



BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

29th January 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

I'm sure that many of you will have been following the news this week and have picked up on the statement regarding school closures, but for those of you who may not have had the chance to see it yet, we wanted to make sure everyone was as up to date as possible.

It has been rare, since the start of the pandemic, that schools have been provided with much clarity or advance notice, but we are pleased that we now have at least some certainty about what will be happening in the coming weeks (although we are, of course, disappointed that we won't have everyone back in school for a little while yet). The key announcements from this week in parliament are as follows:

- The **earliest** schools might 'begin to fully open' will be Monday 8th March, which is the start of the third school week after the half-term holiday;
- There will be a plan/review set out on Monday 22nd February (the first day after the half-term holiday), with further updates;
- When the decision to return has been made, schools will get two weeks' notice of this.

Sadly, this means that we have at least four more school weeks of home-learning under the current arrangements. I know that this will be bitterly disappointing for many families and the children, but I hope that it provides some hope that there might be an end in sight, at least in terms of getting the children back into school.

Sadly, **Beehive** will be closed for the February half term holiday.

This coming week, school staff will be commencing regular asymptomatic **Covid 19 testing**. We have been asked to test ourselves twice a week and to report all results to Track and Trace. There may be an impact on staffing levels, as it is likely we will find asymptomatic cases of Covid 19, that we haven't previously been aware of.

School Lunches

On Monday the school lunch will be limited to a choice of wraps. This is because we are unable to cook a hot meal on Monday as the extractor fan is being removed as part of the ongoing roof work.



Safer Internet Day is taking place on Tuesday 9th February this year with a very appropriate theme of: 'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world.'

Although we will not be able to take part in the usual way of class-based activities, it seems that it is more important than ever to reflect on using the Internet in a responsible and safe way.

One of the first activities we will be getting involved with is supporting the UK Safer Internet Centre to beat the Guinness World Record™ title for the most shares of an online pledge for an internet safety campaign in 24 hours.

Please help us achieve this by sharing from our Facebook and Twitter accounts #AnInternetWeTrust



Next week is our school '**Well Being**' week. Mrs Tizzard has coordinated a range of activities for children and families to do next week. Children need to look at their class timetables to see when they are being encouraged to take part in the activities. Thank you to the staff that have already pre recorded videos for the week. We hope you enjoy the activities on offer.