

Summer
2024

BISPHAM DRIVE JUNIOR SCHOOL

21st Century Learning for the 21st Century Child



May 17th 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot write this bulletin without paying tribute to the way our year 6 pupils have handled the Sats test week. Some of you may not be aware of how formal these tests have to be. The tests themselves have to be kept in a locked cupboard, in a locked room and there must be two people present any time the locks are opened. The class rooms and other test spaces have to have every word or number covered so sheets and blankets adorn the walls and displays. As for the tests themselves, these are never left alone until they are sealed in secure envelopes and dispatched to be scanned then marked by someone in a completely different part of the country. In addition we had an unannounced checking visit by the local authority, something they do as a matter of course - our practice was considered to be exemplary. The children handled all of this calmly and with great good humour. I know that every single child did their absolute best this week and we can ask no more than that. Well done year 6!

On a different tack, many of our pupils enjoyed the BFG film night yesterday. Our fundraising group has raised many thousands for the school over the last year, if you would like to find more about what they do and how the money is spent, their AGM is in the school hall at 3.30 pm on June 3rd.

Sadly, there have been some issues this week that have caused upset, see opposite. In talking to a parent I was made aware of a course for parents offered by PLace2Be. You will find a flyer attached about this. There is also a flyer about an upcoming production in which one of our year 5 pupils will be appearing as you may wish to have a look at that.

Best wishes

Andrea Goetzee,

Headteacher

Notices

WhatsApp Issues

Once again this week myself and colleagues have found ourselves managing issues in school that have been created on pupil WhatsApp groups out of school. While the legal age for use of this social media platform is 13 we know that many of our older pupils use it. This week we have had incidents of outright verbal abuse and swearing as well as increasingly vicious insults about pupils and their parents dressed up as 'roasting'. While I do not encourage the use of WhatsApp among children, if you choose to let your child use it then please take steps to ensure they use it responsibly and safely. One of the most frequent complaints is about children being added to groups without their knowledge. This can be simply dealt with by using the 'privacy' option in 'settings' on phones and then 'groups'. Within that you will see 'who can add me to groups' and then a variety of options. If you choose 'my contacts except' then you can limit who can add your child to a group. If a group is set up then an invitation will be sent and your child can choose to accept or decline. This will not eliminate unpleasantness but gives some degree of control over how groups will be formed. I also understand that there are often multiple 'administrators' in groups who can add or remove others at will, often causing upset. If a group is set up then, ideally parents, should agree the rules of the group and who is the administrator.

Please monitor what your children do, this is taking up so much time in school that we are now logging the incidents we find out about to look for common features.



Key Dates

May

24th End of half term

June

3rd - 14th Year 4 times tables check

5th Sports afternoon with 6th as back up

20th Banks Road Sports Afternoon here

21st & 24th Inset Days

25th Year 3 visit to Creswell Crags

28th BFG Summer Fair

July

w/c 1st Year 6 Adventure Week

3rd Class and Team photographs

9th Transition Day

12th Reports Out

17th Optional Parents meetings

22nd Year 6 Matinee Performance

23rd Year 6 Evening Performance

24th Reading Reward Afternoon

24th Year 6 Leavers' social event

25th Behaviour Reward Afternoon

26th Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

26th End of school year



Headteacher's Awards

Orion

Pegasus Willow

Hydra

Leo Elsie, Gabby, Heather,
George, Estelle

Columba Ayden, Lucia, Lily,
Amun, Alfie, Mailliey

Volans Jasper, Charlie, Aarav

Andromeda

Phoenix

HEROES

Orion: Harry M.

Pegasus: Dhevan N. /
Jaxson J.

Hydra: Alexander B.

Leo: Brooklyn C.

Columba: Lily E.

Volans: Hannah L.R.

Andromeda: Whole class

Phoenix: Whole class

Forest School Appeals

As Forest School resumes next week, Miss Carr is appealing for donations of unwanted sheets, pillowcases and duvet covers for den building activities. She has also asked I share a couple of links about tick awareness as we are now in that season.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/>

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/injuries/skin-injuries/tick-bites/>