

# BISHOPMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - 26 May 2020

Email: [admin.bishopmillp@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:admin.bishopmillp@moray-edunet.gov.uk)

Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/bishopmill/>



Dear Parents/ Carers

I am sure you have many questions following the First Minister's announcement last week. The start date for the new term has been standardised across Scotland and all schools will return on the 11 August 2020, if it is safe to do so, which will mean an earlier than planned start to our new term.

I am aware that many of you will be worried and anxious about what a return to school will look like but I would like to reassure you that, although we do not have all the answers yet, I will keep you informed of all the steps we will take and what this will look like over the coming weeks.

The return to school will be a phased return for all our children using a blended approach with some learning in school on a part time basis and learning continuing at home. We plan to continue to share learning on the school website till the end of term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and parents for the enormous effort and teamwork it has taken to keep our school open virtually during this crisis and I am sure we will all continue to work together to plan and prepare for our return to the school building when it is safe to do so.

### **TRANSITION**

We are still awaiting guidance on transition from Nursery to Primary 1 and Primary 7 to secondary. We are continuing to work closely with our nursery and secondary colleagues to plan and share information. We have produced several booklets and information to share on our website to support Primary 1 transition and these will be posted on our website this week. Primary one staff have made a video to share with children so they can meet their teachers and can see our school as it looks now.

Thank you to all our Primary 6 pupils who have completed their Buddy applications and we will be looking at ways we can support our new Primary 1 pupils as virtual buddies. We plan to make another video when we make changes to our classrooms for the whole school so children will be able to see what our classrooms will look like when they return to school.

### **TRAVEL TO TOKYO**

We have signed up to the Travel to Tokyo challenge from Get Set! GetSet is the British Olympic Association and British Paralympic Association's youth engagement programme. It was originally created as the official London 2012 education programme, to deliver the vision to use the games to inspire a generation of young people. The Tokyo 2020 Games may not be happening this year but you can still get active, stay connected and win prizes with the free programme for children 5-11 and their families. You can find more details on our school website.

### **STEP- UP WEEK**

We have almost finalised our classes for next session and we plan to share this with parents and children during the week beginning 15 June. You will receive a letter by email with your new class teacher and an invite to join a Team meeting to meet with your new teacher and class on the week beginning 22 June. Please let us know through admin email if you are unable to access Teams so that we can ensure all children are included in our Step-Up week.



### **HEALTH WEEK**

As many of you are aware, Bishopmill Primary School holds an annual Health Week to help deliver experiences of the curriculum, mainly related to Health and Wellbeing. This year our Health Week will still run, albeit with a difference. Health Week, this year, commences on 22 June and runs for two weeks until the end of term. During this week teachers will not be allocating work. This will allow staff to return to the school building, if it is safe to do so, to declutter classrooms and prepare the school for returning in August. Activities will be suggested on the school website under the Health Week page. During the two weeks, aside from the suggested activities, we will be promoting a community activity. For example, we still hope to offer sports day, whole school walk, dance, fitness and our 'famous' talent show.

Please check the Health Week page on the school website, which will be updated regularly, for further information.

### **INSERVICE**

Our Inservice days focussed on what our Recovery curriculum would look like. We will continue to have a focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Wellbeing. Staff evaluated several online platforms for delivering education remotely. We have currently been using Seesaw very successfully with our Primary 1 children and have decided to use this platform as a whole school. Seesaw is a simple way for teachers and children to share learning through video, PowerPoint and worksheets. It will allow children to share their learning with teachers using photographs, videos, drawings and notes. It will allow us to provide a more structured curriculum and provide support with learning remotely as part a blended approach to in- school and home learning.

We also evaluated a programme called Bounce Back! which we have been using with small groups of children and plan to use this as a whole school approach to developing positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience. The programme also has resources to include families.

As always, thank you to all our families for your continued support and understanding during these difficult times.

Elaine Andrew  
Head Teacher