

UPDATES

The Bishops Nympton Primary School Newsletter

From the Head

Hello all.

I would like to begin by wishing you all a very happy New Year (if I haven't already) and hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break. Here at school the holiday is now well behind us as we race into an exciting Spring Term.

Spring Term

This is a slightly shorter and very full term. There are all kinds of exciting things to look forward to during this spring. We will have new class topics (including World War 2, The Romans and Pirates!), school trips and visits, exciting projects (such as the Tim Peake Space Project – see below), and Easter activities at the end of the term. We are also hoping to start some fantastic musical opportunities as the term goes on. Meanwhile, the classes have settled back into school really well and a great deal of hard work is already underway. You will be able to see what we have planned for them later in this newsletter. Clubs are underway again with a varied and exciting range on offer. We are also planning a number of sporting fixtures this term but they are likely to take place when the weather is a little improved. These will hopefully include some home and away football fixtures and perhaps even a mini tournament next half term. We are also hoping that there will be opportunities for netball / tag fixtures as well. Chris returns with Pro-coaching to help with our sports and our fixtures are organised once more through Mr Scandrett. He also continues to lead our Outdoor Learning Programme.

Space and Star-Gazing

We are excited to be part of several exciting new projects and initiatives this year. One of these is the Tim Peake Space Project. We are looking forward to hosting a really exciting event led by our Space Ambassador Jo Richardson (this is a really hands-on event where you get the chance to come and learn too!), and we look forward to another event at East Anstey which will be a Star Gazing event. This should also be fantastic with members of the Tiverton and Mid Devon Astronomical Society and possible local radio coverage. More information will be sent home soon or check social media.

Adventure and Challenge

We are hoping to be able to enter two teams from our federation in the Exmoor Youth Challenge this year. This (as you may know) 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 so more updates as we get closer to the event. This term also sees the 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 Low Adventure courses through moorland streams to High Ropes activities in the tree canopies! We are also already planning next term's visit to London for our year six children.

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. 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.

For all the latest: Find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and don't forget to check out our website: www.bishopsnympton-primary.devon.sch.uk

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

Best wishes

Tim Gurney



Spring Term 2017
Week Ending 13th January

Dates for the Diary:

(Dates may be amended or added)

SPRING 2017

Spring Term 4th January - 31st March

Group 1 Swimming - Wed 11th Jan to Wed 8th Feb (inclusively)
Group 2 Swimming - Wed 22nd Feb to 29th March (not including 15th March, Heatree Trip Week)
Mon 16th Jan - Height & Weight for Reception & Year 6 children
Wed 25th Jan - Stargazing Event at East Anstey School
Mon 13th - Fri 17th Feb - Half Term Break
Wed 15th - Fri 17th March - Heatree Trip
Mon 20th March - School Open Afternoon
Tue 21st & 23rd March - Preschool Parent Consultation Days
Thur 23rd March - Parents Evening 1
Thur 30th March - Parents Evening 2
Thur 30th March - Preschool Open Morning
Fri 31st March - Last day of term & Easter celebration in parish church in afternoon

Summer Term 2017

Wed 19th April - Children return to school

Thought for the term...

Aim high. You'll be amazed at what you can achieve!

committed

The Bishops Nympton Team

caring

Mr Gurney Mrs Scandrett Mrs Guy Miss Whapham Mrs Hancock Mrs Bondy Mr Scandrett
Mrs Allum Mrs Loftus Miss P Alderman Mrs Cockram Mrs Howes Miss Davie Miss Gale
Mrs C Partridge Mrs Kennealy Miss Jennings Mrs Pepperell Mrs Govier
Mrs Kiff Mrs Humphreys Miss C Alderman Mrs Yates

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

'Pirates and Islands'

We have already had an exciting few days with our Pirates topic. This week our school was raided by pirates and our Pirate Bear was held hostage; thankfully he was returned to school again safely. The children were all very excited to be looking for clues and writing down what they found during their Independent Learning time. This half term we will be learning about Pirates, Ships and treasure maps. We will focus on history and learn about Pirates and their ships in the past. After half term our focus will change more to Islands where we will use the Katie Morag stories to help our learning.

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.** 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.

WOW slips: Thank you to those of you who have completed some Wow slips and sent them back into school. It is so important for us to be able to gain a full picture of what your child is able to do at home, as it helps to build a rounded picture of their abilities and forms an important part of completing the Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the school year. We also love to hear the fun things they get up to at home!

Science: Our topic this half term is Weather and Seasons.

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 Thursdays with Chris from Pro Coaching.

Leap into Life: Pre-school children will also 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 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!



CLASS 1

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. Mrs Bondy teaches the class all day on Wednesday. Outdoor Learning will take place on Thursday afternoons with Mr Scandrett. Please ensure children have warm clothes, wellies, waterproof coats and trousers for these sessions.

Teaching Assistants: Miss Paula Alderman is full time. Mrs Howes works every morning. 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 keep us informed of 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

OUTDOOR LEARNING

Monday - Class 3

Tuesday - Class 2

Thursday - Class 1

Despite the cold weather that we expect from winter, we will continue to endeavour to get outside and enjoy our natural learning environment. We have much to do in preparation for the start of the growing season in spring. We aim to get our raised veg beds up and running in time to start planting next half term and continue to develop composting systems to help improve our soil structure. Our willow dome has a planned makeover in February/ March time and we continue to look after our tree and hedge saplings with more on the way in March.

Mr Scandrett

House Points Totals so far this term

Ruby 171
Sapphire 149

Amber 149
Emerald 105

SPORTS NEWS

We kick off 2017 with an exciting opportunity to meet an Olympic athlete whilst raising funds to improve our sports resources. Dan James, the goalkeeper for the Great British blind football team, will be visiting us to offer inspiration and promote the participation in the physical education.

Dan James who has competed in the Paralympics, will be running a sponsored circuit training event where children will be performing numerous physical exercises. Dan will then be holding an assembly to talk about his career and answer the children's questions. More information about this exciting event will follow shortly.

We continue the football theme throughout this first half term with 2 football tournaments on the fixture list. PE and extra training sessions will help us to prepare for these alongside our own intra sports competition.

Mr Scandrett

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are currently working alongside the PTA to update and improve our sports kit. We have initiated talks

and through assemblies have a good idea as to what the child would like. Finalising designs and

securing sponsors will be our next target.

CLASS 2

Dear Parents,

Wishing you all a very happy new year and I hope you have enjoyed the festive period.

All the children have returned to school with a positive attitude this week and were ready to learn! We are now looking forward to the rest of the year with exciting topics to cover.

There have been a few changes in staff this term. The team in Class 2 on a daily basis now consists of myself, Mrs Cockram and Miss Davie. Mrs Westbury-Wells will continue to teach RE and PSHE on a Thursday afternoon and Mr Scandrett will continue to deliver the outdoor learning session on a Tuesday afternoon. Mrs Scandrett will also be teaching Music on a Friday afternoon in Class 2.

Topic



Our topic this term is the Romans. This will focus on the main events of the period and on the lives of the Roman soldiers. We will also be

looking at Earth and Space in Science, focusing on the accomplishments of Tim Peake and building on previous work covered during the children's time in school. Our work on Space will also be incorporated into other foundation subjects.



PE

My class will continue to have PE with Pro-coaching each **Thursday afternoon** so please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on this day. I also advise that as the weather is very changeable (and quite cold on some days) could you send your child to school with jogging bottoms and a jumper wherever possible. This is because we still teach outside, whatever the weather! Children that take part in Football Club on a Monday will also need their PE kit in school this day. Children will also be taking part in swimming on a **Wednesday afternoon** (split into two groups as mentioned on previous letters). Please make sure your child has their swimming kit on this day clearly labelled.

Outdoor Learning

Mr Scandrett will also continue to deliver outdoor learning on a **Tuesday afternoon**. Please make sure your child has their outdoor learning clothes for this afternoon.

Homework

Children in Years 2 and 3 will continue to be given 1 piece of homework each week, alternating between Numeracy and Literacy. Year 4 children will continue to be given a piece of

Numeracy and Literacy homework each week. Children in Class 2 are given homework each **Friday**. This is to be completed and handed in by the following **Tuesday**. We also have a five minute club tables test alternate Fridays. All the children are now on different tables depending on progress. These sheets are available for the children to take to practice at home if they wish.

We have guided reading groups each morning and all children will read in a group session with an adult once a week and with myself once every 2 weeks. Children will also be reading individually with adults throughout the week at least once.

If you could listen to your child read at home then please can you make a note of it in their reading records so I can see how much they are reading and their confidence with their current book band.



If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to come and speak to me before/after school or make an appointment through the office for more urgent matters and I will contact you as soon as possible.

**Miss Whapham
and the Class 2 team**

PRE SCHOOL

The children have been enjoying learning with pirates. They have been drawing maps to find the treasure hidden by a pirate. They drew a large map and thought about what they might see on an island and in the sea. Golden coin biscuits were made iced with their age. Next week we will be making a ship to travel to colder regions.

We remind you that we are now open all day Wednesday. Please speak to Shelley if you would like to book your child a place. We will remain open on a Wednesday until the end of the Summer term. The Government are bringing in 30 hours funding for working parents as of September. We are in the process of finding out what this will mean for our setting and will keep you informed of any updates.

If you have any questions regarding your child's progress please do not hesitate to speak to your child's keyworker or any member of staff.



Shelley, Kath, Cassie and Anya - The Preschool Team

Dates for diary:-

Half term - Monday 13th - Friday 17th February

Consultation days - Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd March - Time slots will be made available nearer the time and displayed on the parent information board.

Open Morning - Thursday 30th March - We invite you to make bonnets/hats with your child followed by tea and coffee. This is also an opportunity for you to look at the displays within the room. This will be our last day of term.

CLASS 3

Dear Parents,

From all the staff in Class 3, we wish you all a very happy new year and one which promises to be rather exciting and fun filled. We have a busy term ahead with Heatree; Exmoor challenge practice; Tim Peake space initiatives alongside numerous planned outdoor learning schemes and a packed curriculum.

There have been a few changes in staff this term. The team in Class 3 now consists of myself, Mr Scandrett and Mrs Westbury-Wells. I will continue to teach both Numeracy and Literacy during the morning sessions each day.

children to be introduced to a single reed instrument.

Mrs Westbury-Wells will be delivering science along with the Foundation subjects during the afternoons on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Mr Scandrett will continue to deliver the outdoor learning sessions and PE on a Monday afternoon.



Topic

Our topic this term is World War Two, also known as the Second World War, which was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. It was the most widespread war in history and directly involved more than 100 million people from over 30 countries. The children will be exploring this topic which contains



numerous cross-curricular links to writing, geography, history, cooking, art and D&T.

PE/Swimming

Class 3 will continue to have PE with Mr Scandrett (**each Monday and Thursday**) afternoon so please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on this day. We advise that with the cold weather setting in, that you send your child with appropriate warm kit (joggers and jumpers). Children will be swimming on a **Wednesday** afternoon (split into two groups as per the letter which was sent home last week.) Please make sure your child's clothes are clearly labelled to avoid confusion whilst getting changed.

Outdoor Learning

Mr Scandrett will now deliver outdoor learning on a **Monday** afternoon. Again, please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor clothes (waterproof clothing and wellies) for this session.



On a Friday afternoon I will now be teaching music in both Class 3 and also Class 2 where the children will be learning how to play Nuvo Doods. These are exciting plastic instruments which are a bridge from the recorder to the clarinet and is the perfect way for

CLASS 3

Homework

All children will continue to receive a piece of Numeracy and Literacy homework each **Friday**. This is to be completed and handed in by the following **Thursday**. We also have a six minute club tables test each Friday. These mini tests are available for the children to take home to practice under their own volition.

We have guided reading groups each morning, where children are required to read set pages at home for the following session. Please can you help your child to

make sure they are completing their reading homework. Alongside this, I also encourage all children to read with an adult at least twice a week. If you do listen to your child read (anything which interests them) then please can you make a note of it in their reading records. This will allow me to see not only



how much they are reading out of school but also what genres they are interested in.

Questions or concerns

I am more than happy to see parents and encourage you to speak to me directly regarding any concerns you may have. Please feel free to come and see me in the morning to make an appointment for later that day or alternatively make an appointment through the office.

**Mrs Scandrett and the
Class 3 team**

Harry Potter Book Night at South Molton Library

Crafts, Prizes & Fun, Thursday 2 February 4 -5.30pm at South Molton Library. Come and celebrate Harry Potter Book Nigh, Enjoy Harry Potter themed crafts, quizzes and a potion making workshop. Free session but booking essential as places are limited. Suitable for ages 6+ , children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Devonli-

Dinner Money

Just a reminder that all dinner money must be paid in advance, at the end of the week that the dinners have been eaten or paid on the day the child has the dinners to the office. A convenient way to pay for your school dinners is by paying online at www.scopay.com/bishopsnympton. You can use this online system to pay in advance for your child's dinners, it can also be used to pay for the swimming lessons and any school trips. If you don't have your individual log in details for your child contact the office. There is also a users manual available in the office should you require a copy. Thank you for your help in ensuring all dinner money is paid on time.

END OF DAY ARRANGEMENTS

If there are changes to the end of day collection for your children, please inform the school, either via the office or a member of staff on duty in the morning. Thank you.

Star Achievers Amethyst Awards

Class 1 achiever: Isla A
Class 2 achiever: Phoebe B
Class 3 achiever: Matthew B



Please cut this off and return to school with any comments/suggestions or questions.
Soundboard