

Bishops Down Primary School & Nursery



Parent & Guardian Update During School Closure no.4

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope everyone is safe and well and families are all managing as best as is possible in these times. As mentioned last week, in order to facilitate the child care facility at school for our Key Workers the curriculum staff are currently working on a 3 week rota. This means that I am leading staff this week, Mrs Owen is leading staff in Week 3 and Mrs Woods in Week 4. If you have any queries or need to make contact with anyone please continue to do so using the office email address, office@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk.



Some of you may have heard, in Boris' Daily Briefings this week, the government now feel the UK is 'past the peak' but that the measures in place must continue to be adhered to in order to avoid a second peak. He also spoke about how, next week, he will publish and present a comprehensive plan for how the government will 'restart the economy; how we can get our children back to school; and how we can get people into work.' As a school we have received no further guidance on what this may look like or when it may come into play. As always, when we do hear additional information we will share it with you as soon as we can. But our priority must remain the health and safety of our children, families and staff.

As already mentioned the school continues to be open for the parents and guardians of Key Workers. If you find that your circumstances have changed and you need to access this, please email the office to inform them of your change of circumstances. Please be advised that this facility is provided for parents that are Key Workers who cannot safely keep their children at home.



Beehive's Bank Holiday & Half-Term Holiday Play Scheme (Friday, 8th May and all week w/c 25th May) is running for children of Key Workers only, free of charge. We have invited other schools in Tunbridge Wells to use this facility for their local Key Workers, if they cannot provide a service at their school throughout the holiday. If you are a current parent of Bishops Down, and a Key Worker, please book the sessions you need using School Gateway in the Holiday Club Keyworkers section - if you have problems booking with Gateway please email Beehive on : beehive@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk



Home Learning

Thank you all for your feedback on the home learning and for those who have completed the questionnaire. If you have yet to fill this in and would like to send us some feedback, please do so before the closing date of Thursday 7th May. We are really proud to be able to provide support for those families who need the structure of a school day. If you are struggling with this, please do get in touch and we can offer our help and support to you. Please be advised that Friday 8th May is a Bank Holiday and no home learning will be set on the website for this date.



Some of you may have received some personalised letters to you children from their class teachers this week. The teachers and teaching assistants are all missing are all really missing teaching and communicating with their classes. If you haven't received one yet, keep your eyes on your emails and I am sure you will in the coming weeks. The teachers have also really loved hearing the children. They really do enjoy reading all about what they have been getting up to and seeing some of the lovely images that are being sent in. We have seen some great cooking, dancing, DIY and even alpacas on their daily walks.

Free School Meals

As mentioned last week, some family circumstances may have changed in light of the current pandemic. If there is a possibility that your child now qualifies for free school meals, please apply using this link, <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent> . You can check your eligibility on the attached qualifying poster.

Whilst schools are officially closed, we have been providing supermarket vouchers. It was announced this week that there vouchers are now being accepted at Aldi, McColl's, Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Asda, Waitrose and M&S.

Family Support Worker

Ellen Stock is our FSW. She can be contacted in the strictest confidence on the following email address. estock@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk If you feel you would like to contact Ellen, she can be available to talks to anyone who is finding themselves in crisis. This could be regarding finances, health, or general wellbeing. She is on hand to listen and signpost to agencies that can support families and individuals at this time.

Admissions

Similarly, if you need support with any Admissions queries, Jo Sheldon can also be contacted via email on jsheldon@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk as she is accessing emails daily.

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/>

Mrs Owen will be producing an update next Friday. That's all from me this week! Have a wonderful weekend- fingers crossed the sunshine returns again soon.

Rebecca Bettles
Deputy Headteacher

