

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopsdownprimary.org



7th September 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone. It has been wonderful to return to school in the sunshine following those endless days of rain in June and July. There have been numerous changes during the summer. I am delighted that we have been able to open our new Year 2 class room (formerly the staff room). The rest of the building works are on track with the courtyard now having a roof. This area now contains a corridor around Beech and Apple class, storage areas and what will be our new staff room and reprographics area. We hope that all works will finish by Friday 21st September and that the school can return to normal. A special mention to Adrian Beaton, our site manager, who has overseen the building works and put in a huge number of hours during the holidays assisting the builders.

Staffing

We welcome a number of new staff. Francesca Affleck is our new Deputy Headteacher who will divide her time between teaching and leadership duties. She will be partnered in class by Sinead Roberts who returns from maternity leave. We also say hello to Matthew Bennett, Julia Gearing and Liz Gripper as teaching assistants. Congratulations to Sarah Grimsey who married during the holiday and is now Mrs. Pain.

Walking to school - Do you need to drive all the way to school?

Please read the attached information about the walking buses. You will understand the drawbacks that being at the end of a cul-de-sac brings which include lack of space to park or turn cars around, large numbers of buggies and young children on the pavement. In addition, since September 2010 we have an additional 90 children coming to school. As a result we regularly have complaints from both neighbours and parents about incidents that occur. The message that I wish to convey in the strongest possible terms is to avoid parking on Rydal Drive and surrounding roads including Coniston Avenue. Please park further away and walk the rest of the journey. Leaving home 5 minutes earlier in the morning, parking the car and walking the last 200m will benefit everyone. Alternatively get involved with the walking bus, which you can join at the starting point or midway. You can even park further away from school and wait for a walking bus at either end of Coniston Avenue, just contact the leader of the bus to arrange this.

Admissions September 2013

Many of you will have heard via the BBC news and 'The K&S Courier' about the possibility that KCC may have to revise their decision to reduce the intake of Bishops Down to 30 in September 2013. The school is currently awaiting further instruction from KCC who are in discussion with the Department for Education. This follows the determination by the Schools Adjudicator in August 2012. Please see the link to the report <http://www.education.gov.uk/schoolsadjudicator/decisions/database/a00212554/ada2266>. You will be informed as soon as there are any further developments.

Supporting BD Through Prayer- a message from parents

A group of Christian parents meet termly to pray for the pupils, staff and governors of the school. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd October 1.30-2.30pm at 53 Culverden Down.

If you would be interested in joining us, please contact Catherine Manktelow catherine.manktelow@bopenworld.com or speak with Catherine (Y2 Apple / Willow) or Jane Parish (Y2 Apple / Chestnut).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel T Turvey".

Dan Turvey

Dates for you diary - 2012/2013 Year

TERM 1

INSET DAYS TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2012 AND WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

Start: Thursday 6th September 2012
Friday 7th September 2012 for Nursery children
Finish: Friday 26th October 2012
Holiday Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November 2012

TERM 2

Start: Monday 5th November 2012
Finish: Friday 21st December 2012
Holiday Monday 24th December – Friday 4th January 2013

INSET DAYS MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2013, MONDAY 25TH FEBRUARY, MONDAY 3RD JUNE

Bishops Down Primary School Walking Buses 2012-13

What are the walking buses?

- A walking bus is an organised, safe, friendly and 'green' way of getting your children to school with parents sharing the task of walking with them.
- The original buses have been running for 11 years, and Bishops Down has pioneered walking buses across Kent, and been successful.

Why do we need walking buses?

- We have a large number of parents who still use their car. As most parents live close to school there is no reason to drive.

Benefits:

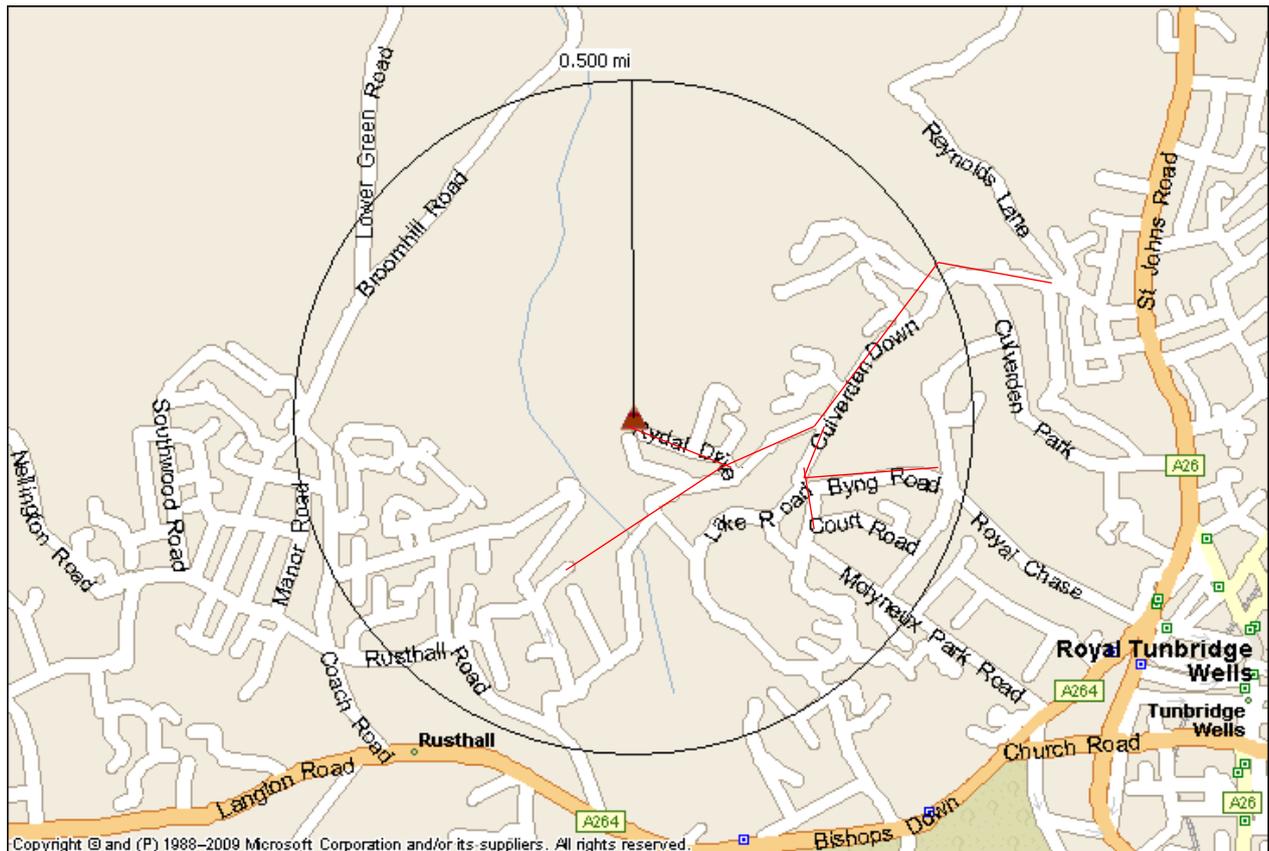
- Want to be healthy, sociable and save money?
 - Can't do the school run every day?
 - 'It's fantastic - I can just drop the children at 8.30am and get to work on time.'
 - 'It's a great way of meeting other children and parents and gets us out of the house in the morning....'
 - 'The walking bus prizes are good and children feel special when they receive them.'
 - 'The Culverden Bus likes to sing to school on Fridays!'
- Bishops Down parents

How does it work?

- You can use the bus every day or once a week.
- You don't have to walk with your children every day, but we need volunteers to take it in turns.
- Parents can commit to walking two days, whereby they would walk with their children one day and let the children walk on the bus without them on the second day.
- Why not give it a try on one of our WOW (Walk on Wednesday) days.

What are the bus routes?

- You can see the routes of the buses below.
- Buses leave their start point at approximately 8.20am.
- Parents can drop children off at any point en route with prior agreement.
- Parents can drop children off with Julian in Coniston Avenue who will wait until a bus comes and feed children into the next bus.



▲ School

How do I do join a walking bus?

- You can contact the walking bus leaders directly for information.
The walking buses are run by:
Culverden Bus – Kirsty Aves Tel: 01892 546738/ 07973 689191
Byng Bus – Michelle Rule Tel: 01892 524700 / 07879814045
Rusty Bus (Rusthall) – Ruth Turvey 01892 527284
- Contact the school office on 01892 520114
- Parents and children need to sign consent forms available from the office.
- High-viz waistcoats are also available from the school office.