



Issue: 31  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020



## Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all well. Today's newsletter is all about re-opening for our Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 6.

**Please read all this very carefully – thank you.**

(If your children are not in those year groups, forgive me! – but you may be interested in some of our work and preparations for re-opening. For you, work packs and communication will continue as usual, and look out for recorded zoom sessions from Shush after half term!)

*Here goes – these are our plans for the three weeks after half term, if the Government confirms that this is our start date:*

### What is the school offering for children in returning year groups?

We have analysed the numbers expected to return from your replies, and so:

Children in FS and Year 1 will receive 3 sessions of education each week.

Year 6 pupils will receive 4 sessions each week, two morning sessions and two afternoon sessions spread over 4 days.

A session is 2.5 hours, either in the morning or in the afternoon, and your teachers will let you know which sessions your children will be in for. They will have looked at all returning children and will have been mindful of friendship groups.

You should receive the session days and times this Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

### What are we doing to make the school as safe as possible?

We have done a full risk assessment which has been discussed at length and agreed with a group of governors and staff. Two aspects of this will shape our days – hygiene and distancing. All members of the school community will regularly wash their hands – at the start of the school day, at break times, before leaving the school etc; and all surfaces will be regularly cleaned, including tables, chairs and any equipment that is shared (which won't be much!). And we will regularly encourage your children not to put their fingers around their faces.

Live Fully, Laugh Often, Learn Deeply,  
Love as God Loves You and Let Your Light Shine

For distancing, the classes will be set up so that children will have their own work stations which will be as close to 2m apart as possible. Any assemblies with everyone will be outside. There will be 'rubber spots' around the school to remind the children



(and everyone) to keep this distance apart. BUT the government has made it clear that social distancing in primary schools is practically impossible - so when we are outside, whilst we will encourage distancing, we will allow games which involve momentary closeness – such as tackling in football. We are mindful that the experience around the world is that children are very much less likely to suffer severe symptoms of Covid, and that schools that have been open throughout the crisis (including ours) have not been places which have caused the virus to spread.

'Bubbles' are a very important aspect of our work to keep groups separate – and so each class group (children and staff) is a bubble, and the Key Worker groups are also bubbles. They will have separate places to work, separate toilets, separate play arrangements. And where the class groups change in a day, there will be cleaning of surfaces and changes of equipment to ensure as far as possible infection cannot pass from a morning group to an afternoon group.

The office will be operating remotely, as much as possible – so the front door will be closed, and we will manage communication with you by phone and email (although there will be welcoming members of staff at all entrances so you can give messages or ask questions at drop off and collection).

### What will happen if a child or member of staff shows symptoms of Covid?

We will gently isolate them, either outside if the weather is good, near the chickens – or inside where we have created an isolation space in the Learning Lab (next to an extraction fan!) – and then we will call you. If there is even a small chance that it is Covid, we will then close down the bubbles of that child's teacher(s)/ LSAs, and ask both the teacher(s)/ LSAs and the child to be tested. If the tests come back as negative, then the bubbles can reopen, and if positive for any of the adults, then it's isolation for 14 days for all in their bubbles. If just the child is positive, then isolation for the other children in that child's group. I hope that makes sense!

## How can you help us?

### Here are your instructions – please:

- Send your children into school **healthy** – if they have any symptoms of Covid (even if you know it is hayfever), please keep them at home or get them tested. This is the link for finding out about local testing: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19>
- If you've informed us your child is returning to school, but will be absent for any of their sessions, please notify us of the reason for their absence by phone or email by the session start time
- Children should wear everyday clothes suitable for physical activities and with shoe fastenings that they can do up, and clothing should be changed each day
- They should bring in:
  - ◇ A water bottle
  - ◇ Stationery IF Yr6 – but not if FS and Yr1....we will provide this and clean/change between sessions
  - ◇ A jumper if it's a cold day, as doors and windows will be open as much as possible to create airflow
  - ◇ Their work packs
  - ◇ Nothing else please unless the staff have asked for it
- Entrances are different for different groups: at the start of the day please leave your children at their gates (there will be staff there to welcome them) – but at the end of the day please come through and wait as you usually have (but in a socially distanced way!). Children should arrive between 8.45am and 9am for morning sessions (which finish at 11.30am), and between 12.30pm and 12.45pm for the afternoon sessions (which finish at 3.15pm)
  - ◇ FS children are to come through the staff car park



- ◇ Year 1 children are to come through the normal way, past the chickens

- ◇ Year 6 children are to come through the gate by the MUGA (UNLESS they are with family in other year groups, in which case they should go through the staff car park). This can be accessed from a path off New Bowers Way, opposite Petunia Crescent. In the picture below the path is on the right, with the school visible behind. This path goes through the estate so you might like to explore it during half term if unsure.



- ◇ Key Worker Group children will continue to come into school through the hall, and exit this way (and their start and end times continue – 8.45 to 9am for arriving, and 3pm for collection, unless Little Fingers)
- Please keep your children with you and keep up your social distancing. There will be a one-way system at the front of the school, going through the side gate near the hall and going out through the main centre gate opposite the church. It will be clear on the day, and there will plenty of staff to guide you.

**In** through this gate to the left side of the hall



and **out** through this one at the front....



***Please do not linger near the school to chat!  
– and, if you possibly can, walk or cycle to school.***

## Why isn't The Bishops' offering full time education for the children in these year groups?

There are many aspects to consider for a decision like this, and I want to name a few:

1. This offer means that returning children are taught by teachers and teaching assistants that they are familiar with (with the exception of Class 1CD who are being taught by Mrs Child as Mrs Cooke is unable to return at the present time – but Mrs Cooke is doing much of the planning)
2. They are in small enough groups for us to be able to maintain what myself, governors and staff believe to be safe social distancing both for them and also for the staff – especially when inside the classrooms
3. This offer means that we have enough capacity to accommodate the key worker pupils, and also to maintain the home learning for the groups that are not returning
4. This offer means that if and when the government requests that all pupils return, we should not have to disrupt the arrangements for those already in

I really appreciate that these arrangements are not the most ideal for many of you, but I hope you can bear with us and wait, as we do, for the time when we can welcome the whole community back to school.

As ever, I would like to repeat that if you are suffering hardship and need support in terms of provision or with just coping, please get in touch.

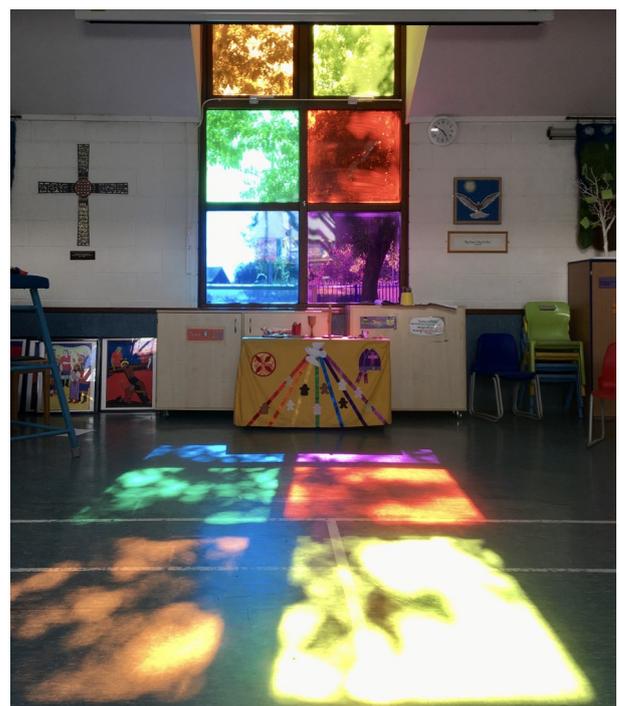
With best wishes, and wishing you all God's blessing,  
Greg Waters

Here's a picture showing our new coloured windows in the hall, bathing the school in rainbow light.

There is much to be thankful for.

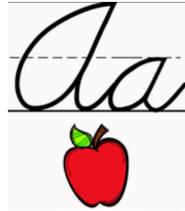
Thank you so much for your cooperation and support.

And now, here's what your children have been busy doing this week.....



## Hedgehog Class

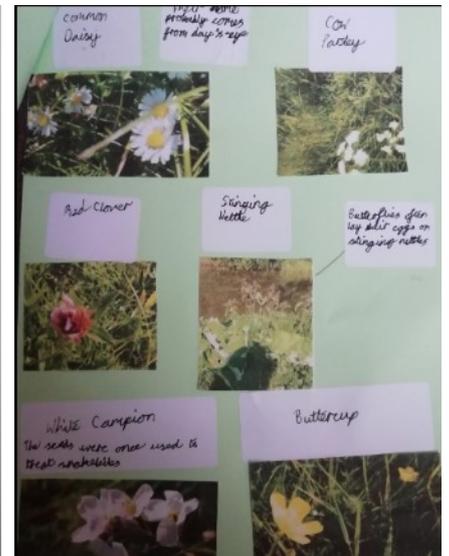
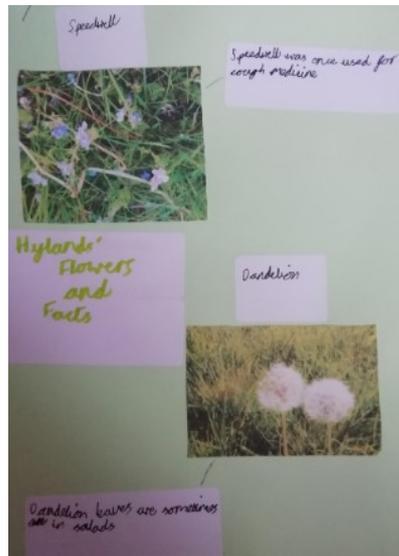
Frankie has made an amazing keyword belt!



Joshua has found his keywords in a magazine and newspapers. He has also been busy cooking, practising his Bishops' cursive handwriting and enjoying his swimming pool!

## 4SHW

Anju painted a beautiful piece of art, and Osafo undertook a wildflower study on a walk through Hylands Park.



## 4YS

Eloise enjoying a Melting Ice Investigation, and Lucie Smith's Evaporation Art.





3F

William has created a Lego creature and Reece is doing some baking after being inspired by hearing that all his friends have been baking on our class Zoom call!



The Year 3 Science topic is plants, and one of the activities is to investigate growing plants in different conditions. Elena in 3RG started the science experiment last week - there haven't been any shoots yet, but she is checking everyday!



### **Looking Ahead**

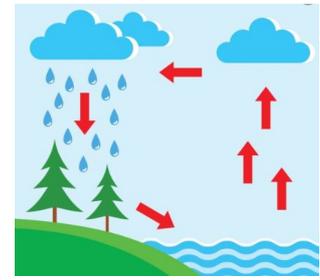
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May**—Half Term break  
**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** — planned re-opening for FS and Years 1 and 6—**TBC**

### **Community News/Notices**

Please visit the 'News/General News' section on our website for useful organisations and local community information.



5B



Bird life cycle diagram by Brooke, and Carmen's water cycle in a bag experiment.



Here is a photo of Mathias in 1M on a long cycle ride.

Amelie from 1C found an egg in her garden and was inspired to build a nest like the birds do!



## ***The Bishops' School***

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## ***The Bishops' PTA***

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