



# BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

15th January 2021

## Updates this week:

We were pleased to get food hampers out to those children in receipt of free school meals on Wednesday this week. However, that afternoon it was announced that the FSM voucher scheme would be starting again! So we will resume vouchers as soon as we can next week, as we know parents prefer them.

We have received 11 laptops from the Department of Education which will be going to families this week who are in need of devices to access home learning.

A huge thanks to Ellen Stock, Family Support Worker, for organising the hampers and the roll out of the laptops. She now needs 'delivery driver' added to her job description!



## Attendance in school

At the end of last week an update was issued by the government regarding the rules on attendance at this time. It serves as a reminder:

*Schools should speak to parents and carers to identify who needs to go to school. If it proves necessary, schools can ask for simple evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker, such as their work ID badge or pay slip. Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.*

As we are now at double the number of children in school compared to the March lockdown we will be requiring evidence of employment. I can assure you that we are not trying to be obstructive but we must keep numbers to a minimum to reduce the risk to pupils and staff that have to be in school. Staying at home is safer for all.

For children in school please be reminded that **school uniform is required** on the top half and jeans/tracksuit bottoms/leggings on the bottom half.

## The second week of remote learning



The staff and parents are now getting into the swing of remote learning and are therefore keen to make improvements to ensure the best quality provision possible at this time. As parents you can really help your child by:

- Ensuring children have a quiet space to work in. Use headphones if possible, as it will help enormously.
- Ensure that your child is ready for their lessons by being on time and having their resources ready.
- **Don't stay** with your child whilst they are in lessons. Help them set up, then move away, even with year 1 and 2 children. They wouldn't have one to one help in the classroom and someone next to them with the answers! The teachers need to see what your child can and cannot do on their own, so they can provide the correct level of challenge. Yes, provide technical help but not help with their work, we need to encourage independence.
- Support the school by ensuring your child knows this is 'school time' and behaves accordingly. They should be respectful to the teacher and with their peers. Using the chat feature only when asked and not using emojis.
- Ensure your child is on mute when they are not talking to the teacher, as teachers can hear all the conversations in your home if not!
- Ensure your child's back ground is blurred when they are on Teams for the same reasons as above, it is for your privacy!



## The second week of remote learning continued:

If there are any tips and hints that are class specific, they will be included in the class notes on Friday. Thank you so much for your support with all of the above. Home education is very tough for you and we really want to be able to support you through this time. The more independent your child, the more you can get on with working from home yourselves!

The DfE has stated that KS1 pupils should have 3 hours of remote learning a day and KS2, 4 hours. At Bishops Down we have exceeded this, so to redress the balance, and for your child to get much needed time away from devices, we are introducing **SODA (Switch Off Devices Afternoon)**. Each class will have an afternoon away from screens to do activities on their own, or with a family member, if available. Details are on the attached document.



We hope that your child enjoys some of these creative tasks and gives them that much needed break from screens.



## Winter Writing Competition

I was so delighted by the many and varied entries I received for the Winter Writing competition, and had a great time reading all the creative ideas from children. Thank you to everyone who entered, the standard was very high!

I could only choose 3 winners and it was tricky but I am delighted that Bianca , Kaiya and Ben B were all recipients of the prize. Well done to them, and to everyone who entered, I was very impressed and have high hopes for authors of the future!



## Nursery Puppy Visit!

Frisbee the puppy visited Nursery this week. Here are some comments from the children:

Megan "It was so fun having a puppy."

Zachary " It was so cute."

Monty "I liked feeding him."

Joshua "I liked stroking him."

Ajwa " I was so sad when he left."

