



Bishopton Bugle



Headteacher: Mr. A. Smith
B.Ed (Hons), NPQH,
PGCertSEnCo

w/c: 8/9/25

Tel: (01789) 205058



Welcome to the newsletter of Bishopton Primary School

"Aim high, prepare to achieve"



Thank you key workers



How to keep in touch:

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@bishoptonprim

What's on this week	Monday 8th September	Tuesday 9th September	Wednesday 10th September	Thursday 11th September	Friday 12th September
Before school	BASH (7.50-8.50am)				
Activities during the school day	Y5 Swimming Y6CJ Bellboating Y6G RSC visit	Y6G Bellboating			Y5 / 6 Homework
Lunchtime					Chess club (12.15pm Mrs. Jones; 1.00pm Mrs. Graver)
After school	BASH (3.15-5.30pm) Y4-6 Drama				

Our values this half term: i). RESPECT ii). PRIDE

Dear parents,

Welcome back to a new academic year at Bishopton Primary School. I hope that you all enjoyed a peaceful and restful summer break and are now ready for the rigours of the Autumn Term in school. We wish a particular welcome to the Bishopton community to the children who have joined our school this term, whether in reception or any other year group. Equally, we have been fortunate to add some excellent new staff to our existing hard-working and dedicated team and we hope that they settle into their new roles quickly and successfully.

We have now grown to fourteen classes, so two in each year group this year. This means that the BASH room for wrap-around care has moved to a new room. If you require any information about our wrap-around services, please contact the main office.

Thank you for helping your children to look so smart this week. They look fantastic in their uniform, which is smart and gives a clear sense of pride in their school. If you are unsure as to what uniform is needed on a daily basis, please refer to class teachers in the first instance. A 'School Uniform Policy' is now available on the school website for parents as well should you need to refer to it. I hope that you all have a good weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday morning from 8.45am onwards.

Kind regards, Mr. Smith

GENERAL START OF YEAR 'REMINDERS':

As we start the new academic year, could we ask that parents please remember the following:

1. For Health and Safety reasons, dogs should **NOT** be brought onto the school site (including the car park) unless they are assistance dogs.
2. Parents should **NOT** park in the school car park at either end of the school day unless prior permission has been granted.
3. Please make every effort to follow our **ONE-WAY SYSTEM** around the school site. This helps with the flow of people around our busy school site.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE:

With more young people turning to VPNs to mask their online activity, it's vital that parents and educators understand both the benefits and the risks. While VPNs can improve privacy on public Wi-Fi, they can also be misused by young people to sidestep safety filters and access harmful or age-inappropriate content.

Our guide this week explains the dangers of untrustworthy providers, malware threats, and the false sense of security that VPNs may give children. It also shares top tips – from checking devices to having open conversations – so adults can guide safe and responsible online behaviour.

"Share a book with a child and make their day"





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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about VPNs

VPN use among UK teens is on the rise – with a noticeable uptick following the introduction of the Online Safety Act's age-verification rules. A VPN – or virtual private network – can boost online privacy by hiding internet activity and masking the user's location. But while this technology has legitimate uses, it can also allow children to bypass safety filters and access inappropriate content. This guide covers what parents and educators need to know about VPNs and how to keep young people safe.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

VPNs are commonly used by young people to get around blocks on school networks or parental controls. This could include accessing social media, gaming sites or adult content that would otherwise be filtered out.

ACCESSING INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

When a VPN is active, content filters can no longer see which sites a child is visiting. This means they could access inappropriate content without detection. This also makes it harder to intervene when a child is engaging in risky behaviour, as it may be difficult to detect it's happening.

REDUCED TRANSPARENCY

VPNs may make parental monitoring software ineffective, stopping parents from monitoring their child's activities, including their ability to identify potentially harmful or inappropriate content or online contact. This in turn may prevent parents from protecting their children from attempted sextortion or other online threats.

FALSE SENSE OF ANONYMITY

Children believing that VPNs make them 'invisible' online may seek to explore undesirable internet content, including content which might otherwise be blocked. This may result in them seeking and accessing increasingly inappropriate – or even harmful – content.

INCREASED EXPOSURE TO MALWARE

Many free VPN apps are poorly regulated and may carry hidden malware. Young people installing unverified software could unknowingly open up their device (and home network) to spying, data theft, computer viruses, or even remote access by criminals.

RISK OF MALICIOUS VPN PROVIDERS

Although VPNs may increase privacy from network or service provider filtering and monitoring, this results in providing user and usage data to VPN providers. Some VPN providers may track user activity and sell that data to advertisers – or worse, malicious third parties. Not all VPNs are trustworthy.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF VPNs

Explain how VPNs can help protect user data and therefore may be appropriate when using public or other unsecured Wi-Fi, or while dealing with sensitive corporate or personal data.

CHECK DEVICES FOR VPNs

VPNs can be installed as both apps and browser extensions, so regularly check these on the devices used by the young people in your care. If they have been using VPNs, discuss it, listen to their reasoning, and inform them of the associated risks. In some cases, it may be appropriate to block VPN use via parental controls and other settings.

EXPLAIN THE RISKS OF VPNs

Discuss online risks, including harmful, disturbing, and criminal content. Inform children about criminal contact, such as sextortion, and how VPNs may restrict adults from monitoring children's internet use and helping them avoid these risks.

DISCUSS ONLINE BOUNDARIES

Reinforce the importance of keeping safe online and how filtering and monitoring helps keep young people safe – explain this to them rather than just 'being strict'. Encourage an open conversation around what they're accessing and why.

FREE ISN'T FREE

Discuss the risk of 'free' VPNs and how they may sell or use people's data, which adds privacy risks. Additionally, discuss the potential for added malware in VPN downloads, and how these compromise devices and apps, leading to potential fraud or theft.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been created in collaboration with Gary Henderson, director of IT at a large independent school in the UK, an ambassador for the Association of Network Managers in Education and the Vice Chair of the Independent Schools Council Digital Advisory Group.

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