

BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



23rd April 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back everyone and a very warm welcome to our 7 new Nursery starters. If you have any questions please do get in touch with the office or Jo Sheldon in admissions.

I am delighted to start this newsletter with the wonderful news that Mrs Bettles had a beautiful baby girl, Bella-Rose, at the beginning of the holidays. Many congratulations to Mr and Mrs Bettles on their new arrival.



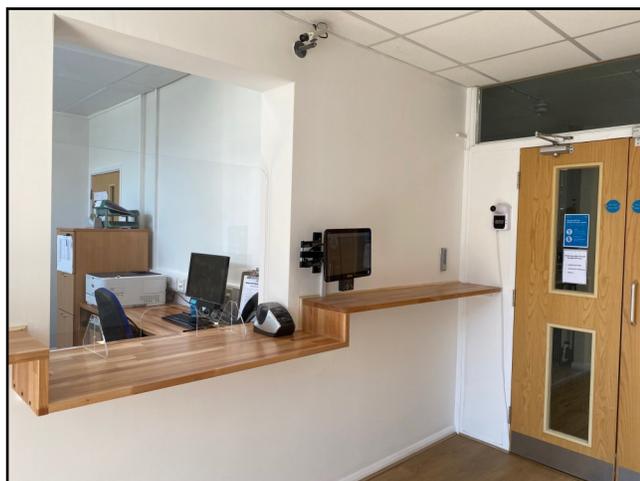
With some of the Covid 19 rules relaxing recently we are aiming to get normal school practice back on track by the end of the summer term. It will be a gradual process but so far we have started using the hall again for PE and drama lessons, *with thorough cleaning in between uses of course!* And a couple of clubs have started. These are small steps but it is so good to see children around the school again and on the field enjoying sport.

As a key part of 'normality' in school, school uniform is of utmost importance in setting the tone for learning. Wearing a uniform sets a boundary by placing a pupil in a 'working environment' mind-set and helps them separate their home and school life. Please ensure your child is in the correct school shoes and summer uniform, with shoulder length hair tied back; it really does make a difference to behaviour and mind-set.

From the Site Team:

Mr Beaton has been extremely busy this holiday creating a new front office area for Mrs Miller and Mrs Sheldon. He has knocked down walls, widened the hatch and replaced flooring– it looks great and much more welcoming. Thank you Mr Beaton.

A little reminder, if you have any spare flower pots at home we would love to take them off you! We would like to plant them up for our new pond area, playground and parent shelter. If you need to bring them up with your car please let the office know and we can organise a drop off for you. Thank you.





Catch up funding and curriculum news

The Easter tutoring programme was a success with many teachers saying how well the children have come on given the small group attention. Other after school tutoring groups will start next week. If you receive a letter from the school asking for your child to join a 'catch up' class we urge you to take up the place.

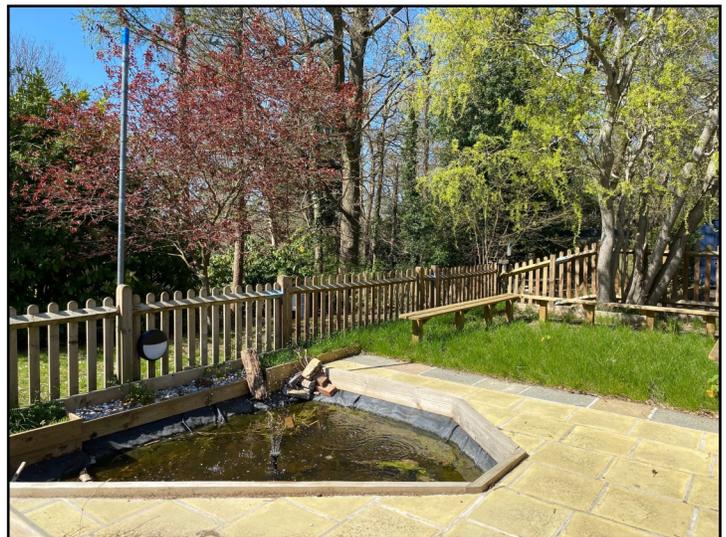
The leadership team have conducted a review of every child's progress this week in order to draw conclusions regarding the impact of the lockdowns on children's social and academic development.

Teachers will be raising any concerns with you this week and will be explaining how they are 'filling gaps' in children's knowledge. The leadership team will use their conclusions to draw up a school action plan in order to address the complex and varied issues that have arisen during the pandemic over the coming year.

We are now using Sir Linkalot in school to support our literacy teaching. Sir Linkalot is an award winning web based app that helps children with spelling through fun, humorous animations which help with memory. Proven to increase children's literacy levels, Sir Linkalot is great for all children, and is helpful for dyslexic children as well. As well as helping with spelling, it helps children understand the root of words (etymology). Teachers will be guiding you through the levels on the programme but may also be working on other spellings in school such as spelling 'rules'. The log in details for the app went home before Easter and are being included in the children's class note today but please let Mrs Holliday know if you have any questions.

[The Future Of Spelling – Sir Linkalot](#)

Young writers are running a Peculiar Pets poetry competition for KS2 children. Pupils can create animal mash ups, be inspired by their perfect pet or make their own awesome animal to write about. Poems can be narrative, riddles, acrostics or rhymes. Mrs Holliday has entry forms for anyone who would like to enter and further details can be found at www.youngwriters.co.uk/peculiar-pets



Some lovely Spring photos of the school site