

Wednesday 17th June 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your patience with us while we all acclimatise to this new normal. We are really enjoying the fact that we are once again having contact with some year groups in the school, albeit in a very different way. However, we are very aware that the year groups that are not able to access school are finding this lack of contact difficult.

The school staff have considered carefully how we can address this issue and as a result, we have decided to offer 2 sessions of online communication using Microsoft Teams, each week, for the year groups currently not accessing school. These sessions will not be lessons, but will instead be an opportunity for your child to see their teachers and their peers and discuss pastoral topics. As this is new to both of us and yourselves, we will begin with Year 5 and then offer this out to other year groups afterwards. Further details about how to access these sessions will follow. Please note that your child will not be granted access to a Teams Meeting unless you have provided confirmation that you agree to the Online Communication rules that will also be sent to you.

Reminders:

- The revised menu for school packed lunches can now be found on the school website.
- Numbers of children returning are rising week on week. We now have 83% of yr1 and 72% of yr6. If you would like your child to start next Monday, please inform the school office.



Year 6 enjoying some classroom dance, 'socially distanced' rugby and Forest School this week



Is your child a young carer?

Lots of young carers aren't known to their schools so we would like to make you aware that if anyone at home is struggling with mental or physical ill health, disability or drugs/alcohol, your child is considered to be a Young Carer and support is available.

Being a Young Carer can have a negative impact on a young person such as low confidence and self-esteem, low educational attendance & attainment and poor physical & mental health. It is Kent Young Carers aim to reduce the negative and highlight the positive impact of being a carer such as increased resilience, empathy, non-judgemental attitude and caring nature.

Kent Young Carers work with schools, communities, and statutory and voluntary agencies to identify hidden young carers. Following assessment, KYC offer a range of short-term interventions including signposting, one-to-one support, in school support and workshops.

If you would like us to refer your child please contact Ellen Stock (Family Support) estock@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk and she will arrange for this for you.