

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopsdownprimary.org



2nd March 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

As many of you know, we have recently introduced a new home learning tool called a VLE. A launch event for the VLE is planned for parents on Tuesday 27th March at 7.00pm. Please see the separate letter which went out about this, and return your reply slip to the office if you wish to attend.

School Meals/Packed Lunches

As you are aware, Bishops Down has been recognised as a Healthy School for some time now. As part of our focus on these standards, we teach the children about the importance of a healthy balanced diet. In recent months we have noticed a steady increase in chocolate snacks and crisps. We would really appreciate your support in promoting healthy eating options with your children.

We teach the children that there is no such thing as 'bad' food. Foods high in sugar, fat or salt should be limited to the weekends for example. We also encourage healthy foods to be seen as treats. The Government has stated that school meals must be free from foods such as chocolate bars and coated items, (e.g. chocolate biscuits), crisps and foods which are high in salt/sugar/fats. Our school adheres to these requirements and this includes all food eaten in the school day, such as school dinners and children's packed lunches. Therefore, none of the above items should be provided by parents as part of their child's packed lunch. However, we do want children to enjoy eating and so it is reasonable for cake, flapjack and biscuits etc. to be included in packed lunches.

As you know, children in Foundation Stage and the Infants receive free fruit each day. In order to maintain this healthy start to school life we also operate a 'Fruit only snack' policy in all junior classes. We will remind children of these rules in school.

Nut Products in School

You will be aware that many children have moderate to severe allergies to nuts. As a result, the school has traditionally operated a no nut policy for lunches, so please check for products containing nuts and remove them from packed lunches. This does not stop children having a nut free cereal bar. Thank you for your co-operation.

School lunches for Parents

Parents who have booked to eat a school lunch with their children are asked to arrive via the school office just before their child enters the dinner hall at the following times:

Monday 12 th March	Reception Chestnut	11.50am
Monday 12 th March	Year 5	12.25pm
Tuesday 13 th March	Nursery	11.45am
Tuesday 13 th March	Year 2	12.10pm
Wednesday 14 th March	Reception Willow	11.55am
Wednesday 14 th March	Year 6	12.35pm
Thursday 15 th March	Year 1 Beech	12.00 noon
Thursday 15 th March	Year 3	12.40pm
Friday 16 th March	Year 1 Bonsai	12.00 noon
Friday 16 th March	Year 4	12.25pm

If you did not specify your menu choice you have been defaulted to a 'main meal', so please ask for this at the serving hatch as this is what the kitchen will have prepared for you.

Walking to school

For many years we have taken pride in the proportion of pupils who walk to school or do not drive. I am still keen to reduce the number of pupils who drive to school and to explore ways to do this. I will be hosting an informal coffee morning on Friday 27th April at 9.00am for this purpose and invite anyone interested to come along. Alternatively, you may wish to just pass on your suggestions via e-mail.

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Attendance and absence during term time

In response to an increasing number of enquiries about requests for holiday absence and concerns about attendance, Governors have been discussing whether our school policy on attendance adequately reflects the legal requirements, our own school situation and what is going on in other primary schools locally and nationally. In consultation with the local authority they have now written a new policy for attendance. You can view a full transcript of the policy on our school website if you go to www.bishopsdownprimary.org then follow the links to information and school policies.

Class assembly dates

Wednesday 7 March	Year 4
Tuesday 13 March	Year 3
Wednesday 14 March	Year 2
Tuesday 27 March	Year 1Beech
Wednesday 28 March	Year 1Bonsai

Term Dates

Start: Tuesday 21st February 2012
Finish: Friday 30th March 2012
Holiday Monday 2nd April- Friday 13th April 2012
INSET DAY MONDAY 16TH APRIL 2012
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 7TH MAY 2012
Start: Tuesday 17th April 2012
Wednesday 18th April 2012 for Nursery children
Finish: Friday 1st June 2012
Holiday Monday 4th June - Friday 8th June 2012
Start: Monday 11th June 2012
Finish: Friday 20th July 2012
Holiday Monday 23rd July - Monday 3rd September 2012
INSET DAY TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2012
Start: Wednesday 5th September 2012
Thursday 6th September 2012 for Nursery children
Finish: Friday 26th October 2012
Holiday Monday 29th October - Friday 2nd November 2012
Start: Monday 5th November 2012
Finish: Friday 21st December 2012
Holiday Monday 24th December - Friday 4th January 2013

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome our new Site Manager, Adrian Beaton. He is settling in well and coping well with the daily surprises that crop up. Emma Bonwick will be returning to school at the start of term 5. She will be reducing from 5 days down to 2 and will teach in the Nursery on Thursdays and Fridays. Claire Robinson will continue working in the Nursery from Monday to Wednesday until the end of the school year.

Regards,

Daniel T Turvey

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