

UPDATES

The Bishops Nympton Primary School Newsletter

From the Head

Hello all.

Welcome back to school. I would like to begin by wishing you all a very happy New Year and hope that you all had a lovely festive season.

Spring Term

This is always a fairly short but very full term. There are all kinds of exciting things to look forward to during this Spring. We have some exciting new class topic themes, school trips and visits, exciting initiatives, and Easter activities to look forward to at the very end of the term. We are also hoping to start some fantastic musical and sporting opportunities as the term goes on. Meanwhile, the classes have settled back into school really well and you will be able to see what we have planned for them later in this newsletter. Swimming is already underway at our usual South Molton pool venue. There are ten swimming sessions over the course of this term and the children are very excited about what they can achieve by the end of the term. As usual, children will be placed into groups initially but these groups can change depending, of course, on how the children perform. Clubs are underway again with a varied and exciting range on offer. We are hoping to boost this further with hopefully several new and exciting clubs coming online as the term continues.

Staffing

Mrs Scandrett is now on her maternity leave and we would like to wish all the Scandretts all the very best and we look forward to welcoming their new arrival. We also would like to welcome Ms Peter into top class. She has already settled in to her role and many of you will have met her before Christmas. Many of you will have also already met and welcomed Sam Baynes in the office and per-school. James Grieve joins us from Exeter University as he begins his teacher training placement. We wish him every success.

Adventure and Challenge

We are hoping to be able to enter two teams from our federation in the Exmoor Youth Challenge this year. This is a highly challenging event for teams of year sixes and includes full open moorland walking over a sixteen-mile course. The event also involves map reading, orienteering and extremely close timings! We will begin some trials and practices as soon as the weather improves and we encourage our year 5 children and families to join us for these. Although not able to enter our competitive teams just yet, they get a great deal of curriculum enrichment from the experience. Look out for more updates as we get closer to the event. This term also sees the annual residential trip to Heatree Activity Centre on Dartmoor for year 4 and 5 children. This is always an excellent venue with very exciting outward bounds and adventurous activities including everything from Raft Building to Abseiling and High Ropes!

Winter weather

This is the worst half term for the weather and so as always, could I request that children are well prepared for wintry conditions with coats, gloves and appropriate footwear. If severe wintry weather occurs, then please follow the **SNOW CLOSURE GUIDANCE** (previously sent). Please be aware that the systems to find out if the school is open include: the School Text Service, Facebook & Twitter, Radio Devon and the Devon County Website (please sign up for email alerts). These are the main systems as staff may not be able to get to the school to update other systems or put notes on the gates. If bad weather strikes during a school day, then you will be contacted accordingly.

Enjoy the term and I look forward to seeing you all during some of our exciting events.



Spring Term 2018
Week Ending 12th January

DIARY DATES

Please keep checking - dates may be amended or added

Swimming Term:

Group 1 Thu 11th Jan—Thu 8th Feb
Group 2 Thu 22nd Feb—Thu 29th Mar
(missing out Heatree week, 15th Mar)

Jan 2018

Tue 16th Gareth Godwin from SMCC - Transition to Secondary School to visit Yr 6
Mon 22nd Heights & weights (Yrs R & 6)
Mon 29th Football Tournament Years 5/6
Wed 31st Governors Meeting 6.15pm
BN

Feb 2018

Mon 5th Open Afternoon

Monday 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb HALF TERM

Thu 22nd Parents Eve (1)

Mar 2018

Thu 1st Parents Eve (2)
Mon 12th Y1/2 multiskills
Wed 14th Heatree Residential Trip Yr4/5
Fri 16th Heatree Residential Trip r returns
Wed 21st Governors Meeting 6.15pm EA
Fri 23rd Wellington 'Come & Sing'
Thu 29th Easter Activities and Assembly pm

END OF TERM

committed

The Bishops Nympton Team

caring

Mr Gurney Ms Peter Mrs Guy Mrs Hancock Mr Scandrett
Mrs Baynes Mrs Loftus Miss P Alderman Mrs Cockram Mrs Howes Miss Jones
Mrs C Partridge Mrs Kennealy Miss Jennings Ms Pocock Mrs Cree

Pre- School

Dear families

Welcome back to all of our children, parents and carers in pre-school; we hope you all had a lovely Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year. This term we welcome Hermione, Jacob and their families.

Over the coming weeks we are looking at magic, fairies, knights and castles, with a special visit from Dave Hendy the magician on Monday 15th January. Any children not normally in on a Monday are welcome to join us but parents/carers must be present.

With Easter fast approaching we have a date for your diary—Thursday 29th March will be our Easter Hat making and Easter Egg hut morning.

With best wishes

The Pre-School Team

CLASS 1



The Infant Team would like to wish you a very warm welcome back after the holidays, we hope you all had a good break. We're straight back into our learning with some fantastic work being achieved already.

Our topic this term is '**Fantasies and Magic!**'

Already the children are very excited about our new topic for this term of Fantasies and Magic. We have started our learning by learning about Castles, we've been thinking about who lived in a castle and year ones have been learning about the different features of a castle. We have looked at the layout of the very first Motte and Bailey castles and how (and why) they were replaced by stone castles. We will focus on fairy tale stories that include castles and magic and we will learn about how the very first books came about with the invention of the printing press by William Caxton and contrast this with the world wide web and Tim Berners-Lee. We will also be learning about knights, dragons and all things magical! We even have a visit for a magician booked for Monday 15th January in the afternoon together with pre-school!

In our daily Maths, Literacy and Phonics sessions we will follow the Primary National Curriculum and the EYFS curriculum.

Reading: Reading and teaching the skills for reading, continue to be a major focus of our learning this term. All reception children have now learnt enough sounds to be able to sound out and read simple books with minimal support from an adult. EVERY CHILD should be reading a little EVERY DAY (yes, I will keep repeating this every chance I get! If you only have time to do one thing at home, please keep reading!) We are already starting to notice a difference between children who read a lot, with extra practice at home, and those children who only read at school.

Science: Our topic this half term is Materials and we will be thinking about what things are made of and how the properties of the materials are suited to and items use.

Helping your child at home: If you want to help your child with their learning at home, you can do this in your everyday activities by noticing and talking about sounds, words, numbers, shapes, colours and time as you go about your daily routines with your children. When out and about, it would help to talk about names of trees, plants and animals and to notice the changes in the seasons, to tie in with our ongoing learning in Science.

PE kits should be kept on your child's peg during the week. Please include warm clothes as some of our sessions might be outside. They need to have PE kits in school every day. Currently sessions are on Tuesdays with Chris from Pro Coaching, with swimming on Thursday afternoons. Please do ensure ALL clothing is labelled, as when

CLASS 1 CONT'D

changing all the uniform looks the same! If your child is swimming, please think about the clothing they are wearing, are they able to get themselves dressed again independently? We often advise that girls wear trousers rather than tights, as tights are really tricky to get back on again!

Leap into Life: Pre-school children will continue to come to the school once a week to take part in our 'Leap in to Life' sessions with the Reception children, as part of our PE programme, helping to develop gross motor skills, an essential precursor to developing fine motor skills and writing!

Coats: Please bring a warm, waterproof coat to school every day! The weather can change so quickly and children will need them for all playtimes and other outdoor activities as we like to get outside as much as possible!



Labels: Please ensure all items of clothing are named and labelled as changing for PE can get very muddled!

Staff: Mrs Hancock teaches the class, with planning, preparation and assessment time on Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Miss Jones teaches the class all day on Wednesday.

Teaching Assistants: Miss Paula Alderman and Mrs Howes continue to be our invaluable teaching assistants! If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or one of the other members of the Infant Team. After school is easier to discuss individual questions; mornings can be busy, but please inform us of any information such as changes to collection arrangements, etc, which will be noted on the class board. Alternately phone the office 01769 550 387.

Many thanks as always for your continued support.

Alison Hancock and the Infant Team

Cool Milk
www.coolmilk.com

Children under the age of 5 (both Pre-School and Reception Year) receive a free carton of milk at morning break. Once your child turns 5, you can continue to buy milk for him/her by going direct to Coolmilk (<http://www.coolmilk.com>) who will arrange delivery and take payment.

For those children on free school meals (not UIFSM), there is the option for the school to purchase milk on their behalf. Please let the office know if you want your child to continue to receive milk or if you need assistance with any of the milk ordering procedures.

School Meals

A reminder that children in Years R, 1 and 2 are eligible to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). For children in Pre-School or the Junior Class, meals are charged at £2.30 per day. Those families that qualify for 'normal' free school meals (whether Infant or Junior) should apply online via the new Citizen Portal. Please contact the office if you need further assistance - any qualifying families will also attract Pupil Premium which entitles your child(ren) to discounts on various school activities and enables further resources to be purchased on their behalf.

Our catering team produce a lovely range of nutritionally balanced meals and we would like to encourage as many children as possible to make the most of this valuable service.

CLASS 2

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. Class 2 have had a great start to 2018 with all children coming back raring to go! I have already been challenging the class with lots of problem solving in maths and we are enjoying trying to read/speak following the dialect of Tobago used in our Literacy book 'Gregory Cool'.

Topic

This term our topic is Ancient Egypt. We have already started looking at the role of the Nile in Ancient Egypt by learning about farming, a popular subject to start on! The class will look at some of the Pharaohs and the development of the pyramids as well as the mythology that surrounded this early civilisation. Children will compare the Ancient Egyptian civilisation with the society, climate and terrain of Britain at the time. Discover how the Ancient Egyptian civilisation came to an end and also learn about the evidence of Ancient Egypt that exists in modern Egypt today.



PE and Outdoor Learning

This term, PE lessons will continue to take place on a Tuesday; please ensure your child has their PE kit in school each week. For cold, and wet, weather trousers, jumpers and spare socks may well be needed. Please could you also ensure that all PE kit is named.

Due to swimming taking place on a Thursday, Class 2 will not have Outdoor Learning sessions this term.

Homework

Homework will remain the same with work being given out on a Friday to be handed in by Tuesday. Please could you also continue to read with your child on a regular basis. All children have their Mathematics login stuck into their homework books and I'd like to encourage children to use this on a regular basis. The website contains lots of different activities for children to complete to support them across the maths curriculum.

Other information

School provides all stationery that your child needs however they may bring a pencil case to school if they wish. If their pencil case is quite large I may ask them to keep it in their bag and allow them to bring it in for specific art activities.

If children wish to keep a drinks bottle in the class to use throughout the day, I would prefer this bottle to contain only water with squash being reserved for lunch times. This is partly to prevent sticky spills but also to help with the health of your child's teeth.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to come and speak to me before or after school or make an appointment through the office.

Mrs Guy

Thought for this term...

Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

CLASS 3



Dear Parents,

My name is Ms Peter and I am going to be teaching in top class whilst Mrs Scandrett is on maternity leave. The team in Class 3 now consists of myself and Mr Scandrett. It's going to be a great year full of new challenges, new discoveries and new adventures.

English

In English we will write detailed character descriptions linked to our class novel 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. The children will learn how to write letters using character voice making sure they are believable, appropriate and consistent. We will also be learning about play scripts and reading 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens. There will be a particular focus on learning and using accurate grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Maths

Further develop children's understanding and skills in mental and written calculations including problem and real life situations. Oral reasoning and collaborative learning activities will be crucial in Maths as well as fluency and speed of basic calculation.

Theme (History)

We will be learning factual knowledge and understanding of the Victorian period, the impact of the Great Western railways and the Industrial Revolution. Additionally, the children will observe changes in rural life brought about by the coming of the train to Bideford in 1845.

Science

Children will be learning about forces. They will work scientifically by planning and conducting experiments, as well as recording their findings. At the end of this unit, they will compare and give reasons for variations in how forces function on objects, including planes, boats and people.

Religious Education

The children will be learning about Sikhism this term. They will learn about the beliefs of Sikhs, place of worship and their important holidays.

Computing

In computing the children will be coding using Kodu. They will learn the fundamentals of games programming. Using Kodu students will understand how to build a world and program characters and objects before moving on to designing their own game.

Music

Music Hall inspired learning. The children learn recognise and use basic music notations which they will use to play and perform solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and play musical instruments.

Art

We will be looking at block printing based on the designs of William Morris. Additionally, the children will be painting in the style of 'Canal Boat Art'.

Outdoor learning

Our focus this spring term is going to be our productive growing zone. We aim to be completed and ready to fully immerse ourselves into the growing season by the half term holidays. We have a lot of work to do but I am confident that the enthusiasm and commitment of the children will allow us to achieve this. By completing this work we will be aiming to accomplish the RHS gardening awards.

We will also be joining in with some citizen science on behalf of the RSPB, taking part in the big schools bird watch.

The Woodland trusts Green tree schools award will also be a focus as we aim for the prestigious platinum award.

We have a full and fun packed term planned. Please ensure your child has the correct outdoor clothing, suitable for messy manual labor for all potential weather conditions on a Monday and Tuesday so they can take full advantage of these exciting opportunities and experiences.

P.E

The sporting calendar is already very full this term with more potential events being arranged. We have secured a link with Dulverton Primary School which will see us compete in a variety of sporting contests on their floodlit all weather pitch. This link enables us to further extend our sporting opportunities outside of the local learning community.

We have two major football tournaments fast approaching; therefore this will be the basis of our focus for this half term. Children are encouraged to wear studs and shin pads during these P.E sessions but this, of course, is not essential so please do not purchase these especially.

Homework

Children will now receive a piece of numeracy homework and 10 spellings each Friday. This is to be completed and handed in the following Thursday. We will continue to have six minute club and spelling test each Friday. The six minute club tests are available for children to take home to practice under their own volition.

The software (Kodu game lab) used during computing is free to download from Microsoft. Children can use the software at home to make their creations if they have a keen interest in coding.

Reading aloud to an adult at home is encouraged at least twice a week. The benefits of these can be seen in the children writing and comprehension. If you do listen to your child read then please can you make a note of it in their reading record. This will allow me to see not only how much they are reading out of school but also what narratives they are interested in.

I have an open door policy, I am more than happy to see parents and discuss concerns or great progress made at home. Please feel free to come and see me in the morning or after school.

Ms Peter and Mr Scandrett

Notices and Reminders

- If sending money in to class, please put it in a named envelope stating what it is for to make sure it is allocated correctly.
- Most payments (e.g dinners, trips etc) can be made online via Tucasi. We would encourage parents to use this system where possible - If you would like a reminder of how to register for online payments please contact the office. Payment can also be made by cash or cheques (payable to Devon County Council unless otherwise advised).
- If you would like the school to administer medicines such as antibiotics or painkillers, please ensure a permission form is signed in the office. We are unable to give the medicine if we do not have this in place.
- Please label all uniform as it is easy to mislay items.
- Please remember to let us know by phone or note if your child's normal after school transport arrangements will not apply. This is particularly important when after-school clubs are running.
- The school nurse will be completing the Height and Weight Checks for Reception Class and Year 6 The checks will be completed on Monday 22nd January during school time. If you have any questions regarding these checks please contact the school office.

Thank you!

House Points Totals so far this term

Ruby	112	Amber	140
Sapphire	89	Emerald	100