



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've made it to the Christmas holidays! We've had a number of (sometimes sizeable) bumps along the way but at all times we have felt so supported by our pupils' parents and families. I am sure we are all looking forward to a well-earned rest and time together as families to celebrate Christmas.

I am incredibly proud of our pupils for their hard work and effort in the classrooms and at breaktimes. Some pupils' have made considerable progress and many have successfully closed the gaps in their learning from the summer term's closure.

I would like, again, to express a huge thank you to all of our families for continuing to follow our safety measures: wearing face masks when on site; following our one-way system and booking appointments via email or telephone etc.

We have begun to hold acts of collective worship in the school hall, and have been able to learn about some of my personal heroes, and how their faith has encouraged them to act towards others. During the spring and summer term, I hope we can begin to encourage children to join our team of Leading Lights, to grow in their leadership of collective worship.

The colder, wetter and darker winter days are definitely upon us now, so please ensure your child always comes to school with a coat.

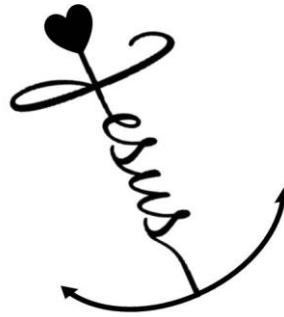
Pupils' PE will continue on the same days as in Autumn. Please ensure children come dressed in the correct clothing (details are on Page 3 of this Newsletter).

Our start and finish times will remain the same for now, as will our approach to homework – set weekly on Google Classroom and Mathletics each Thursday for pupils to complete by the following Tuesday.



I wish you all a blessed and safe Christmas holiday, and look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Mr Matthew Harris  
Headteacher



*During the storm, Jesus stood and said to the wind "Be Still." Through the many storms we have faced this year, this verse seems very fitting for our school and will be our key verse of Scripture.*

**"Jesus is the Anchor of my Soul"**  
Hebrews 9:16

**Reception Applications for 2021 intake:**

Closing date for Greenwich and Bexley applications is 15th January 2021

Apply online: [www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/admissions)  
[www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions)

**Dates for your diary**

21 <sup>st</sup> Dec – 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Christmas Holidays
4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	INSET (School Closed)
5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Children Return
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Christmas Jumper Day (version 2!)
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Christmas Lunch and Parties
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Headteacher's Coffee Morning
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	After school sports resume
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Headteacher's Coffee Morning
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Reception Admission deadline
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Headteacher's Coffee Morning
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Headteacher's Coffee Morning
13 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	February Half Term
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Beginning of Lent
1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	St David's Day

**Our School Online**

[www.bishopjohnrobinsonprimary.co.uk](http://www.bishopjohnrobinsonprimary.co.uk)  
Please follow us @BJRSchool



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

**Contact the School Office**

0208 310 9160  
[admin@bjr.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bjr.greenwich.sch.uk)

### Our School Improvements

Following discussion with the governing board, our school improvement priorities for the 2020-2021 academic year are:

1. Progress in Reading, Writing and Maths in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.
2. Strengthen the quality of teaching and learning in our Early Years and Foundation Stage.
3. Accurate identification, assessment and support of all pupils with special or additional needs.
4. Develop the RE Curriculum with a reater Depth focus.
5. Promote Positive Personal Development of staff and pupils, including Mental Health and Wellbeing.

### Conduct at the Gates

Children waiting outside the school gates in the morning represent our school to our local community. Please ensure that if your child walks to school or waits unaccompanied, they behaviour appropriately.

### Catch Up Curriculum

Throughout the autumn term, our teachers and staff have been working hard to help identify and address any gaps in pupils' learning, caused by the lockdown in the summer term. We have focused on English and Maths and will now be able to broaden our curriculum again during the spring term.

### Christmas has come!

We are incredibly proud of the displays in our school hall – children have used their artistic flair and imagination to create beautiful displays depicting the nativity story!



### Leadership Promotions

Following the promotion of Mrs Richardson to Headteacher in another school, we are very pleased to announce the promotion of two members of staff into new roles from January:

Mrs Valentine will be Assistant Headteacher

Miss Biney will be Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion Leader

I am sure you will join me in congratulating both Mrs Valentine and Miss Biney and will pray and support them as they grow in their new leadership roles. Both will continue to have responsibility for their classes in year 4 and Year 3 respectively for the remainder of this academic year, supported by Mrs Secombe.

#### Mrs Kim Valentine

I am really excited to be supporting Mr Harris with his plans to further develop and improve the learning outcomes for the children at BJR. Many of you already know me, and I look forward to meeting some of our newer families. I love teaching and fervently believe that all children can excel given the right

environment, encouragement and support. I retrained as a teacher, following a career in Investment Banking, to support my daughter who has dyslexia. This experience has enabled me to better understand and promote the achievement of all children. 2021 promises to be an exciting year at BJR!



#### Miss Sarah Biney

It gives me great pleasure to take on the role of Assistant Head Teacher and Inclusion Lead at BJR. I am extremely passionate about improving children's lives and have relished the opportunity to teach and lead in schools. I gained Qualified Teacher Status in 2013, but have worked with children for

12 years. Prior to that, I worked in the banking sector. I have been part of the Bishop John Robinson team for nearly 8 years and led many subjects. I look forward to working as part of the Senior Leadership Team to ensure your child is safe, happy and achieving well whilst they are at our school.





## Prayer Requests

As a Church of England school, we are proud to launch our Prayer Request page within our school website (under the "Our Faith" tab). Parents, carers and members of our local community can submit prayer requests, which will be included in the prayers of the school staff, fellowship at St Paul's Thamesmead and the wider diocesan prayer team.



We would love to pray for you and once restrictions lift, we look forward to welcoming parents and friends of BJR back into school to gather together and pray for our school and wider community.

## Parking outside School

When parking, please kindly respect our neighbours and the community. Do not park across driveways, on the double yellow lines, the zigzag lines or turn your vehicle around directly outside the school gates.

It is very important that we park safely and considerately before and after school each day. Thank you for your support in this matter.



## Homework

Please ensure your child completes all homework on Google Classroom and Mathletics each week. If you are struggling to access the online materials, please speak with the class teacher to request paper copies.



Google Classroom

## Epiphany - Christmas Lunch, Parties & Jumpers!

Due to the disruption during the final week of the autumn term, our Christmas celebrations will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. All classes will have their party time in the hall, with goodies kindly supplied by our wonderful parents as partners. We will also be hosting a rerun of our Christmas Jumper day and our Christmas Lunch, so please come to school in your most festive of jumpers! (Please remember to wear normal school uniform with your Christmas jumper!)

## Uniform Bank

Please continue to bring in your donations of good quality spare school clothes. These will be washed and sorted, and then available for parents to purchase at significantly reduced cost. Proceeds will go to the school fund and local charities.

## Behaviour in and around school

We are working hard in school to support children to make positive behaviour choices. Teachers use circle time and class discussions to talk through scenarios and help children identify possible outcomes. In partnership with our governors, we have made some changes to the school's behaviour policy, which can be viewed on the school's website. (About Us > Policies). One of the key changes has been to the **Tier System** (page 10 of the policy), used to identify and categorise negative behaviour choices and sanctions. The policy is very clear ensuring that all incidents are investigated thoroughly to achieve restorative justice.



Tier 3 and Tier 4 sanctions are all carried out either during the school day or after school – parents will be given 48 hours notice of these. These sanctions are recorded internally, but most importantly, they give pupils the opportunity to reflect on and learn from their actions.

Tier 5 sanctions will be discussed with the Headteacher and parents; the focus of the sanction will always be to permit reflection for all parties involved. Higher level external sanctions will only be imposed when all other methods have been exhausted. Pupils will then have a reintegration meeting to ensure lessons learned can be acted upon.

If you have any questions about the behaviour policy, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting with Mr Harris.

## School Uniform – Advanced Notice

We are making a slight change to our school uniform policy from September 2022. The key changes will be as follows:

- All pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1 will be asked to wear a white polo shirt and jumper / cardigan with the school logo. Children in EYFS or Key Stage 1 should not wear a school tie.
- Pupils in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) will be asked to wear a collared blouse or shirt with school tie.
- All pupils will be allowed to wear a polo shirt or a checked summer dress during the Summer term.
- PE Kit for all pupils will be black or grey shorts or jogging bottoms, white T-shirt, black or grey jumper.
- School bags must be book bags. Rucksacks will not be permitted (due to limited storage space).

Dear BJR Pupils and Parents,

This is not the goodbye I had envisaged, so I thought I would write you a little letter as a way of saying good-bye.

I first visited BJR in the summer of 2014. I toured the school and instantly felt the warmth and love that emanated from it, I knew this was the school I wanted to work in. Therefore, I was ecstatic when I secured the deputy headship here, and I have been proud every single day since.

I have so many happy memories of BJR which I will never forget: Taking EYFS to the living Nativity at London Zoo, several Teddy Bear's Picnics, Pantomimes, Kip on a Ship, Night's at the Museum, not to mention achieving Good at two Ofsted inspections and outstanding in the SIAMs and the Gold RE Quality Mark. The list is endless and I cannot thank you enough for allowing me to be a part of this most incredible journey.



I am very emotional to leave BJR, especially under these circumstances, never have we known a year like 2020! I have never worked in one place for as long – my previous record was five years – and I will be leaving Greenwich and moving to a school in Croydon. However, it is my time to move. BJR has an amazing team of staff and the school will continue to flourish. One of the hardest parts of saying good-bye is due to the dedicated staff team at BJR and the wonderful children and supportive parents. I have watched so many children grow and develop, I am so proud of each and every one of you.

Imagine me as a hermit crab that has now shed it's shell and is moving in to a new one.

I wish each and every one of you the very best in all you do.

God Bless

Mrs Jo Richardson

### **An Ode to Miss Lorna Miller**

There is a certain someone,  
Who works in early years,  
She's loved by parents and children,  
And much valued by her peers.  
She has an artistic temperament,  
Her talent knows no bounds,  
She's equally at ease, you know,  
With teaching letters and sounds!  
And on a busy and hectic day,  
When the stress seems to never end,  
She smiles and sends best wishes,  
And you know you've got a friend.  
As your chapter closes at BJR,  
And you head to pastures new,  
Our loss is your new school's gain,  
And more time with your Mum too.  
We're going to miss you, Miss Miller,  
But we wish you all the best,  
You've made our lives much richer,  
May your next chapter be richly blessed!

### **Mr Michael Harris**

Mr Harris has been with us at BJR for a number of years and has served as our Premises Manager: taking care of our site; keeping pathways clear; mending, fixing and more recently topping up the sanitiser and ensuring our school is clean and tidy. A new adventure beckons, and we wish Mike the very best as he moves towards retirement.

### **Placement Teachers**

We have been blessed to have Mr El Rrakik (Yr4), Mr Ibrahim (Yr1), Miss Duckworth (Yr2) and Miss Lee (Yr2) with us during the second half of the Autumn term; all trainee teachers from London South Bank University. After Christmas, they will set off to their next placements as they continue developing as teachers. We are very grateful for their support and pray for continued blessings in their future.



**Bishop John Robinson C of E Primary School**

*Be the best we can. Join in learning, play and prayer. Remember God's word.*