

Bishops Itchington Primary School

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**BISHOPS ITCHINGTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

PART OF STOWE VALLEY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NEWSLETTER SPRING TERM NUMBER 9

6th April 2020

A Message from School Governors



The governors of the school are so proud of the teachers, parents, carers and the whole community for their resilience and support in this unprecedented situation. The head of school, Jacky Sykes, has been phenomenal and a brilliant leader. The executive head, Maggie Godfrey, although self-isolating, has been supporting Jacky and her team behind the scenes. You will all know how much work all the class teachers and TAs have been doing to support the home learning of our pupils and the children of key workers in school. The cleaning staff and caretaker have been essential in keeping the staff and pupils on-site safe and looked after.

A time of crisis brings out the best in communities and we are proud to say that Bishops Itchington has risen to the task. As we move to the Easter break, the governors wish all of the school community good health. We look forward to an unusual summer term and are committed to ensuring the very best educational experience for all our community.

Thank you.
Dr. Sarah Richardson
Chair of Bishop's Itchington
Governing Body



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Dear Parents, Relatives and Friends,

I would like to thank all of our parents and pupils who continue to work so hard during the school closure to ensure the children are accessing their learning. As a parent myself, I know how tricky it can be to get the balance right between being a mum and the homework -setter! I would also like to thank those who have put themselves into self-isolation—this can be challenging but your efforts to protect the community are very much appreciated by all.

Over the page, there are links to information on keeping children safe on-line. With children being at home all of the time and many parents trying to juggle working-from-home, it might a good idea for us all to refresh our knowledge on how to keep our children safe on-line.



To bring a little bit of normality back, here are some photos of the children in E-Group who, just before the school closure, were looking very closely indeed at frogspawn with Mrs. Reason.



School remains open for our children of critical workers and for vulnerable children. I am pleased to say this number has now reached a steady low number meaning that more children are safe at home and the risk of infection among those children and staff who need to come into school is considerably reduced.

This will be a really difficult time financially for many families. Guidance and signposting to where you can get help are on the next page.

Learning packs have been prepared for all pupils and details about when to collect them from your child's teacher by Seesaw. If you have difficulty collecting these, please will you email to let me know and I will arrange delivery admin2014@stowevalley.com or leave a message on the school answering machine 01926 612297.

If anyone at all needs support from school or from the village community at this difficult time, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are here to help.

Jacky Sykes



FOBIPS NEWS

Gift Room

The week before school closed, FOBIPS ran the annual gift room. The resources room was 'buzzing' with children keen to buy a gift for their mothers, grandmothers, aunts and other valued ladies in their lives.

The money raised from the Gift Room was an amazing £483.10! Thank you to everyone who contributed by donating gifts, helping to run the gift rooms (FOBIPS and parent volunteers) and the children who purchased items.

Summer Fair

Although there is a slight possibility that the children may return to school before the end of the summer term, we thought it best to advise that FOBIPS will not be able to run their annual Summer Fair. The Fair benefits the school and the community by bringing everyone together in a relaxed atmosphere and it raises funds. FOBIPS and school will see what they can do when the children do return to get that 'togetherness' going again!

Staff Changes

As you already know, Mrs. Wingrove is leaving us to start her new job and we welcome Mrs. Collen who will be teaching Year One. We all wish Mrs. Wingrove the best of luck in her new role in Early Years. Mrs. Wingrove will be missed by many but we are sure she will come and visit us.

Mrs. Fairbairn, who has been at the school for some 20+ years, is also retiring. Mrs. Fairbairn has worked behind the scenes organising dinners and doing essential admin and she will be greatly missed. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

We are sorry too to announce that Miss Wilkinson, our class teacher in Holyrood, is leaving us at the end of this term. Miss Wilkinson has been teaching her Induction Year at our school as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT). Miss Wilkinson has really enjoyed her time in our school and we know what a lovely relationship she has with the children in Holyrood. Miss Wilkinson has decided that she would benefit from more time to complete her induction period than our school is permitted to give. We would like you to join with us to wish Miss Wilkinson the best of luck as she continues with her teaching career.

Keeping Your Children Safe on-line

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe on-line. Below are some useful links

www.thinkuknow.com. This is the educational programme from the National Crime Agency, (NCA-CEOP), a UK organisation that protects children both online and offline. The site is easy to navigate and gives some extremely valuable messages.

www.internetmatters.org This website that informs and supports parents/carers to keep their children safe on-line. For example, it tells you how to control settings, plus it gives advice on how to use the internet during the social isolation period.

<https://parentinfo.org/> Parent Info is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP, providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations.

<https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety> This is a website from London Grid for Learning, an education technology community that gives excellent advice.

www.net-aware.org.uk/ This website provides support for parents and carers from the NSPCC.

Here you will find some engaging on-line safety stories for children aged 3-7 years old. <https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories>

This link can be used if you want to report a concern: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Produced by the NSPCC this site is full of recommendations and is aimed mostly at parents protecting their children online. Highly recommended. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

If you have any concerns, then you can ask school for help. 01926 612297 or admin2014@stowevalley.com, anytime.

ZOOM WARNING! Zoom has gained popularity during social isolation, however, it is not secure as other people can use the platform to access your personal data, so please do not use this. Although hearsay, it is thought that 'other people' can pop up on Zoom who are not on your call, which poses child protection issues too.

Assistance and Support

Benefit by Registering for Free-School Meals

Families who are on low-income can register for Free School Meals status for their children. Due to the financial hardship owing to the Corona Virus, Warwickshire County Council is providing extra support to these families. If you think your child could qualify for Free School Meals enabling you to access this extra funding, then you can quickly and confidentially see if you qualify and register. Go to his website:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education->

Warwickshire Welfare Scheme for Free-School-Meal Families

Warwickshire local Welfare Scheme from Warwickshire County Council provides a financial payment for families whose children are registered for Free School Meals. Once registered, you will need to use the link below to claim your entitlement of help towards food and energy costs. You can make your claim during the first 6 weeks that the school is closed so you have 4 weeks remaining.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

At school, we are keeping Free School Meal families up to date confidentially with the benefits and support they are entitled to claim. If you have recently registered for Free School Meals, then please let Mrs. Sykes know, so she can keep you informed with updates and information.

Sandwiches delivered to Free School Meal Families in Bishop's Itchington

During term-time, families who are registered for Free School Meals can order a free packed lunch, which school will deliver to your door every week day. There is a choice of ham, cheese or chicken sandwiches. Please let Mrs. Sykes know if your child has Free School Meals Status and wishes to order a sandwich before 9am each day. Tel: 01926 612297.

Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action can provide information.
www.wcava.org.uk

If you need additional help to get food, medicines or emotional support, call Warwickshire Council's dedicated information hotline on **0800 4081447**.

If you require foodbank vouchers, telephone 07850 293383, email: info@warwickshireandleamington.foodbank.org.uk or go to website www.warwicksandleamington.foodbank.org.uk. If you are having trouble with this, contact Mrs. Sykes 01926 612297 or 07801 506042 if you need help.

