

Dear Parents,

I am pleased and somewhat relieved to say that Bishops Down has made it to half term without a case of Covid-19. This is down to the diligence of our staff and pupils, and the unwavering support and compliance from parents- **thank you**. However, we are not so naïve to think that we are 'out of the woods', far from it, with the national picture worsening. So to ensure that we are as prepared as we can be for the winter months we are putting all our efforts into creating an improved home learning provision. This will be available for any pupil who is isolating at home be it because of possible contact, awaiting test results or a year group/school closure. See Mrs Bettles guide to home learning on the back page. Have a restful half term and keep safe everyone! **C Owen**

### PSA News



On Wednesday night, the PSA held their **AGM**. During this meeting, the PSA had to say goodbye to some familiar faces and hello to some new ones. Lucie Farrimond resigned as Chair and Maria Mandia resigned as Secretary. We'd like to thank Lucie and Maria for everything that they have done for the PSA and the school. They have been amazing and the PSA would not have been the success that it is without them.

We are thrilled to announce that Kristy Adams and Lucy Howard were voted on as new **Co-Chairs** and Clare Wetz was voted on as the new **PSA Secretary**. These new faces have already come up with some innovative and exciting fundraising activities that are due to start next term. More information will follow and minutes from the **AGM** will be available on the **PSA website**.

If you can't wait for the new term to start, then why not switch on your creative brain and tune into our half term Facebook competition. Help the kids design and carve pumpkins and upload your pictures via Facebook to win a prize. More details and the rules of the competition can be found on the **PSA Facebook Page**.

There are so many ways that you can help the PSA. But some easy ways to show your support are through **EasyFundraising** and **AmazonSmile**. Just through buying Christmas presents or doing your weekly shop, you could be helping to raise much-needed funds for the **Bishops Down PSA**. You can find more information on the **PSA website**.

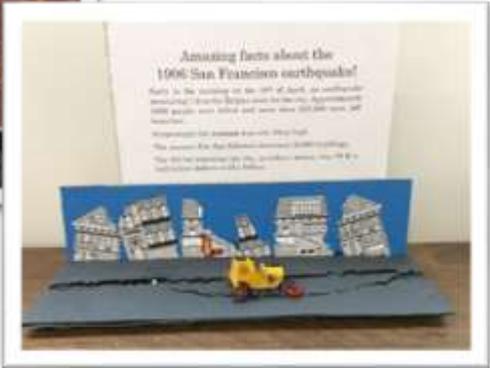
The **Bishops Down PSA Committee** look forward to a new and exciting future and to working together to support the school.



Nourish Food Bank Donations- Thank you!



Extreme Earth projects by year 6



## Current Home Learning Provision at Bishops Down

With the likelihood that many children will experience at least part of this academic year learning at home, we are committed to using our class pages on the school's website to maintain the connection between home and school learning. Children who are unable to attend school due to COVID related isolation and are well within themselves, should be accessing home learning each day to ensure they continue to make good progress this academic year.

### Nursery, Reception and Year 1

#### **How to Access Home Learning**

Teachers will share their weekly plan on Tapestry using the memos section. This avoids the children's journals filling with observations that don't correspond with their learning and progress. This memo will be shared each Monday and throughout the week.

### Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

#### **How to Access Home Learning**

- Visit the schools website via this link <https://www.bishopsdownprimary.org/>
- Select the 'Classes' tab
- Choose appropriate class



Your child's class teacher will be uploading the same learning which is taking place in the classroom that week and uploading the lessons taught that day to the website after school. This means that you will be accessing the learning one day after it was taught in class. Please, therefore, click on the links to the previous day's learning which will be dated one day behind.

Your child will have access to daily lessons in:

#### **Maths**

#### **Reading Skills**

#### **Writing/Topic**

These should be completed each morning. In the afternoon, children should complete their final lesson by clicking on the Oak National Academy link and following the website to their year group. They must complete one lesson (not English or Maths) from this website. In summary, children should be aiming to complete the Maths, Reading Skills and Topic lessons set by their teacher each morning and the additional lesson from Oak National Academy in the afternoon. Children are encouraged to manage their own time, taking appropriate breaks as and when needed. A timetable is also available on the class page which shows which lessons to complete on each day.

## Future Home Learning Provision at Bishops Down

As we strive to continually improve our provision of Home Learning, we have looked to different technologies which will enable us to share lessons with children in the most effective way. The online learning platform which we have chosen is Office 365 and Teams in particular. In time, this will allow us to share planning content and resources with children learning at home. We hope also to begin to offer live or recorded sessions which children at home can join whilst isolating. The technology is very new to us and staff will require full training before this can be fully rolled out but we are excited about the opportunities it will give us. We hope to share more details about how Home Learning is changing in Term 2.

**You will soon receive a separate letter with new log-in details for your children, along with instructions of how to set-up this initial account. Please make sure that you have signed out of Teams before signing in with your new details, otherwise it will automatically default to your previous account.**



### **Parent Consultations**

Next term, all teachers will be offering two dates for Parent Consultations. The consultations will take place on Microsoft Teams. Details regarding the dates and how to log into the consultation will be sent to you at the start of next term. Once the dates are released, you will be able to book your ten minute appointment slot online by signing up using the News and Events section within School Gateway where you will be able to select your preferred slot.

The ten minute time slot gives you a chance to get to discuss your child's wellbeing and make the teacher aware of any important information you may wish to share. The class teacher will also be presenting information regarding your child's progress and attainment from the first term.