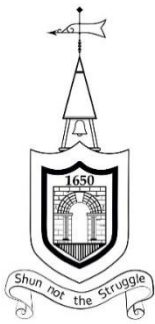


Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School

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HEADLINES

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Welcome back to a new school year at Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School.

We give a special welcome to all those children and their families who have joined our school in the Nursery and Reception classes and also to those children and their families who have joined us from other schools. We hope that all our new children will be very **happy** here.

Thank You - To everyone who sent members of our staff cards and personal gifts at the end of the last school year. Thank you also for the gifts that were sent into school for the whole staff team to share. It was very kind of you and we have enjoyed sharing the 'goodies'.

School Bags - Please could we respectfully remind all parents and carers that at the end of last term we asked that your child **does not** bring a large bag or rucksack to school. We have very limited cloakroom and classroom space and it is not easy to store these bags; they often fall off cloakroom pegs onto the floor and then become a trip hazard. Your child's reading book, homework files and letters etc. will easily fit inside one of our school reading bags which are available to buy from the School Office. PE kit should be sent to school in a drawstring pump bag at the start of each half term and then left in school until the next holiday. Packed lunch bags with handles can be carried to school each day. All other equipment is provided in school so your child does not need a pencil case or any other stationery.

School Trim Trails - For health and safety reasons the children should not use the Trim Trails or the infant pirate ship **before** or **after** school. They are only to be used during supervised playtimes and lunchtimes or PE lessons. Brothers and sisters of our children, both younger and older, **should not** go on the Trim Trails either and we would respectfully ask that adults do not use the apparatus as seats whilst they wait for the children to come out of school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Visit Your Child's New Class - We will be holding 'Class Welcome Visits' for an hour after school **on Tuesday, 18th September**. This will be an opportunity to come into school and visit your child's new classroom, meet your child's new teacher and listen to a short presentation about class routines such as homework. The visits will be timed so that parents/carers can visit more than one class during the hour - more details to follow next week.

School Uniform - The children all look very smart in their new uniforms! Thank you very much for supporting our school uniform policy. Please could you make sure that all items of uniform and P.E. kit are labelled with your child's name. Please could we also ask that that hair accessories for girls are small, discrete and in school colours (royal blue and red). Please could you save large, sparkly bobbles and large colourful bows for after school and the weekends!

School Shoes and Socks - Please could we remind parents and carers that our school uniform policy states that school shoes should be sensible, low heeled and black. Short or long length boots, trainers, canvas shoes [such as Kickers and Converse] and pumps are not part of our uniform and should **not** be worn in school. Please could we also remind you that school socks should be grey or white (not sports socks or coloured or patterned socks!)

Premises News - Over the summer holidays some improvements have been made to our school premises. The Smile Centre corridor roof has been replaced and some work has been completed on the gas boilers. We have not had to use any of our school budget for this work; the improvements and repairs have been paid for from Blackpool's School Property Budget as we are a maintained local authority school. If we were an academy we would not have had access to this funding. We say a special thank you to Mr Chadwick, our Site Supervisor, and the Cleaning Team - Miss Kauca and Mrs Dodgson - for all their hard work and efforts over the summer holidays to get our school looking so clean and smart for the start of the new school year.

School Book Bags - As in previous years, our Parents, Teachers and Friends Association - 'Bispham Buddies' - has bought a school book bag as a welcome gift for all the children who have joined our Reception classes. Your child has been given their bag this week; please could we ask you to name the bag clearly with your child's name. New book bags for children in other year groups are available from the School Office, price £4.00.

Extra-Curricular Activities - Our lunchtime and after school activities start the week after next, in the week beginning **Monday, 17th September**. A list of all the activities available is being sent home with every child in Years 1 to 6 this week - as in previous terms Infant and Junior children have separate lists. If your child would like to take part in any activity please complete the permission slip on the list and return it to school as soon as possible. Please note that there are limited numbers for some activities and that children who take part in a sporting club **must not** have their ear-rings in on the day of their activity. For health and safety reasons, staff who take clubs are not able to remove ear-rings if the children forget.

Cooking and Food Tasting - As part of our work, mainly in Science and Design & Technology; on Theme Days such as French/European Days and during Health & Environment Week your child may be involved in preparing, cooking, baking and tasting a variety of foods. The children will be encouraged to taste a little of the foods to compare tastes, textures, likes and dislikes. Food tasting is always an important and enjoyable part of our topic work and all children usually take an active part. The children will also be involved in "washing up" and clearing away their equipment. If, for any reason, you **DO NOT** wish your child to take part in these activities please contact your child's class teacher directly.

Face Painting - On occasions such as our year group productions and during Arts Week, your child may be involved in wearing face paint on their face and/or body as part of a costume or during an art activity. If, for any reason, you **DO NOT** wish your child to wear face paint during these activities please contact your child's class teacher directly.

Our School Car Park - Please could we remind parents and carers of **all children** in the Nursery and in school that the school car park is **only** for staff, visitors and people who have a current, valid disabled driver's permit. There are a small number of adults dropping off and collecting children in our car park which is causing problems for staff and drivers with a disabled permit. Please could all drivers who are eligible to use the disabled bays and school car park continue to make sure that they display the appropriate paperwork in their car windscreen **at all times**. This saves confusion as to who is entitled to park in the allocated spaces or in the car park. If you are in the process of obtaining this paperwork, please contact school so that we know that you are entitled to park. Please pass on this information to any other adults who collect your child from school.

School Meals Choice Menu! - As you will be aware, this September we are introducing a **Choice Menu** for school meals. All children who have a hot school meal will have a choice of two main courses. The children will make their choice in the afternoon ready for the next day and a wrist band system will be in operation to make sure that the School Kitchen know what choice they have made. The Autumn & Winter Menus are now on our website in the section 'School Life - Breakfast, Milk and Lunch' and also in the 'Latest News - Letters Home' section.

Changes to Dinner Time Arrangements - If your child would like to change from school meals to packed lunches or vice versa, please complete the form which is available from the School Office or send a letter into school. Please note that this year two weeks notice of a change in arrangements is needed.

School Meals - As in previous years, all infant children (Years R, 1 and 2) will continue to be provided with a hot meal at lunch time through the Government's Universal Infant School Meals Scheme - there is **no charge** for these meals. However if your family is eligible for the 'free school meals grant' through the government's benefits system, please could we ask that you still apply for the grant (even if you have an infant child) as school receives an additional **£1,320 per year** in its budget for every child who is registered for the school meals grant. This is particularly important for children moving from the Infants to the Juniors. The system is totally confidential and your child will not be identified in school. The School Office Team is very happy to assist parents and carers if they need any help or further information about school meals grants.

Nursery Graduation - In the last week of the summer term the children who were leaving our Nursery and moving onto 'big school' had their graduation ceremonies. We thank Miss Haslam, Mrs Bowie, Mrs Bornand, Mrs Latham and Miss Downie for all their hard work and support in making this a special and happy occasion for the youngest members of our school. A big 'thank you' to all parents, carers and family members for their support at this event.

Year 6 Leavers' Party - Our Year 6 children really enjoyed their leavers' party organised by Bispham Buddies at 'Bounce' on Moor Park Avenue in the last week of the summer term. Thank you to the Year 6 Team, the other members of staff and the members of the Buddies Committee for their support at this event. A special thank you to the team of staff at 'Bounce' for all their hard work.

As you know our aim in school is to provide a 'high quality education in a happy school for your child'. We value greatly the excellent partnership we have with our parents, carers and families. If at any time you have any worries or concerns about anything to do with your child or school in general please do contact us.

Keep up to date with letters sent home, school meals menus and school news on our school website at www.bispham-endowed.blackpool.sch.uk.

