



The Bliss Charity School

Endowed 1674 Northamptonshire

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Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

I am sure you will be relieved to know that this is my final communication of the school year! After more than 25 letters in the 'Coronavirus Update' series, I am hoping that I won't need to write as regularly when we return in September!

Year 6 Leavers

Tomorrow is the last day at Bliss for our amazing Year 6s! Whilst it is a real shame that coronavirus interrupted their final few terms at Bliss, this should not take away from the wonderful time they have had at primary school and what fantastic pupils they have been! There are many great highlights from their time with us: victorious performances in rugby, football and athletics; singing at the O2 and the NEC; and rocking the Derngate theatre with their awe-inspiring Queen-Stomp medley to name just a few! But it was at Kingswood in November that Class 6 demonstrated their very best – resilient, determined, empathetic, caring, kind, considerate and very, very funny! Last week, the children celebrated their final topic with a dress-up day and a 'distance disco' on the playground, and today they will be presented with their leavers' gift ready to wear to school on their final day. Please visit <https://www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/class-6> to see the Year 6 virtual leavers' service and the virtual leavers' assembly. We wish all of our leavers the very best for the future!

Plans for September

To share our plans for the new school year, we have produced a separate booklet (see the attachment sent alongside this letter) which I would ask all of you to read carefully. There could be changes that we need to make to our plans following further guidance from the DfE – the Department's advice is being updated at very regular intervals which we are doing our very best to keep up with. If amendments to our planning are needed, further information will be provided ahead of the new academic year. If there are any questions that are not answered in the Information Booklet, staff will be back in school on Tuesday 1st September and they can be dealt with then.

Summer Holidays (18/07/20 – 02/09/20):

Unlike Easter and the May half-term break, we will be fully closed over the summer holidays. Teachers – including senior leaders – will not be available over this period so please direct any urgent queries to office@bliss.northants.sch.uk.

As in the previous two holidays, we have provided a range of materials on the school website to support children beyond term-time. As well as resources to aid your child's transition into their new class and guidance on what pupils could practise to achieve the targets set on their school reports, our summer holiday webpage features a range of challenges and tasks that children could choose to do over July and August, including our Summer Holiday Activity Pack, the Summer Reading Challenge and a Virtual Read Aloud! Please visit: www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/summer-holidays-2020

- **Transition** – Staff have recorded short videos to introduce themselves and the classroom, and they have also produced booklets with key information to help prepare pupils for their new year group in September. The booklets have also been posted home to the children.



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Bursar: Ms L. Adey



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- **Things to work on over the summer holidays** – Over the summer break, it would be great for your child to work on the targets identified in their report. Please look at the materials and links provided in the 'Targets' folders – these are available in the resources sidebar on the summer holiday page of the school website.
- **Activity Pack** – Our Summer Holiday Activity Pack has been compiled by the teachers at Bliss for you to enjoy as a family – please find it in the resources sidebar on the summer holiday page of the school website. Unlike the Home Learning Packs, our summer holiday resources are not differentiated by age; there are a range of activities for children of all ages to enjoy – this means that brothers and sisters could work on these tasks together instead of doing separate learning tasks. The Summer Holiday Activity Pack covers a broad range of curriculum areas, from science, geography and history to art, music, ICT and PSHE. There is no need to record any of the work children do from the Summer Holiday Activity Pack, although you could do if you would like to. Any additional information and materials that accompany the Summer Holiday Activity Pack have been uploaded into the resources sidebar on the summer holiday page of the school website. Don't forget, the activity packs from the previous two holidays which are still available as well – please visit:
 - www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/easter-holidays-2020
 - www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/may-half-term-holiday-2020
- **Summer Reading Challenge** – The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every year across the country. The Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure over the summer holidays, providing lots of fun as well as preventing the summer reading 'dip'. This year, the Summer Reading Challenge's 'Silly Squad' will celebrate funny books, happiness and laughter. The Summer Reading Challenge website (<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>) is free to access and features games, quizzes and downloadable activities that incentivise and encourage children to take part in reading-related activities.

Although public library buildings are closed, libraries will continue to deliver the Challenge through virtual services and e-lending platforms. Visit your local library website to find out how you can access eBooks, audiobooks, comics and magazines for free that you can use to complete the Challenge at home. Also, don't forget you can visit Sora to explore a range of eBooks, audiobooks and 'read-alongs'! Access to this e-library is completely free to Bliss pupils! Download the Sora app or visit <https://soraapp.com/welcome> and get started using your username and password. Alternatively, you could access the free eBooks on Oxford Owl (www.oxfordowl.co.uk). Please contact office@bliss.northants.sch.uk if you have any difficulties accessing this resources.

Alongside the official Summer Reading Challenge, we always run our own school-based version. All pupils have been given special bookmarks to record the six books they read (spare copies of the bookmarks are available to download in the resources sidebar on this page of the school website). The bookmarks can then be brought back to school in September to earn a certificate and be entered into our prize draw! Pupils at Bliss are welcome to enter the official Summer Reading Challenge as well as our own school-based version if they would like to. In 2019, 104 pupils at The Bliss Charity School completed the Summer Reading Challenge! It would be great if we could see such high numbers of pupils reading regularly over the summer again this year.

- **Virtual Read Aloud** – At Bliss, we hold a 'Read Aloud' at the end of every term ... and, once again, the school closure was not going to prevent us from doing this! Please watch the videos of adults from our school reading a selection of free e-books! By logging onto Sora or Oxford Owl, you can finish the books we have chosen to share with you! If you finish any of the eBooks started by the Bliss staff, you could record these as part of your Summer Reading Challenge! Don't forget the Read Alouds from the previous two holidays which are still available – please visit:
 - www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/easter-holidays-2020
 - www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/may-half-term-holiday-2020



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Virtual School Games

In recognition of our support, engagement and promotion of the physical and remote sporting opportunities over the past few months, The Bliss Charity School has been the Virtual School Games Mark! Congratulations to all the staff and pupils involved!



Staying Safe

Usually in the final term of the school year, we would share safety messages with the children through lessons and assemblies on topics such as road, water, rail and home to keep everyone safe over the summer holidays. To this end, please find attached a copy of last year's school council presentation.

Virtual Poetry Jam

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Virtual Poetry Jam – please visit the homepage of the school website to view the compilation of entries: www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/.

Finally

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last few months. The kind messages we have received have meant the world to all the staff at Bliss and kept us going through some difficult times. Whilst there will undoubtedly be further challenges when we return in September, I hope things will be more settled after the summer break and I cannot wait to have all of the children back in school! Have a wonderful summer holiday!

Yours faithfully,

Mr S. Carter

Mr. S. Carter
(Headteacher)



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Bursar: Ms L. Adey