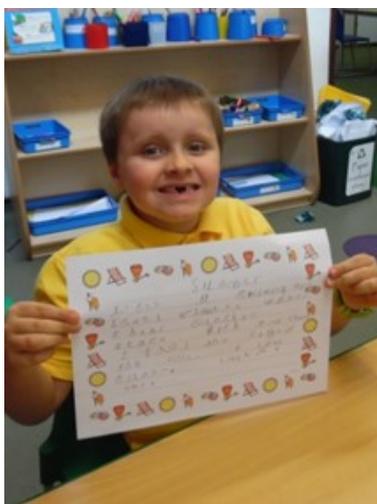




Dear Parents/Carers,

We are drawing towards the end of a school year that has tested our whole school community to the limits, and if you are anything like us, you will be tired and looking at the future with some anxiety. Your children, however, are teaching us something else. Whilst they have also understandably struggled during this time, so many are bounding into school full of energy, creativity and care for each other. They have a natural optimism for the future, and they are such a pleasure to be with.



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

In a few days we say goodbye to a wonderful Year 6 cohort, and how sad that they have not been able to do some of the Year 6 traditions, the Teddy Bear picnic with their buddies, the production and the Leavers' Service all come to mind, and of course the SATs and Mr Fisher's famous scrambled eggs....but it has been a real pleasure to see so many in school especially this half of term. You have been a wonderful group and we will miss you – as we will miss many parents whose youngest children are leaving this term.

Thank you for choosing The Bishops'!

Here are some of 6F, presenting a stunning badger picture to Badger Class:



Great thanks to Mrs Ivanova for her artistic input, and for transforming the school grounds with her wonderful colour and artwork during this term.

Our final assembly will be on Facebook live – on The Bishops' Community Hall Project FB site, starting near to 2pm next Tuesday 21st July. Please join us 'virtually' if you can! Very soon afterwards there will be the premier performance, again on this FB page, of... well....you can find out on the day!



We are so grateful to all our clergy for supporting the Leavers' Video 'Service', which we will be sending to all parents and carers of our Year 6s early next week. We wish them all great blessing, happiness and success in their futures.

Also leaving us is *Mrs Rourke*. She has been a fantastic Senior Teacher at The Bishops' for many years, led our Maths Mastery Development, taught age-groups across the school, and despite retiring is still full of enthusiasm and energy. Thank you, Mrs Rourke, for the great service you have given to The Bishops', for your deep care of our children over so many years, and for your skill and dedication.



A final leaving thank you, for the third time, is *Miss French*! We have loved having you back with us, are very sad you are having to leave us, will miss your theatrical skills and big laugh – as well as your accomplished teaching – and wish you all the very best at nearby Great Leighs Primary School. Perhaps one day you will return for longer!

On, then, to planning for the holidays and next term

First of all, then, the holidays

We are not setting any work for the holidays. You need to be free from educational expectation and your children need to be free of it too. September will come all too soon, and the learning we are planning will take account of what your children have missed this year. We will be inviting a few children to some school warm-up sessions before then, but this will not be intense educational cramming.

Your children all have *scrap books* – please let them fill them with good things, happy memories and work they are proud of, ready to show us next term.

Reading for pleasure is definitely something many of your children love. Unusually, we want to discourage your children from bounding ahead on the Oxford Reading Buddy – we really don't want KS1 children to go beyond Band 11, and Year 3s Band 13, Year 4s Band 15, and Year 5s Band 17 and for the Year 6s Band 20 is grammar school level! We want your children to read books written for their age-group which are properly age-appropriate – so please resist pressing them to move up. We are going to help you to do this by switching off the Oxford Reading Buddy for the summer holiday, ready to start again in September, so just encourage breadth and enjoyment for your children. Some other places to look for reading/ listening material are: Collins e-books; booktrust.org.uk (KS1); kidsread2kids (KS2) and storyline.net

To next term and some more precise details

Uniform – for the coming year, at least:

- ♦ **plain black trainers every day** (logos should be subtle, please, preferably black – and in KS1, unless your children are amazing at laces, they should have **Velcro fastenings**)
- ♦ **plain blue track suit/normal PE clothing** depending on the weather, on PE days or sports club days
- ♦ **polo shirts** all year round (no buttoned blue shirts and ties)

There will be no changing of clothes in school on any day for PE activities

You will be notified which the PE days are at the start of next term, and your children will come to school in their PE kits.

Starts, Ends, Entries and Exits

Please have a look at this table to see your children's times and places. If you have more than one child, you may need to wait for a short while either near the entrances at the start of the day, or on site at the end of a day.

We want to continue using different entry points **at the beginning of the day** for each year group, and each will have a member of staff supervising. However, **at the end of the day**, apart from Year 6, we will operate a one-way system round the school, starting through the staff car park, and exiting by the chickens.

We do know that it will be busy, that we are going to be entering a significant time when social distancing may be as important as ever, and that we will have to be patient with each other!

Year Group	Arrival time	Entrance point	Finish time	Exit point
Foundation Stage	8.55 – 9.05	Through FS play area (staff car park)	2.50	Parents IN through STAFF CAR PARK and FS OUT through CHICKENS gate
Year 1	8.55 – 9.05	Through hall	2.55	
Year 2	8.55 – 9.05	Through chickens' gate	3.00	
Year 3	8.45 – 8.55	Through chickens' gate	3.05	
Year 4	8.45 – 8.55	Through FS play area (staff car park)	3.10	
Year 5	8.50 – 9.00	Through hall	3.15	
Year 6	8.45 – 8.55	Through field gate	3.15	Field gate

Bubbles, Cleaning, Distancing, Lunchtimes

Up to now we have been operating in groups of mainly up to 12 pupils. In September we are looking at Class and Year Group bubbles, keeping these as separate as possible for the children. Some staff will need to operate around the school and move between bubbles, and we have become quite accomplished at avoiding getting too near your children! So the distancing is going to be more for the adults than the children.

Our lunchtimes will change so we will have completely separate FS/KS1 and KS2 lunchtimes.

Both at lunchtimes and in class, children will sit facing in one direction as far as is possible.

Enhanced cleaning will continue – in classrooms, in the loos, with shared equipment and in the dinner hall – and of course with your children's hands.

Clubs *will be fewer next term* – we have to settle to all these new routines – but we are planning for Coach Chris to do Year Group Sports clubs each day, and I am quietly hoping that Shush will be able to resume her clubs, too. We are hoping to get the Reading Club going once term is well under way.

Music lessons should be able to continue.

Little Fingers *will continue*, starting at the beginning of term, with three different spaces so we can keep our bubbles as small as possible – FS pupils will be in the FS area, KS1 in the courtyard, and KS2 in the hall. **It will stop at 5.45pm** so that extra cleaning can be done before the school is closed for the evening.



Here are some further questions:

When does term start? – for children it starts on Thursday 3rd September.

What should children bring into school? – In as small bag as possible – healthy snack; book bag; packed lunch; water bottle and a small amount of stationery (KS2) in a small pencil case. We will provide the essential stationery, and all stationery for FS and KS1.

What should I do if my child is ill? Please notify us in the normal way, in plenty of time – and as you have been doing this term, please keep your child off school if they are showing any signs of illness.

Can my child bring hand sanitiser to school? No, unless there are exceptional reasons. We will be ensuring your children wash their hands thoroughly and frequently throughout the day.

Can my child wear a mask? Unless the government advises it, the present recommendation is not to in schools – and so again, no, unless there are exceptional reasons.

How can I communicate with my child's teacher? You are now used to communicating via email, and this will continue next term. There will be much less time for informal communication at home time.

What about the office? Again, we want to minimise entry into school, so please email or phone. There will only be space for one person at a time in the foyer.

What happens if we are late? Our new routines rely on everyone being as 'on time' as possible, but events can get in the way – if you are late, initially look for Mr Clark at the front of school, and otherwise come through to the office.

Will the school accept cash payments? We are trying to move towards a cashless system, but if cash does come in we will not touch or process it for several days

I hope that all of that is clear and makes sense.

Year 3

Eva and Florrie enjoying showing off their synchronised gymnastic skills on the adventure area.



Year 3 have been working hard this week creating their own shadow puppet theatre plays, including writing their own scripts and creating their own theatres and puppets. The first picture is Isabelle's and the second is Emilia's in 3F.

Thank you all for your support and understanding in these past months – and thanks to our school staff – cooks, cleaners, office, LSAs, middays, teachers...who have worked long hours trying to get things right for you and your children.

I, and all the Bishops' School Staff, wish you all a happy, safe and hopeful holiday. We wish you faith that all will be well, strength for the challenging times, great reserves of love and forgiveness when things are difficult, and times of great fun and laughter with your extraordinary and wonderful children.

Greg Waters



The Bishops' PTA

As we now reach the official end of term there are a few ways you can continue to support the PTA from home:



You can select us as your chosen charity on **AmazonSmile**, where we receive 0.5% of your net purchase price on eligible purchases at no extra cost to you. So far since we launched a few weeks ago we have 24 people supporting us, Thank you.

You can shop online through **EasyFundraising** and select us as your chosen charity, a number of different companies are signed up with EasyFundraising and give a varying % to the PTA at no extra cost to you.

Finally, you could join **The School Lottery**, where we have a weekly winner and you have the chance of winning up to £25,000.

If you would like more information on any of these please email us.

A **Facebook** group has been set up to allow you to **swap/sell/give uniforms** to each other, this will be maintained by the PTA but we take no responsibility for arrangements made between yourselves. Please remember we are unable to store preloved uniforms at school. Please search on Facebook for **The Bishops' School preloved uniform**.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page, **The Bishops' School PTA** as I will be going live in the near future to draw the winner of our weekly challenges held at the beginning of lockdown.

And finally, a date for your diary!

We will be holding our **AGM on 23rd September 2020** at 7.15pm, the location of this it TBC, it may be on the school premises or via Zoom this will be announced once we are back at school in September. All officers will stand down at this meeting as is required by our constitution and then we will re-elect the positions. We will also discuss what the PTA will be doing during the academic year. Please join us if you are able.

That just leaves me to say, I hope you have a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Becci and The PTA team.

Contact us: thebishopspta@gmail.com

Find us: @BishopsPta or The Bishops' School PTA on Facebook



Looking Ahead

Tuesday 21st July— **Final Assembly on Facebook**
(**'The Bishops' Community Hall Project' page**) at 2pm; Last day of term

Thursday 3rd September—Start of the autumn term for all (except FS)

Monday 7th September—FS start school (mornings only this week)

Wednesday 23rd September—PTA AGM, 7.15pm

Community News/Notices

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

The Bishops' School

Tel: 01245 460107

Website: www.bishops.essex.sch.uk

Email: admin@bishops.essex.sch.uk (please give the office 24-48 hours to respond)



Win books for you and £175 books for your school library!

Read a book this summer and send us your book review for a chance to win a bundle of books for you and your school.

Summertime Book Review

Do you love to read? Do you have a favourite book? Tell us all about it, or read a new book and rate it! You can use one of the templates on our website for your book review, one from school or create your own.

For details about the competition, things to include in your review, templates and full terms and conditions click [here](http://www.schoolreaders.org/summertime-book-review-competition) or www.schoolreaders.org/summertime-book-review-competition

What could you win?

Two winners will win £30 worth of books for themselves, along with £175 worth of books for their school libraries. The two winners and their class also get a video call with award-winning children's author M G Leonard; who wrote the best-selling book Beetle Boy!

Four runners up will win 5 books each. The books have kindly been donated by Scholastic UK who publish and sell award-winning children's books. The winners' book reviews will be featured on the Schoolreaders website.

The Scholastic logo, featuring a red square with a white 'S' and the word 'SCHOLASTIC' in white capital letters on a red background.

When by?

All entries need to be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday 30th September.

Important information:

This is a competition for pupils of primary school age in the UK. By entering the book review competition participants and their parent(s) or guardian(s) are deemed to have accepted and agreed to be bound by the terms and conditions.

The child's name and age and an adult's contact details must be included with each entry. Please also include the name and town of the entrant's primary school so we can contact them.

Send entries by e-mail to competition@schoolreaders.org or post them to: Schoolreaders, Bedford Heights, Brickhill Drive, Bedford, MK41 7PH.



To find out more about volunteering as a Schoolreader visit www.schoolreaders.org