



The Bliss Charity School  
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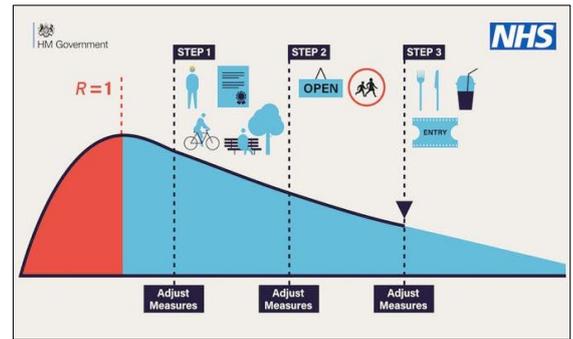
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Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you and your loved ones are all safe and well. I also hope you are getting used to the adjustments made by the GOVERNMENT under step 1 of the roadmap to end the UK lockdown.

Firstly, I would like to thank families for their patience and understanding. I am sure you were keen to hear details of our re-opening plans sooner, but the time afforded to school staff last week was invaluable. It gave us the space we needed to familiarise ourselves with the Government's guidance and consult with colleagues to ensure our approach adheres to all the new protection and control measures, relative to both the human and physical resources we have available.



### **Phased re-opening from 1<sup>st</sup> June – Information Booklet**

To share our plans for 1<sup>st</sup> June onward, we have produced a separate booklet. Although it is quite lengthy, I would ask all of you to read it very carefully, including the parents/carers of children in Years 2/3/4/5, even though these year groups are not set to return on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Moreover, it is also important that any parents/carers with children in Years R/1/6 who may be considering not sending their child(ren) back to school in Term 6 read the booklet thoroughly as well.

**NB.** Please be aware that our plans are subject to change and it is very important that parents/carers make employers aware of this fact if they will be relying on the school to enable them to return to work. The Government's decision to re-open schools from 1<sup>st</sup> June is conditional on the scientific advice they take nearer the proposed re-opening date (I believe the final decision will be taken towards the end of the half term week). Also, there could be changes that we need to make to our plan 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. In addition, our plans are subject to our own staffing availability now and in the near future. Therefore, while the plans outlined in the Information Booklet are correct at the time of writing, it is possible things might change.

The Bliss Charity School	
Phased Re-opening from 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020	
Information Booklet for Parents/Carers	
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Onto somewhat easier things ...

### **Home Learning Packs and Gallery**

Our home learning packs for this week are now accessible. These resources (and the videos from the class teachers) are available on the class pages of the school website – the packs will be emailed home too. On the home page of the school website, there is another home learning gallery to celebrate everyone's fantastic achievements last week! Please keep showing us what you're doing; it's so nice to see. You can email your class teacher directly or post on our Twitter page ([@BlissCharitySch](https://twitter.com/BlissCharitySch)) if you would like to share.

### **May Half-Term Holiday (23/05/20 – 31/05/20):**

During the May half term holiday, home learning packs will be suspended. It is important that children have a break from academic work like they would do in normal circumstances – by this time they will be at the end of a five week block and it is



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Bursar: Ms L. Adey



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difficult for most young children to sustain academic learning for any longer. Furthermore, up to half of the children on our roll could be returning after half-term so some 'down time' would be beneficial for all. However, I appreciate that most of the lockdown rules are still in place in this initial stage of the Government's roadmap and the holiday may be a significant length of time to fill while we are still observing social distancing guidelines. Therefore, we will provide a 'Holiday Activity Pack' (similar to the one published for Easter), containing lots of fun and exciting challenges and tasks for you to make use of at your leisure should you wish to – more details to follow at the end of the week.

## **Sora Reading App and our next 'Read Aloud'**

Access to our e-book library is now live for children to borrow from! With a wealth of titles to read in this virtual library – including 'read-alongs' and audiobooks – there is something for everyone! Access is completely **free** to our pupils! All you need to do is download the Sora app or visit <https://soraapp.com/welcome> and sign-in with your username and password – please see the letter dated 05/05/20 for details. If you have any problems logging-on, Miss Thompson would like you to email her directly ([senco@bliss.northants.sch.uk](mailto:senco@bliss.northants.sch.uk)) and she will do her best to resolve them for you.



At Bliss, we hold a 'Read Aloud' at the end of every term ... and, once again, the school closure will not prevent us from doing this! We will share the videos of staff reading books from Sora and Oxford Owl – these will be available at the end of the week on our school website ([www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/may-half-term-holiday-2020](http://www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/may-half-term-holiday-2020)).



## **End of year school reports**

If you haven't done so already, please see my letter dated 12/05/20 regarding the new format of our end of year reports for this summer.

## **Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust**

The staff at 'Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust' have produced some new resources to help children in Key Stage 2 think about which instrument they might like to learn. They can be found at [www.NMPAT.co.uk/Resources](http://www.NMPAT.co.uk/Resources) under 'Thinking of learning an instrument':

- Guitar lessons – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYcZX8bS5qA>
- The keyboard family – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FantOcQxMNng&t=5s>
- The percussion family – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZnVbncPFk8&t=14s>
- The string family – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSNqEILx4ZE&t=9s>
- The woodwind family – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbNKUdAYLrg&t=71s>

If your child is interested in starting to learn to play a new instrument, please contact Mrs. Adey ([burar@bliss.northants.sch.uk](mailto:burar@bliss.northants.sch.uk)).

## **New Starters – September 2020**

Over the past few weeks, reception staff and school leaders have been busy planning alternative transition arrangements for our new starters in September. On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, Mrs. Caller will be delivering our 'new starter pack' to the parents/carers of all the children who are due to start school with us after the summer holidays. All the resources contained in the pack, as well as a 'welcome video', have been uploaded on to our school website: <https://www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/parents/new-starters-september-2020>

## **Staff news**

At the end of this week, we say goodbye to Mrs. Morrall who leaves Bliss after five years, supporting a number of children in Key Stage 2 during her time at our school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Morrall for her hard work in the



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classroom and for providing pupils with the opportunity to develop extra-curricular interests and skills – so many children at Bliss enjoyed Mrs. Morrall's morning sewing club over the past few years! We wish Mrs. Morrall all the best for the future.

## **'Thank a Teacher Day'**

As you will see when you read our Information Booklet, the staff at Bliss are committed to trying to make the Government's guidelines for reopening work in our setting. For this reason – and for all the support provided by everyone at Bliss over the past few months in supporting the local community – I would like to recognise the amazing efforts of my staff for this Wednesday's national 'Thank a Teacher Day'. For providing childcare every day; for organising and delivering exercise books and free school meals; for creating fantastic home learning packs each week; and for the efforts they have gone to (and will be going to) to make our phased re-opening work ... thank you very, very much!



## **Finally**

This week, we will be busy making the physical changes necessary to be ready to open on 1<sup>st</sup> June. This means that staff may not be able to respond to emails or telephone calls as quickly as they have been able to over recent weeks. If your query is urgent, please direct it to [office@bliss.northants.sch.uk](mailto:office@bliss.northants.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully,

*Mr S. Carter*

Mr. S. Carter  
(Headteacher)



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Bursar: Ms L. Adey