

Friday 6th November 2020



Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back to you all.

This term will have some new challenges due to the national lockdown and the subsequent changes in the guidance to schools, but also some good news about upcoming events.

The main amendment we need to make will be to staffing, due to the revised categories of 'Clinically Vulnerable' and 'Clinically Extremely Vulnerable' staff. Our risk assessments for these staff have had to be revised and as a result some staff may not be able to carry out some of their usual duties. Of course, we are desperately keen for there to be minimal disruption to the education of the children but we do have the unenviable task of trying to achieve this fine balance.

For Clinically Vulnerable staff, they will still be required to work in school but contact with children and adults should be minimised to reduce risk, so their duties will be altered and extra care taken. For Clinically Extremely Vulnerable staff, working from home is a necessity.

If your child's class is impacted by a teacher working from home, you will be informed. The plan will be that the teacher teaches remotely via Teams with the TAs supervising the class. We have trialled this the other way round with children accessing lessons from home and the teacher being in school, but never this way round. This pandemic is certainly testing our tech skills!



Good news, we have a plan for a Christmas performance for parents! Sadly, we can't do anything in person, but after many discussions we have found a solution. Each class will perform a song, poem or reading in their bubble and this will be shared in a whole school Zoom assembly that will be recorded for parents. We now have cameras in each classroom for the purposes of whole school assemblies and remote teaching, so we are confident that we can pull together a special Christmas themed Zoom performance.

We are also holding Children in Need events in each class on Friday 13th November. Your class teacher will inform you via the class memo, of what is happening in each bubble.



We will be launching a French Christmas card competition that will take place in school and we are currently in discussion with the school caterers as to how we can provide Christmas Dinner this year. We are endeavouring to keep the fun going in these challenging times!

NOTICES FROM THE OFFICE

Thanks to your wonderful generosity, we have received just under £8,500 via voluntary contributions. This is amazing!! We are really grateful.



School lunches: Next week is week 2 on the Nourish menu list.

Please park considerately and safely. This academic year we have been notified of some altercations between our neighbours and parents parking in Rydal Drive. Please can we all be kind and respectful to fellow parents and the residents all so we can avoid any ill feeling.



Bishops Down PSA

Dear Parents and Guardians

A big thank you for all the parents and children who supported the PSA Pumpkin Competition last week. We had so many fantastic designs. Gilly Shankland, Chair of Governors, kindly took on the task of choosing two winners. Silvia in Nursery was the worthy winner for EYs and KS1 and Oliver in Year 5 was the winner in KS2. Well done to you both!

We are busy putting together some Christmas cheer for the children and parents this year before we break up in December; your class reps will be in touch very soon. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Kind regards,

The PSA

Silvia's Pumpkin



Oliver's Pumpkin



These are the dates and times of parent consultations this term. You will receive a letter explaining how to book for your online appointment shortly.

Nursery Monday 30 th November, 2.20pm-5.00pm Thursday 3 rd December, 3.40pm-6.20pm	Year 3 Wednesday 18 th November, 2.00pm-4.00pm Thursday 26 th November, 3.20pm-7.00pm
Reception Tuesday 17 th November, 3.10pm-6.20pm Thursday 19 th November, 3.10pm-6.20pm	Year 4 Monday 23 rd November, 3.40pm-6.40pm Tuesday 24 th November, 3.40pm-6.40pm
Year 1 Monday 9 th November, 3.20pm-5.20pm Wednesday 11 th November, 3.20pm-5.20pm Monday 16 th November, 3.20pm-5.20pm	Year 5 Monday 16 th November, 3.20pm-6.30pm Thursday 19 th November, 1.50pm-5.00pm
Year 2 Tuesday 10 th November, 3.00pm-6.00pm Wednesday 11 th November, 3.40pm-6.40pm	Year 6 Tuesday 17 th November, 3.30pm-6.40pm Tuesday 24 th November, 3.30pm-6.40pm