

Dear Parents / Carers

A very Happy New Year to you all! Welcome back to a new school term which is packed with many exciting events for the children, starting with the wonderful Storybox Theatre. Thanks to The Friends of Bishop Henderson who have fully funded this year's Storybox productions.

During the next fortnight we have our School Book Weeks (see below) and every class will be sending out letters explaining their topics, themes and events for the coming term. The information will help you to know what is happening in every class and give you ideas of how you can support the class themes at home. If you have any relevant expertise, ideas, useful resources or would like to know more about how you can help, in school or at home, please do speak to your child's teacher.

As a whole school we are continuing to develop and adopt the UNICEF Rights Respecting School (RRS) approach as part of our school ethos. The RRS is already being rolled out with our children in each class and will form the focus for our January INSET Day with all staff.

In our welcome back collective worship (assembly) we thought about our new year resolutions and shared a few, including keeping bedrooms tidy, behaving well and being more grateful! We were also introduced to Joseph, a child from Sudan, and two of the UNICEF Articles:

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 28: *All children and young people have a right to free primary education.*

Article 31: *All children and young people have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.*

Ask your children about Joseph and his resolution to make the best of every opportunity to learn, his determination and his care and responsibility towards others.

Mrs Hutchin is leading the UNICEF RRS development at Bishop Henderson and we intend to be an ambassador school for this in Taunton. If you would like to know more or would like to become involved with this please do have a chat with Mrs Hutchin.

Thank you to everyone who supported the end of term and Christmas events in December. The children throughout the school put on wonderful productions culminating in a truly delightful Key Stage 2 Carol Service at St Michael's Church on the final afternoon of term. Thanks must also go to all the staff, volunteers and our church friends who put so much time and energy into preparing for these activities.



Edward Gregory

Bikeability: Two, two-day, cycle training courses for Year 6 are currently booked for Friday 3 + Tuesday 7 February and Thursday 9 + Friday 10 February. Year 6 children will receive details about this shortly from Miss Sage.

Parking: Just before Christmas we had a request from College Way Surgery to ask that we remind parents / carers not to park in the surgery car park please. We have also had complaints from residents of both Roland Close and Burch's Close, where residents only parking or driveways may have been obstructed. Thank you for parking considerately and legally when collecting from or dropping children at school.

We have been monitoring cars using the school drive and would thank those who have sought specific permission to do this between 8.15 a.m. and 3.45 p.m. For the children's safety the gates are closed and access is not permitted to the school site. Please try to avoid parking on the corner or driving into the roadway immediately in front of the school gates as there is no turning space for cars without crossing a footpath or reversing at a very busy time for pedestrians. Our local PCSO is aware of the parking issues around the school and has informed me that she will also be monitoring parking and vehicle movement in the area. Thank you to everyone who parks considerately and especially to those who are able to, and do, walk, scoot or cycle to school.

Trees: The trees along the school drive have been reviewed, at my request, by the local authority and we have decided, for several reasons, that the current trees need to be safely removed. This work will take place during the February half term and the timber will be kept here for our Forest School activities. We will then review replacing the trees with a new hedge or other trees.

Carpets: The entrance area for Years 2 and 3 has been greatly improved and is now much safer with a new carpet. Further areas will be addressed in the half term.

Website / 'Purple Mash': If you used Purple Mash over the Christmas Holiday we'd like to hear your feedback. If not, perhaps give it a try this term (if you have lost the web address / password please ask your child's teacher). If you can let us have any feedback about our website we'd also value this. Please look at the site, which is constantly updated by Mrs Low, at:

<http://www.bishophendersonschool.org.uk/>

Zambia link: Thank you for your donations towards the Hands of Compassion charity and our link school in Zambia. Together we have raised a Christmas gift of £351.29.

On February 10th Mrs Needs will be flying to Zambia on an exciting visit, supported by the British Council, to our partner school and we look forward to hosting colleagues from Zambia later this term. A letter outlining Mrs Needs' travels and how we can all help to support the school in practical ways will be sent out soon.

BOOK FOCUS FORTNIGHT 2012

5th to 19th January

Stories about:-

FOOD & GROWING THINGS

As the children return to school after the Christmas break, we will be launching our exciting BOOK FOCUS FORTNIGHT 2012.

This special time, when we focus even more on books and stories than usual, begins on Thursday January 5th with the amazing **Storybox Theatre**, who will be performing '**The Bean, the Pea and the Enormous Turnip**'. We would like to say a huge thank you to '**The Friends of Bishop Henderson School**', who have generously donated the cost of this event for the benefit of all of the children in the school.

Friday January 13th will be our **Dressing-Up Day**, when we encourage all children to come to school dressed as either a character from a story involving either **FOOD** or **GROWING THINGS** or an item of food which features in a well-known story. This an enormously wide theme and should enable everyone to find something to dress up as, ranging from Turnips, Farmers and Gingerbread Boys and Girls to Princesses, Peas, Snow Whites and Apples, Wizards and so on...

Also on **Friday 13th**, the '**Travelling Book Fair**' will be open in the large hall for you to browse and buy from their selection of both fiction and non-fiction books – all sales provide generous commission for school. (The book fair will also be open **Tuesday 17th –Thursday 19th** also in the large hall.)

We have a '**Monster Themed Story Zone**' booked for the week of Jan 16th along with a visiting '**Specialist Monster Scientist**' storyteller!!!!and the possibility of an author and an illustrator visiting too.

We are still finalising some of the visitors, but in order to cover the costs of this event, over and above the Storybox Theatre, please would you send in a voluntary donation of £1 per child via your child's class teacher.

Thank you
Mrs Hutchin, Literacy Coordinator



Bishop Henderson
Primary School

*"Ruins of St Michael's Church on Burrow Mump",
from an original pencil drawing by Matthew Round (Year 5, Class 12)*

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