

Bishops Itchington Primary School and Ladybirds' Nursery

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**BISHOPS ITCHINGTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

PART OF STOWE VALLEY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

NEWSLETTER 5th February 2021

Dear Parents, Relatives and Friends,



'Things will get better.' These are the wise and inspiration words of Captain Sir Tom Moore, who sadly died at 100 years of age last week. He single-handedly raised the spirits of our whole nation and we can do our part by telling ourselves that, "Things will get better." Have you noticed that the mornings are getting lighter? Have you heard the birds singing? Have you seen the snowdrops and daffodils peaking through? The vaccine is being rolled out at lightning speed and children will return back to school soon (hopefully by 8th March).

Our Well-being Governor, Martyn Scott, met with the School Council last week with Mrs. Russell to find out how the children are feeling, both at home and in school. You can read the children's comments in this newsletter, but I am pleased to say that there is huge positivity among our very resilient pupils.

Next week is Safer Internet Week. The children will be sharpening up their knowledge to help them stay safe on-line and parents are encouraged to engage with the activities sent home too. If your child is working from home and needs a laptop, then please will you contact your child's teacher?

Our school is welcoming and nurturing. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries or wish to discuss any matter.

The recent snow was a welcomed distraction. Here are some of the snowmen (and a snow dog) created by Kensington Class.

Jacky Sykes

Head of School



Explore. Achieve. Celebrate.

Together we grow happy, responsible and adaptable individuals
who are ready to continue their life-journey.

Please help us to Keep Everyone Safe



Do NOT send sick children into school, please.

Some children have been sent to school who are unwell. If you are a key-worker and your child has a place in school, then please do not send your child into school if they are unwell. If your child has any Covid-19 symptoms such as a cough or a temperature, they must stay at home. If they have sickness, upset stomach, a cold, a headache, a sore throat, have vomited within the last 48 hours or just feel tired or unwell, then please keep them at home. The symptoms of the Corona virus can include any of those listed above (especially for the new variants).

We have numerous things in place to keep our school Covid-free and sending your child into school when they are unwell is not consistent with our risk assessment. Vulnerable children and key-worker children and our staff have to know that the school is as safe as it possibly can be. We would be grateful if you could conform to this very simple rule. Many thanks for your help with this.

Reminder!

We break up for half term on Friday 12th February and return on Monday 22nd February—lockdown procedures will still be in place.



Recycled Laptops and Tablets

A number of second-hand laptops and tablets have generously been donated to the school for us to give away to anyone in the community who needs one. If you would like a recycled laptop or tablet or have one to donate, then please contact Mrs. Shippey in the school office, who will be delighted to help.

We are Positive

Children make more progress with their learning and their social skills when they are in a safe and positive environment. Everyone at school uses **We Are Positive!** language to help children feel good about their learning. This encourages children to try knowing that it does not matter if their answer is wrong because Mistakes are How We Learn.

When children are positively encouraged to attempt new things, their fear of failure becomes less and so they approach tasks in a more positive and confident way; this leads to greater success and greater self-esteem.

At home or at play with any activity—whether it is sport, reading, home-learning, swimming, cooking, building a snowman (or snow dog) or something else - encourage the children to use **We Are Positive!**

If I try, I will
feel good.

I will have a
go!



We support each
other, always.

Mistakes are
how we learn

School Council Meeting

Balmoral —Zara and Jack Sandringham—Austin
Kensington—Merryn and Leo
Windsor—Charlotte and Seth
Holyrood— Ellis Buckingham— Austin and Hollie

We are doing our best in school to provide a combination of remote and class learning during lockdown. To help us understand children's wellbeing, the School Council met with the Wellbeing Governor (Martyn Scott) and Mrs. Russell on the playground and on Teams to see how the pupils are feeling during this daunting time.

There was an enormous amount of talking! Here are the main points made by the children.

The good parts about remote learning are that we can work at our own pace, express ourselves through baking, drawing, modelling and reading. If we get stuck on line, then our paper packs really help us and they give us a break from the screen. We love interacting with our teachers and classmates on Teams and we also speak to them using Face Time in our free time. All the children enjoy TT Rock Stars, the baking competition, and look forward to other competitions, such as growing a sun flower.

The downside is that we miss our friends and it can be tricky to keep focused when doing writing tasks at home.

A full report is on the school website under 'Children'.

Outdoor ideas and activities:

Check out the Woodland Trust website for outdoor ideas during lockdown for you and your children.

[Lockdown activities for kids in winter - Woodland Trust](#)

Did you know spending time outdoors in nature is good for you? It's true! Being around trees and wildlife can boost your mood and reduce stress, and that's something we could all benefit from right now. Getting active outside is a great way to improve your family's fitness too.

If you have a garden, there's plenty of fun you can have in it during winter. In England, you're also allowed to exercise outside once a day in your local area. The rules may be different in other parts of the UK, so please check and follow the guidance for your region. But if you can, pull on your wellies and enjoy some fresh air.



We all need our rest!

Working from home is tiring. Everyone is trying to make a 'new/workable routine' and we know that taking time for exercise and sleep could not be more important than at this time.

Tips to help your children sleep well

- What really helps is a steady routine – maintain your usual bedtime routine for your kids, or if you haven't had one before, now is a good time to introduce one.
- Find something other than screens, for the couple of hours before bed.
- Give them a warm (not hot) bath and maybe a warm drink.
- Make their room a calm and peaceful environment (as much as possible). Try to make it a screen-free zone.
- Dim the lights.
- Read a story or listen to calm music.
- Taking a moment to do a gentle breathing exercise can also help, if sleep is a struggle.

Are you struggling with bedtimes?

[Coronavirus: Sleep and bedtime routine for children and teenagers | Children 1st](#)


Check out this website for ideas to create calm before bedtime.

Half-Term Reading Fun

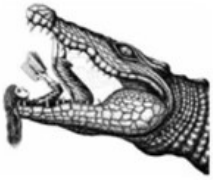
Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to launch a fun **READING** competition for over Half Term. Something to keep the children reading but also allow a break from Home Learning.

I propose an Extreme Reading Competition. Where children find unusual places (in their house, garden, or locally -within walking distance) to take a photograph of them reading a book or EPIC!





Extreme reading



Where is the most extreme place you have ever read a book? Whether it is up a tree, on top of a mountain or stood on your head, we want your photos! Your challenge is to take a picture of yourself reading somewhere extreme and send it in to school by Tuesday 26th February March.

We will run a competition for the most extreme places reading has taken place. A display will also be made from the photos. To help us with the display please bring in a 5' x 7' size photo.

We are doing this as part of the school's celebration of World Book Day.



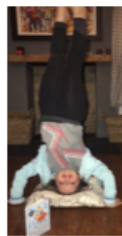
Obviously, we encourage you to keep safe (I wouldn't want recommend reading in the jaws of a crocodile!) but we are really looking forward to seeing who in the school has such a passion for reading that they have to it anywhere and everywhere!

We might not be able to travel but let's think of some fun spaces we could use. There will be **prizes** to be won. So, while staying **SAFE** why not get **CREATIVE**? You might even like to dress in a costume themed to your book?

You could even choose a place themed to your book and use props. Please try to make the photograph as entertaining as you can as this all adds to the **FUN**!



The Faraway Tree – in a tree with an owl prop.



Do you like spending time upside down?

Can you read upside down?

Don't stay there for too long though! Stay safe.



Use prepositions as ideas
(in/under/behind)

Think about different, exciting, fun and **SAFE** places you can enjoy a book.

Children – tell your parent/carer your idea and ask them if they could take a photograph of you reading your book in your '**extreme**' place and send it to your teacher on SeeSaw by Monday 22nd February 2021. Good luck and **ENJOY READING BISHOPS ITCHINGTON!**

Mrs Russell
WORLD BOOI







Join us on **4th March 2021** **Share A Story with World Book Day**


We're so excited to share our schedule of events for this year's Share A Story Live! Whether you're celebrating World Book Day at home or at school, you can join your favourite authors for three days of live fun, spreading a love of books & reading.


Join us at 10.30am from 3rd-5th March for three FREE events that children, teachers, families and more can watch as part of your World Book Day celebrations, hosted on www.worldbookday.com/events.



The amazing line-up is:

 Wednesday 3rd March: Books That Make You LOL! with special guests Humza Arshad, Jonny Duddle, Zanib Mian and Football School. Hosted by Kenny Baraka! Perfect for children aged 7+.

 Thursday 4th March: Explore words and pictures with our Bringing Books to Life event, with special guests @officialtomfletcher, Joseph Coelho, Fiona Lumbers and Lydia Monks. Hosted by Nigel Clarke, this live event is perfect for children aged 4+.

 Friday 5th March: Books In The Real World event with authors Sita Brahmachari, Jess French and Katherine Rundell. They will be joined by host Jessie Cave in a wonderful, free event that's ideal for children aged 9+

 It's easy to take part! All of our Share A Story Live events are FREE to enjoy & you don't have to register to join us. Just watch this space for more details on how to join us, or keep an eye on www.worldbookday.com/events. We can't wait to bring you these exciting celebrations!

  Even more excitingly, YOU can ask our Share A Story Live authors and illustrators a question! Don't be shy - we'd love to hear from you! Get involved by clicking to submit your question to our special guests and they might just answer it on the day: <https://www.worldbookday.com/events/>



Our School Website gives all kinds of help to find resources to keep you reading. Follow this link:

[Covid-19 Support - Bishops Itchington Primary school](https://www.bishopsitchingtonprimaryschool.co.uk/covid-19-support)