

Dear Parents and Guardians,

So much to report in this final newsletter of the term!

Firstly thank you to those parents who have attended our parent information sessions recently. Over the past 2 weeks we have held workshops on Clicker 7 and Phonics, we also held an afternoon tea for parents of our EAL children (English as an Additional Language) to get to know each other and for us to learn how we can give more support to these families. Our Maths evening for KS1 parents is **Monday 27th February at 7pm**.

Last week was consultation week. We received mixed feedback on the success of the 'red & blue' Target Tracker sheets so we are looking into a different way of reporting your child's progress mid academic year. I will discuss our proposed new format with parent reps after half term on **Friday 24th March**.

This week we have had a very successful E safety day and Sign2Sing day. Thank you to all of the staff who have put so much into making these events so memorable. The funds raised on e safety day are going towards the cost of making our 50th Birthday celebratory school video.

Plans for the video are really coming together now; scene rehearsals should start by March and filming will take place hopefully in May. Our heartfelt thanks go to Paul Whittington who is guiding us through the process with his skills and expertise. His patience with us '*eager amateurs*' is much appreciated! A letter has been sent home this week explaining more about the filming process along with a permission slip you must complete if you would like your child to take part.

We have two surveys that we would appreciate you completing over the half term. The first is for all parents, the Annual Parent Survey. The questions are the same as last year so we can measure our improvements. Please complete one for each child as you may have different experiences depending on Key Stages or classes. Follow this link <https://www.surveycrest.com/s/bishopsdown2017> to complete the survey.

The second survey is for parents of Nursery children and potential Nursery users which has been sent out this week. We are keen to ascertain how many parents will be eligible and would require the 30hrs free child care provision in September so we can make plans.

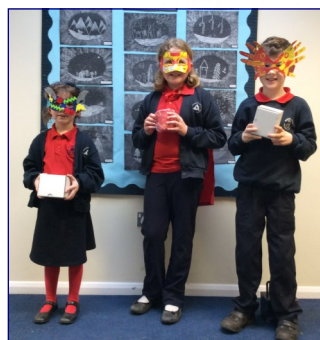
In this newsletter I have included photos of E safety day and Sign2Sing day. Please also see updates from the PSA and Governing body.

May I wish you all a great half term and thank you for your continued support. See you in term 4.

*C. Chen*

## PSA

Our annual quiz night was a great success - a huge thank you to all who helped with the evening, especially Bob and Bruce, our resident quizmasters! The winning team was '*Past Caring*', so congratulations to all the brains on that table! We made a profit of £648, which means we are very nearly at our £5,000 target for the school's new science kits.



Please note that any **lunchboxes** and **uniform** not retrieved from either the lunch trolleys or the lost property bin by the end of school on Friday will be disposed of. We simply do not have the space to store unnamed lost property or uncollected dirty lunchboxes and bags. Please note that for hygiene reasons and to keep the lunch trolleys tidier, we have started to put uncollected lunchboxes and bags within a black plastic bag on the trolley. We are trying to protect these for you as we do not want to be attracting vermin to our lunch trolleys. Please take them home each evening. Thank you.

## News from the Governing Body

It's been a busy first term of 2017 for the school's governors. We are pleased to announce that we have appointed a new governor, Martin Johnson, to the governing body. Martin has professional experience as an accountant, has been a governor at a local secondary school and is currently a governor at another primary school. There will be more information about Martin appearing on the governor page of the website soon. We are still working hard to fill a further governor vacancy and are hopeful of making an appointment soon.

**Governor initiatives** This academic year, governors have been assigned key initiatives in the school to work on, which link up to the school development plan. Groups of governors are working on the following:

**Wrap around care** – we are working with staff to review pricing and administrative processes.

**Academy status** – although not currently under active consideration, we are researching academy status and what options might be best for Bishops Down should we consider it in the future.

**Science** – we are monitoring the impact of the introduction of the new science teaching resources.

**Nursery** – we are looking at the impact of the government's additional free nursery care on our provision.

**Maths progress**– we are working with teachers to ensure good progress in maths continues.

**Progress in Writing** – we are supporting staff to make sure children reach their potential in writing.

**Stakeholder surveys** Please tell us what you think! A survey of parents' views on the school will be coming out soon. At the same time, the school also asks pupils to complete a survey, and we also seek feedback from staff. The results of these surveys help governors and the leadership team to identify improvements that can be made to our school. Please do complete the survey when asked.

**Internet Safety** One of our governors, Gilly Shankland, who is the link governor for ICT in the school, attended this week's internet safety day. Gilly was impressed with how teachers highlighted the potential outcome of sharing a photo or information on social media, through open-ended questioning, information sharing and positive affirmation. She felt that the children, particularly those in KS2, have a growing understanding of the need to keep safe on line. She also commented "I was impressed by the skills and imagination that the children and, of course their parents, had shown in interpreting the theme of the day in their outfits."

If you want to know more about any of the initiatives, or to raise another matter with the governors, please contact [vharding@bishops-down.sch.org.uk](mailto:vharding@bishops-down.sch.org.uk).



## E SAFETY DAY

### EMOJI CUPCAKES

Left to right, first place Aiden (Maple), Second place Matthew Nursery), Third place William (Hazel)



Dear Parents, as part of the 50th celebrations your children have all designed a mug including what they think is special about Bishops Down. This week they will be bringing home their design, if you wish to purchase one mug or more then please fill out the form at the bottom of the design and return it to the office after half term.

The deadline for order is Wednesday 22nd February. Many thanks.

**Kelly Kyte and the 50th committee**