th 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of our first full week, the children are back into learning in a very positive way. I'm already seeing some wonderful examples of work as children are sent to me for Headteacher Awards. As the reward system has changed somewhat, these awards are much harder to get as the teachers now have a variety of ways to reward hard work in class. You may have heard of the raffle ticket draw that takes place on Fridays. As the value has increased I will now put the names of Headteacher Award winners on the bulletin so that they can be celebrated at home, if you wish.

On Wednesday we had the meeting about joining the Spencer Academies Trust. Of those families that attended the feeling was that it makes perfect sense. It is unlikely you will see much change in your experience of the school as most of what will change will be background systems. Of course, I will keep you informed of progress but it is most likely that any change will be in the new year at the earliest. Bureaucracy can take quite a long time.

Please keep an eye on the Key Dates page as, while it already contains most of what will happen this term, there may be changes. Any changes will also be updated on the Weduc calendar. Please also note the 'meet the team' meetings that will take place at 6.00 pm Monday to Thursday next week as they will be very useful in finding out what your children will be learning.

Enjoy your weekend.

Andrea Goetsee,  
Headteacher

## Notices

**Wired Differently Festival** - Those of you with children who are neuro divergent may already know about this free festival happening on Sunday but if you don't you can find information attached to this bulletin.

**Attendance** - While nationally there have been issues with school attendance, ours, at Bispham, has remained high. We are proud of this as children in school means children can learn. I appreciate it is sometimes hard to gauge what to do for the best when your child says they are ill. I understand that often you do not want to risk passing bugs on to others. Recently, I was made aware of an NHS website that may support decisions.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

**Reading** - Those of you who have been part of the school for a while will know just how important we think reading is. All of this week we have been having assemblies to share our love of reading, to help children to understand how much being a good reader supports all learning and to enthuse them to go for the 60 reads reward at the end of December. Four reads a week at home, signed off by an adult, will easily qualify them so I urge you to support this. Next week we will be launching an exciting initiative that we want to participate in to further promote this important life skill. More about that next week.

**Open Library** - As part of our wish to support you in supporting your children read, we will be opening our wonderful library to you after school on Monday and Thursday. You can come along and read together or browse the books.



## Headteacher's Awards

<b>Orion</b>	Zach I	<b>Pegasus</b>	-
<b>Hydra</b>	Keira W, Frances M, Olive B, Josh B, Erica M	<b>Leo</b>	-
<b>Columba</b>	Mailliey Mc	<b>Volans</b>	Farha MF, Joshua W
<b>Andromeda</b>	Jude H, Amelia E	<b>Phoenix</b>	Alfie W, Macey D, Leo D

## Heroes

**Orion:** Isabella L.  
**Pegasus:** Sophie N.  
**Hydra:** Eden Z.  
**Leo:** George W.  
**Columba:** Alfie K.  
**Volans:** Aarav P.  
**Andromeda:** Jude H.  
**Phoenix:** Willow C.  
**Forest School:** Josie W.

## Long Service

I don't often share information about staff with you but this is something I want to let you know. I have a wonderful and loyal staff at the school and they are devoted to supporting the children. None more so than Mrs Wilson who, last week, passed her 25th anniversary of working at the school. She joins Mrs Wilford in this esteemed group and we have one to two members of staff who are not too far behind. I hope you can join me in congratulating her, she is now working with the children of children she has taught!

## Key Dates

### September

w/c 18th National coding Week  
 18th Year 3 meet the team 6.00 pm  
 19th Year 4 meet the team 6.00 pm  
 20th National Fitness Day  
 20th Year 5 meet the team 6.00 pm  
 21st Year 6 meet the team 6.00 pm  
 27th Individual pupil photos  
 29th Craft open morning and Macmillan

### October

w/c 2nd National Hygiene Week  
 5th National Poetry Day  
 9th Parents' meetings  
 10th World Mental Health Day  
 11th Parents' meetings  
 w/c 16th Year 5 residential  
 20th Behaviour Reward Afternoon  
 20th End of half term

### November

6th Back to school  
 w/c 6th UK Parliament Week