

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year at Bishopstone!

Whether you are returning to us after the summer holidays or joining our school for the very first time, it has been wonderful to see everyone back at school today. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break and were able to spend some quality time together as a family.

The children have returned full of enthusiasm, energy and excitement, and it has been lovely to see them reconnecting with friends, meeting their new teachers and settling so positively into their new classes. We are incredibly proud with the way they have started the term.

A particularly warm welcome goes to all the families joining Bishopstone for the first time. We are delighted that you have joined us and look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks and months.

During the past two days, our staff have been busy preparing for the year ahead through our annual INSET programme. This has provided an opportunity to refresh safeguarding and curriculum training, reflect on best practice and ensure everything is in place for another successful year of learning.

A few important reminders for the start of term:

PE Days

- **Dragonfly Class:** Monday and Wednesday
- **Acorn Class:** Monday (Outdoor learning) Thursday PE

Please ensure children come to school wearing their PE kit on these days.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for our **Year 5 and 6 pupils** will begin **this Monday**, so please ensure children have everything they need to take part.

Finally, thank you to the many families who sent kind messages, cards and gifts at the end of last academic year. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated and mean a great deal to all our staff.

Unmissable events coming up

September

3rd – Term 1 begins

7th – Swimming for Year 5/6 begins

11th – Celebration Assembly, 9.15am, St. Mary's Church

12th – Village Fete

17th – FOBS AGM 7.00pm in school.

Parent Volunteers Needed

We would love to welcome more volunteers into school to support our children. Whether it's listening to readers, helping with displays or assisting with art activities, even a small amount of time can make a big difference. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in helping, please contact the school office. Thank you for your support.

Staffing Arrangements for September

We are delighted to welcome five new members of staff to Bishopstone this September, some of whom you may have already met.

Mrs Sue Tylee joins us as our Early Years and Key Stage 1 Teacher in Acorn Class. Mrs Tylee is a highly dedicated teacher who brings a wealth of experience, particularly in teaching mixed-age classes. She also knows our school community well, having previously worked at Bishopstone, and we are delighted to welcome her back.

Mrs Sarah Haworth has joined the Acorn Class team as a Teaching Assistant and will work alongside Mrs Tylee on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Haworth has extensive experience in education and will be a fantastic addition to our staff team.

Miss Evie Smith also joins Acorn Class as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant, providing additional support for one of our pupils.

Mrs Joelle Harty joins us in the school office as our new Office Administrator. Mrs Harty has already spent time in school completing a handover with Mrs Cox and is looking forward to supporting our families and wider school community.

We are also pleased to welcome **Mr Charlie Berry** as our new SENDCO. Mr Berry brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the role and is currently the SENDCO at Lawn Primary School in Swindon. He will work with us for half a day each Friday, supporting staff, children and families to ensure all pupils receive the help they need to thrive.

Class Organisation

Acorn Class (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

Mrs Tylee will teach Acorn Class, supported by Mrs Jones, Mrs Haworth and Miss Smith.

Dragonfly Class (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Mrs Dharmasiri will teach the class from Monday to Wednesday, with Mrs Morcumb teaching on Thursdays and Fridays. Both teachers will be supported throughout the week by Mrs Warwick.

We are very excited about the year ahead and confident that our staff team will continue to ensure every child feels happy, supported and inspired to achieve their very best.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to working closely with you throughout the year and ensuring that every child is happy, successful and inspired to be the very best they can be. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a wonderful end to the week.

Mr Smith