



## Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you continue to be coping well with all that is happening, with the news of approaching re-opening of schools, and with the uncertainties of easing of the lockdown. There is much to adjust to – and to give our children (and ourselves) confidence in a world that will become a safer place.

There is much unease about schools re-opening, and families of FS, Yr1 and Yr6 children will be especially thinking about how we can re-open safely for them. There will be more details to follow, but we will be following government guidance in all areas relating to Health and Safety, with the exception of accommodating half classes at this stage. Many of our classrooms are under-size anyway , and we are, like many organisations, short-staffed due to staff who are unable at the moment to return to school. I know that our arrangements will not suit everyone, and for this I am sorry. But in drawing up our plans, I am grateful for the support and input of our Health and Safety Governors, our Senior Leadership Team, of Mrs Forte and Mr Clark.

### **So – this is really just for families in those year groups, FS, Year 1 and Year 6**

but I want to give you all a feel of what will be happening, as some of this may continue to the end of the term (if indeed it starts at all – it is all being planned but it may not happen if the government's conditions are not met).

### Bubbles

We will have distinct 'bubbles' in school in order to keep the chances of transmission of Covid to a minimum. With three different year groups and the Critical Workers group, we will create four different areas with different classroom bases, different toilets and different playtimes. This does mean that our Key Worker children will not be taught in their class groups, but we will be doing our best to allow them to access the learning that will be going on in their classrooms, and most will have friends from their year groups in this group anyway.

### Cleaning

We will continue all the cleaning that the community has now made habitual – regularly of hands, of surfaces, of equipment, of computer key-boards, of scooter handlebars etc etc. The staff have been amazing at this.

### Social Distancing

It has been acknowledged that this is likely to be impossible with the youngest children, but we will create the spaces for them to be apart (but also together while they are apart) as much as we can (and have fun!). The FS has lots of space to do this, as has Year 1. The Year 6 block is perfect for keeping them in a Year 6 bubble.

The Key Worker groups will have plenty of space in the Year 4 and 5 class block, and be able to use the hall.

## **Who will teach your children?**

So long as health allows, your children will be taught by their current teachers and LSAs. Other staff who are available will also be allocated to year groups, and of course the teachers will be either teaching or continuing to do the home-learning work that has been going on.

## **What if I choose not to send my child in?**

We will completely understand if, for whatever reason, you decide to keep your children at home. There will be no penalties for this. You will continue to receive some guidance for home-learning, but I hope you will understand that the communication with the teachers will be much less due to their teaching commitment.

## **Key Worker children**

We are very close to capacity for this provision, now that our numbers are going to grow substantially, so it is with regret that I am asking that any new applications for a place in this group (from those who have not already accessed it) must be from families where both parents or carers are Key Workers, and we will ask for proof that this is so.

## **Finally...**

Finally, I have met a number of you who are Key Workers, and I would like to pay tribute to you and your work. So many of you have worked extraordinary hours and been at the forefront of serving others at the most painful moments in their lives. A surprising number of you are nurses, doctors, social workers, police officers – all bearing the pain of those most distressed through this pandemic.

**You are wonderful people – thank you.**

**When the worst is properly over I wish you rest and recovery.**

**With best wishes, and wishing you all God's blessing,  
Greg Waters**

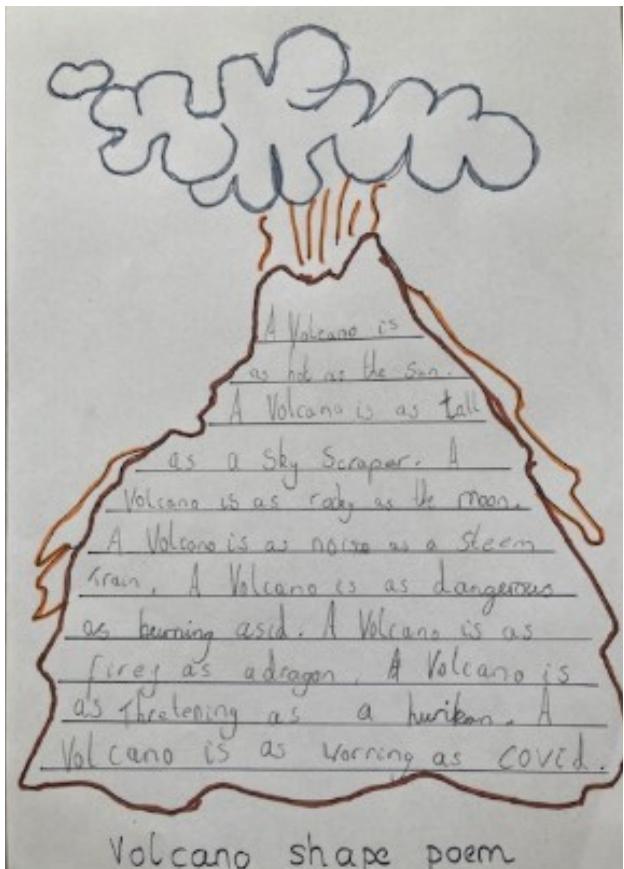
**PS**

Learning Packs – if you did not manage to pick one up, please come in and do so, and if unable to, please let us know so that we can deliver...thank you.

Uniform—for the rest of this term whatever groups are in school, we will **NOT** be asking the the children to come into school in school uniform. This will help with the need to change clothes each day and the problems with ever-growing children and parents saving up for winter uniform.

Little Fingers—due to the need to keep our social bubbles from overlapping, I am sorry that Little Fingers will only be available to Key Worker children.

## In Home School this week...



From 5B, Jacob's smouldering volcano shape poem, and, Isabelle's mouth-watering banana loaf.



George in 4YS is  
teaching his brother  
the joys of gardening.



These are beautiful pictures showing the latest version of a daisy chain. Thank you Antonio in 3RG – and also for sending in your camp picture – wow!

## Spotlight on 2C....

Jack Duca's map and bridge.



Coby McLuckie's map and bridge.



Tiffany's map and bridge.

## The Bishops' PTA

I'm sure you won't be surprised but we have made a decision to cancel the Inflatables day in July. As you can appreciate a lot of planning goes into these events most of which we would need to start now and with the uncertainty over what government regulations will be and our concerns on keeping you all safe we felt this was the best decision.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support through Easy Fundraising and the School Lottery; if you would like more information on how to access these please email [thebishopspta@gmail.com](mailto:thebishopspta@gmail.com) and we can send some information to you.

Many thanks, The PTA team

Find us @BishopsPta, Or The Bishops' School PTA on Facebook

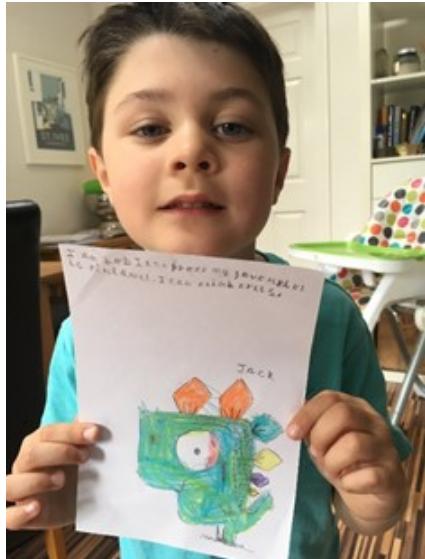


Isabelle in 3F is chef –ing



From 6A, Elisa's version of a scene from The Bayeux Tapestry, and ...

...Dylan's painting in the style of Monet's landscapes.



Jack in 1C has been learning to draw using one of the illustrator videos online.



## Looking Ahead

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May**—Half Term break  
**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** — planned re-opening for FS and Years 1 and 6—**TBC**

## Community News/Notices

Please visit the 'News/General News' section on our website.  
<http://bishops.essex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Community-Notices-1.pdf>

**Website:** [www.bishops.essex.sch.uk](http://www.bishops.essex.sch.uk)  
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