



# Newsletter



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Dear Parents and Guardians,

It feels very strange to be writing an end of term, or possibly end of school year, newsletter in March but sadly this is the case. As of this afternoon, the school, as it currently functions, is closed for the foreseeable future.

Bishops Down Primary School, Nursery and Easter Holiday Play Scheme will now be running as emergency child care provision for key workers who are on the front line in the fight against COVID-19.

A huge thank you to those Key Workers who submitted their requests for child care to us by 11 am this morning, as this has given us time to organise staffing and children's meals next week. To be clear, we can only take the children of those parents who have signed up today, for Monday. There will be an expectation of 24hrs notice for Key Worker child care places going forwards. School uniform is not required.

As of Monday there will be a skeletal staff running the childcare so please use the office email rather than calling as the office may not be manned all through the day. Teachers, TAs, Senior Leaders and Admin staff will be working on a rota basis so they can remain in isolation at home when not required in school in order to protect themselves as much as possible at this time.

Easter Holiday Play Scheme is cancelled so The Beehive team will be in contact shortly regarding reimbursement or 'banking' your fees all ready paid. Please be patient at this time, as you can appreciate this is a huge admin job! Play scheme will be running free of charge for our known Key Worker families and for Key Workers in the wider community if required by KCC.

It has been a very challenging week for all connected with the school. I am incredibly proud of every member of staff at Bishops Down, they are an amazing team of people. Also thank you for the messages of support from our families. The emails have been stuck on the staffroom wall to keep us all going and are very much appreciated!

We say a final goodbye to Claire Edmondson our Reception Teacher. We haven't been able to do our usual Bishops Down farewell, but have managed a lovely presentation today in front of staff. She will be missed and we all wish her well.

Mrs Bettles will be sending home information for home learning, please keep safe and use the office email if you have any queries regarding this.

So goodbye from the all of the staff at Bishops Down for now, take care of yourselves and we'll see you on the other side!

Regards

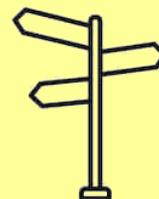
Clare Owen

**NEED  
HELP?**

## SUPPORT AVAILABLE

If families are in need of **foodbanks** at this time please contact Ellen Stock our Family Support Worker, who can make a referral on your behalf. This will be made in the strictest confidence.  
estock@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk

Ellen is also available for any parent to talk to over the coming months if you are finding yourselves in crisis, whatever the reason. She is on hand to listen and signpost to agencies that can support families and individuals at this time.



For families in self isolation there is a local Facebook support group. It's called Culverden Community Forum and the link is:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/202725757734372/about/>

Well done to the football team who have finished top of the table with all of their games played- well done and thank you to Peter Burke for his coaching and coordination of the team.



## School meals

If your family is eligible for free school meals we will be providing supermarket vouchers in due course. We are awaiting government action on this, so bear with us for the next few days if you can.  
If you are in dire need on Monday please contact Ellen Stock.

If your child is attending Bishops Down during term time because you fall under the criteria set by the government **AND** is eligible for free school meals ('FSM') then they will be provided with a meal by Nourish as normal.

All other children will also need to bring a packed lunch during term time as Nourish will **ONLY** be providing food to those children in receipt of FSM. Therefore if your child is in Yr R, 1 or 2 and currently receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals ('UIFSM'), they are not entitled to a free school meal and/or if your child is in Yr N or Yrs 3 -6 and not receiving FSM please bring a packed lunch if using the school childcare during term time.

### A message for Year 6

We hope to see you again before the end of the school year, but if it is not to be then we will put on some event, when this is all over to celebrate your time at Bishops Down. We feel so sad for you to be missing out on your final months with your friends. Best wishes to you all and hope to see you soon.



Mrs Owen, Mrs Bettles, Mr Milne and Miss Mackie