



Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School



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Learning Together, in God's Love

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back and I hope you have all had wonderful summer holidays. It was lovely to see all the children looking so smart in their uniforms this morning – reminders please only black shoes allowed, no bracelets, no nail varnish, only plain stud earrings and bobbles are only allowed in school colours please – purple, grey, white.

Thanks also to everyone who got their child in on time today. As you will be aware gates open at 8.40am and classroom doors open at 8.45am and we would request that all children are in at 8.45am please to start their calculations. The children were very quick today to settle into their new classes and routines.

We had a really productive training day yesterday and we have three priorities for next year which we are really going to focus on:

Our whole school priorities (2019-20):

- To ensure our 'inspire' curriculum provides the knowledge, skills and experiences for all children.
- To further improve the teaching and learning of reading and writing to raise standards.
- To engage with pupils and families to ensure children are respectful, highly motivated and leaders within our school community.

I will provide more detail on this in the newsletter as the term progresses.

Playground Update

As you will be aware the PTA have been busily raising funds towards our Playground Improvement Project and we are really pleased that work has now commenced in KS2 on Phase 1 in the KS2 playground!

Finance

As you may have read in the news, finance has been a hot topic for schools over the last few years. In truth, budgets are being squeezed and quite rightly we do need make sure that every penny counts. Several parents suggested last term could we set up a voluntary donation towards reading books for our library and funding of phase 2 of the playground. You will see on Parentmail that there is a payment item for this called 'voluntary donation' Thanks in advance to those parents / carers who are willing to help us out every pound is really appreciated.

Music

We are delighted to welcome Ali White into our school. Ali leads the Liverpool Philharmonic Children's Choir and she is going to lead our KS2 Junior Choir after school on a Monday. Ali has worked with two of our



teachers as part of a Sierra Leone project and we think she will be a great asset to the team. Children can of course still access the Voice Choir in Y5 and Y6 outside school with Simon Smith.

Behaviour Rewards - Stars

As you will be aware, last year we had smileys as our main reward. We have reflected on this, lots of research does point to physically handing a child something and specifically stating what they are getting this reward for does make a real difference to children's overall behaviour over time. With this in mind, senior teachers have made the decision to go with stars this year. Children will collect 50, 100, 200 and 300 stars. Children can exchange these stars for prizes. The difference this year will be that children can take the star home but they will get a stamp on their chart. Further details will be explained at the 'Meet the Teacher' meeting next week.

SENCo Role

Emma Millington has made the difficult decision to relinquish her SENCo role. Jill Broom is going to lead on SEN provision, if you need to contact Jill directly you can e-mail her on j.broom@ldst.org.uk Emma will continue to be a member of the Bishop Martin team leading on Readers Count and Reading Recovery Interventions in particular.

Meet the Teacher

Reminder, it is 'Meet the Teacher' on Wednesday 4th September for Y1 - Y6 at 6pm. There are two sessions (that are the same) for each class 6pm and 6.30pm in the classrooms. You don't need to book please just turn up 5 minutes before your session please to the main entrance. If you can't make the session, we will upload the presentation onto the class page of the website the next day.

I am really optimistic about this year, we have a really committed staff team at Bishop Martin and I am confident there will be plenty of learning taking place. Any queries or questions you can of course e-mail me directly on s.aspinwall@ldst.org.uk

Best wishes,



Sally Aspinwall
Executive Headteacher

