

BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



5th January 2024

'You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream'.

C.S. Lewis

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back to a new term at school. We have an exciting term of learning ahead and each year group have started new learning topics this week that will last for the spring term. These are detailed at the end of this newsletter. If you feel you could support our topics anyway with any artefacts or expertise you may have, please get in touch.

Headteacher update

As you will have seen in the newsletter from Governors at the end of term, we have a new Headteacher joining us after Easter. The Governing Body will be holding a welcome meeting at 2.30pm on Thursday 11th January to introduce the new Headteacher. Please do join us in the school hall if you can.

UK Power Networks - Temporary Prohibition of Parking - Royal Chase, Tunbridge Wells - 8th January 2024 for 82 days

Unfortunately, there will be roadworks and traffic temporary lights along Royal Chase from this coming Monday - until March! We anticipate this will cause some congestion all around the area at school-run time. Fortunately the road will be open for those on foot.

Parking will be prohibited for the entire length.

Pedestrian access will be maintained during the works.

This is required for the safety of the public and workforce while works are undertaken by UK Power Networks.

For the most up to date information on these works please visit: <https://one.network/?tm=136801978>

Spring Term Topics

Foundation Stage	Marvellous Machines	Children will learn about technology that is part of their daily lives. They will explore various machines, learn about how machines help us and find out about how machines have changed and developed over time. They will learn about products that use electricity to make them work and explore magnets.
Year 1	Bright Lights, Big City	Children will learn about the countries that make up the United Kingdom, capital cities and some of their physical and human features. They will have the opportunity to do map work, using compasses and positional and directional language to plan routes around London. They will research the cause and impact of the Great Fire of London and look at some famous London landmarks. They will learn about other capital cities around the world and compare them to London.



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ASPIRE CERTIFICATES

This term we will be focusing on our school values—ASPIRE. Each Friday a child will be chosen to receive a certificate because they have demonstrated one of our school values.

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Dominic

Lucy

Elsie

Ilham

Henry F

Rebeca



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Year 2	Coastlines	Children will learn about the location of the world's seas and oceans and keys to learn about map symbols. They will also find out about the directions on a compass. They will learn about the human and physical features of a coastline, including the effects of erosion and how to stay safe when visiting the coast. They will learn about the work of the RNLI and about the coastal town of Whitby, including how Captain Cook is linked to the town.
Year 3	Rock, Relics and Rumbles	Children will learn about the different layers of the Earth, including plate tectonics and their potential effects on the Earth's surface. They will investigate different types of rock to learn about their uses and properties. They will also investigate soil and fossils, including learning about the work of Mary Anning. They will have the opportunity to use maps to learn about the lines of latitude and longitude and a compass to learn about the cardinal and intercardinal points. They will also learn about volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.
Year 4	Winding River, Misty Mountain	Children will learn about the characteristics and physical processes of rivers, including how they shape the landscape over time, their significance around the world and the impact of flooding. They will learn how to use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and a key to locate and plot geographical places and features on a map, as well as how contour lines are used to show the topography of an area. They will have the opportunity to learn about the stages of the water cycle and about mountains and their different formations. They will also learn about habitats and how human and natural influences can have an impact on the environment.
Year 5	Sow, Grow and Farm	Children will learn about allotments in the United Kingdom and how the government encouraged people to have them to support food rationing during the Second World War. They will learn about food webs and animal life cycles, including how living things are dependent on one another within a habitat. They will investigate the different ways that plants reproduce and will dissect flowering plants to identify the different structures. They will have the opportunity to learn about farming in the United Kingdom and the techniques used in modern farming, including the challenges that farmers face. They will learn about the benefits of eating seasonally and about the pros and cons of importing food. They will also begin to develop their own allotment outside their classroom.
Year 6	Frozen Kingdoms	Children will learn about the regions of the Arctic and Antarctic. They will learn about the similarities and differences between these two regions. They will learn how to use grid references, lines of latitude and longitude, contour lines and symbols to identify the geographical locations of the Arctic and Antarctic. They will investigate polar oceans to learn how they differ from other oceans on Earth. They will learn about the indigenous people of the Arctic and about the positives and negatives of tourism in Antarctica. They will also learn about classifying animals, animal adaptations and evolution, and polar exploration and discovery.