Headteacher: Mr A Smith
B.Ed (Hons); NPQH; PGCertSENCo

'Aim high, prepare to achieve'

Bishopton Primary School
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Stratford upon Avon
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Year 1 – Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents / Careers,

Welcome back to a new school year and to Year 1 at Bishopton. We hope that you had a fantastic summer break. We have been very busy over the summer giving the Key Stage One area a makeover and we are looking forward to working with you and your children this year and showing you the exciting learning areas, we have created.

One of our key focusses this half term will be on developing the children's independence as they change from Early Years curriculum into the National Curriculum. We will be continuing with a similar learning style to reception using enhanced provision through play based learning alongside our teaching of the National Curriculum. On of the first steps in building their independence is getting the children to order their own lunches with teaching staff in the morning. Please talk through the menu with your child before coming to school so they know what they would like to order. Please ensure children have a water bottle and coat in school each day. We will continue to provide fruit on a daily basis for the children at snack time.

Reading will be at the heart of all learning this year and, as always, we encourage you to get involved with your children's reading by sharing and discussing their latest book at home. We will be looking to build on your child's decoding skills this year turning them into more confident and fluent readers. Reading is an essential core skill which underpins learning in all areas of the curriculum. We want to achieve a deep-rooted love of reading. It is imperative that you are sharing texts with your child at home and record these with comments and observations in your child's reading diary.
To ensure your child meets their weekly reading target we ask that you record three reads a week at home in their diary. We will check and monitor this every Friday in school.

Our **English** we will be building on those initial writing skills that the children learnt in reception. The children will continue to develop and practice forming simple sentences applying their phonic knowledge to words, using finger spaces between words and remembering a full stop. We will be teaching children to use a capital letter at the start of a sentence. We will be looking at a range of different writing genres throughout the term using a variety of new and different texts. Handwriting will be a focus daily for the children ensuring the correct formation is being used.

In **Maths** this term, our focus will start with securing a deep understanding of numbers to 10 with regards to place value, addition and subtraction. Securing a strong foundation within 10 is imperative to grasping more complex concepts as the year progresses. We will then move on to looking at 2D and 3D shape. We will be delivering our Maths lessons using the Power Maths scheme, which focuses on problem solving and reasoning and we will be using Fluency Bee alongside the scheme to build children's knowledge and confidence in fluency of skills. Arithmetic skills will be developed each week in a discrete arithmetic lesson. It is imperative children learn and rehearse number facts and number bonds at home through games and reciting facts. We will send home maths homework every Friday relating to what we have taught the children that week in their discrete arithmetic lesson. Please return this sheet by the following Friday.

We have two new and exciting **topics** for this term. They will form the basis for our learning in **History, Geography, Art and D & T.**

In the first half term our topic will be called **'School's Then, School's Now'**. This topic has a history focus

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looking back at the Victorian era. The children will learn what it was like to go to school in the Victorian times, what toys they would have played with and what home life was like. They will learn about Queen Victoria and make comparisons to life today. We will be learning about portraits and will create own portrait of Queen Victoria with a slight twist. To end our learning journey this half term we will have a Victorian themed day. The children will be invited to come to school dressed as a Victorian child and take part in activities throughout the day, including attending a Victorian School. Further information and date for this will follow shortly.

After half term our topic will be called **'City Explorers'**. This topic will have a geography focus and we will be learning about the UK and the capital cities. We will be using Paddington Bear as part of our learning and the children will be designing and making him a new bag for his tour of London.

In **Science**, we will be learning about the topics 'Animals including humans' and looking at 'Seasonal Changes' in the UK for autumn.

Our **PSHE** topics will be 'Being me in my world' and 'Celebrating difference'. In **RE**, we will be looking at the religion Christianity and identifying what Christian's believe about God. Later in the term, we will look at the Nativity Story in preparation for Christmas.

For **Computing** we will be using Purple Mash on the iPads and learning how to safely log in and out of a device. We will also think about using devices safely and what our image is identify is online.

PE will be on a Wednesday and a Friday (starting from next week). Children should attend school in PE kit on these days.
Please can we remind parents that the PE kit should be dark tracksuit trousers, leggings or shorts, dark hoodie, white t-shirt and suitable trainers. Long hair should be tied up and jewelry should be removed, including earrings. No football kits should be worn for PE in school. If your child is attending a football club after school you may pack one in their bag for them to change into at the end of the school day.

Home Learning will consist of reading at home three times a week and recording this in your child's reading diary and an arithmetic task for maths. Arithmetic practice will come home on a Friday and should be returned to school for the following Friday. Reading books will be changed on a Monday by your child's phonic teacher. Any lost or damaged reading books will require a payment of £5 to ensure we can replace them for other children to use.

If you have any concerns or issues that you wish to discuss with us, please let us know on the door or you can email us directly on our class emails.
Class 1M – Year1M@welearn365.com
Class 1T - Year1T@welearn365.com

We thank you for all your cooperation and look forward to a successful term ahead of us.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Maisey and Miss Thornewell