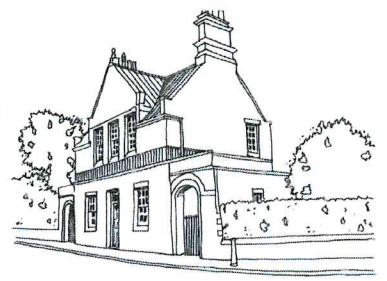


Bishop Road Primary School

Bishop Road, Bristol BS7 8LS



Head Teacher: Gillian Powe

Deputy Head Teacher: Joe Emissah

Thursday 20th June 2024

Head Teacher Letter No.6/23-24

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now in the busy end of the academic year and it has been very pleasing to see so many of you at the various events.

Saturday's Fair was so well organised and the sun shone during the vital hours. All our thanks go to the many volunteers and enthusiastic participants.

The performances have been admirably supported too and have been very joyous occasions. Thank you all for joining in so enthusiastically. It's wonderful to see the children developing each year and gaining such confidence.

Staff News

Following 23 years of service to the school Mrs McLellan has decided to retire this summer. Numerous children have been supported in school by her dedication, knowledge and experience and she has been a wonderful colleague to other staff. We trust Mrs McLellan is taking many meaningful memories with her of her life at Bishop Road and will enjoy having greater freedom to engage with her family and friends. Our support team are vital to the experiences we can offer our children and we value their considerable contribution. Well done Mrs McLellan!

Mr Boondeekhun is leaving us this year following 4 years on the team. He is taking up a training post to work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. He will be sent abroad to live and work in a region of the world which may not yet have a written version of their spoken language. We wish him every success and fulfilment in this challenging role and thank him for all the patience, kindness and dedication he has shown to everyone at Bishop Road.

Miss Grattan is moving to Australia for next year where she hopes to work in a variety of schools. We thank her for her work. Miss Grattan's post covered Mrs Rowden's maternity leave, who will be back with us in the last week of July. We look forward to her taking a class again in September.

Mr Dyes, whose connection to the school began before I arrived, has finally decided to move on from his role at the school. Formally a class teacher he moved to children's support and teaching art to staff and pupils.



As a great supporter of the school he will be sadly missed, but I know he has many happy moments both to take with him and leave with us. We hope he will have a fulfilling future ahead with his family. His strong legacy will remain, so thank you Mr Dyes!

There are three new teachers joining us this year meaning our staffing is now complete for September.

School Attendance

The law is changing on 19th August 2024 with regard to term time absences. I enclose the information from Bristol City Council. Please read this carefully, as the regulations are very different and the penalties escalate across a 3-year rotating period. The revised law applies in every local authority.

Polling Day - Thursday 4th July 2024

The school is to be used as a polling station on Thursday 4th July. As they require the use of an independent entrance, children in RK and RC will be based in the Green Rooms situated in the Silverthorne playground. Please take your child to this area at the usual time in the morning and collect from the same space. Specific arrangements will be sent to parents in RK and RC next week.

Class 5W and 5S will meet in the Silverthorne Hall and they will spend the day in the Paul Dirac Centre, returning both for lunch time and the end of the day to the Silverthorne Hall.

Thank you for your support for these arrangements.

I enclose the holidays and INSET dates for 2024-25 for your information.

On Friday 5th July children will meet with their new teacher which is always an exciting day. Details of the class arrangements will be sent to you on that afternoon.

Thank you for all your encouragement and support.

Yours sincerely,



Gillian Powe
Head Teacher

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School Attendance: The law is changing

From 19th August 2024

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing

The government is introducing a new National Framework for Penalty Notices

5 days of unauthorised absence

Penalty Notice fines may be issued for any term-time absences that are unauthorised (for example, a 5-day term-time holiday) - whether these absences are taken consecutively or cumulatively over a rolling period of 10 school weeks

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any 10-week period

Penalty Notice fines will also be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any rolling period of 10 school weeks

**A school day has 2 sessions:
1 morning and 1 afternoon session per day**

A **school week** means any week in which there is at least one school session. The threshold can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 6 sessions of holiday plus 4 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

What is a Penalty Notice?

A Penalty Notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. If repeated penalty notices are being issued and they are not working to change behaviour they are unlikely to be most appropriate tool. Therefore, from August 2024, only 2 Penalty Notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second Penalty Notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. Any further offences may result in criminal prosecution.

The law will be clear that where a Penalty Notice threshold met – in each individual case, the school **must** consider if a Penalty Notice is appropriate

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance, the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

Reduced to: **£80** per parent, per child if paid within 21 days

Second Offence (in a 3-year rolling period)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance to the **same parent** for the **same child** the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

There is no reduction in the amount.

Third Offence or Any Further Offences (in a 3-year rolling period)

The third time an offence is committed for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance by the **same parent** for the **same child** (including those by other Local Authorities) a Penalty Notice will NOT be issued but will be referred to Bristol City Council's Education Welfare service for **Prosecution** which may result in fines of upto **£2,500** per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in a Magistrate's Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate.

Bristol City Council have the discretion to issue Penalty Notice fines before the above threshold is met in cases where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the threshold, or for repeated absences for birthdays or other family events.

Unchanged

Penalty Notice fines are issued **Per Parent, Per child**. This means that fines are issued to each parent, for each child who is absent. For example: If 2 siblings are absent for a term-time holiday this will result in each parent receiving 2 separate fines.

IMPORTANT HOLIDAY AND INSET DATES FOR 2024/2025



Monday 2nd September	Return to School
Thursday 5th September	INSET Day – School Closed
Friday 6th September	INSET Day – School Closed
Monday 9th September	Return to School
Friday 25th October	Last day of term
Monday 4th November	INSET Day – School Closed
Tuesday 5th November	Return to School
Friday 20th December	Last day of term
Monday 6th January 2025	Return to School
Friday 14th February	Last day of term
Monday 24th February	Return to School
Friday 4th April	Last day of term
Tuesday 22nd April	Return to School
Monday 5th May	May Day – School closed
Tuesday 6th May	Return to School
Friday 23rd May	Last day of term
Monday 2nd June	Return to School
Friday 18th July	Last day of term