

# BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spring Term 3 Newsletter No 10

[www.bishopsdownprimary.org/](http://www.bishopsdownprimary.org/)

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to all that have taken part in the parent survey so far. It closes at midnight tonight so don't miss the chance to take part. Your comments and opinions are of value to us and we will report on how we address the concerns you raise in the survey, shortly after half term.

The parent reps meeting last Friday was very productive and it was great to hear that you have noticed improvements in the standard of work; presentation and content. Also that feedback to children in their books and smartness of uniform has improved.

One of the key concerns raised was that the interim progress reports were not personalised, however many did like the detail as it enabled them to see in what areas they could support their child. Personalised reports will still be written at the end of the year and please make use of parent drop in sessions so you can get regular feedback on your child's progress.

The parent reps are very concerned about the safety of young children at the end of the day as scooters are being used on the playground by older children. It was decided to reintroduce the ban on scooters on the playground. I also made the point that we need to clear the playground quickly at the end of the day as the afterschool club use the playground at 3.30. It has also been noticed that children are playing football, climbing the banks and using the bridge after 3.15—these are also not permitted for safety reasons. Please could you all help by collecting your children and leaving promptly. Thank you.



More *positive* news, the school has a new logo! This has come about as a result of many discussions with Staff and Governors over the last 9 months. The new logo represents unity, equality and working together; key features of our school community. Many thanks to Dave Relfe at Hoxton Design in Tunbridge Wells who has worked closely with us to create a logo all parties agree on—quite a task! He has given freely of his time and expertise; we are very grateful. [www.hoxtondesign.com](http://www.hoxtondesign.com)

There will be an official launch at Easter when (hopefully) we will have the new signage, website design and posters in place, however you will start to see it around before then as we begin to change letter heads and other documentation.

With regards to school uniform there will be a gradual roll out once old stock, held by Price and Buckland, is used up. Parents will not incur any additional costs and we fully expect that there will be couple of years when we will have a mix of old and new logo jumpers and shirts in school. However, we are still going ahead with the V neck sweatshirt as a compulsory replacement of the crewneck one from September 2016 which we mentioned earlier this year, or your child can still wear the V-neck knitted jumper or sweat-cardigan.

For your information there will be improvements made to the site over half term. One significant area will be new fencing at the front of the school between the notice board and the corner of the school. At the moment year 4 and 5 classes can not have their classroom doors open during the day, in fact they are kept locked. Understandably this is not ideal as they should be fire escape doors. The simple solution is to move the security gate from the playground end of the path to the drive end of the path. The children in years 4 and 5 then can safely access their outside areas.

More news follows from staff on page 2 and 3. May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and relaxing half term.

*C. Owen*

	Attendance 1st February	lates
Beech	90.7%	1
Apple	98.6%	0
Olive	92.4%	3
Maple	93.7%	4
Mulberry	96.0%	0
Hazel	98.7%	1
Sycamore	96.7%	2
Redwood	96.5%	2
Pine	99.3%	2
Oak	97.0%	0

Reception Class are in need of additional resources for their digging pit e.g. rakes, colanders, sieves, utensils (wooden spoons, spatulas) old pots and pans.

Please hand donations to Miss Woodcock.

Thank you.

World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd March. We will be dressing up as our favourite book characters.

We will also be running a Book Fair from Wed 2nd - Tues 8th March

**Congratulations to the yr 3-4 Athletics team who finished 4th out of all the Tunbridge Wells Primary schools!**



**sign2sing**

A huge thank you to the whole Bishops Down Community for the support and enthusiasm last Monday for sign2sing 2016. We raised a total of **£253.75**, and an impressive 354 people from all around the school took part in signing and singing the song for this year Reach Out Your Hand. For a full flavour of all we got up to during the day come and see our display near the ICT suite outside of Oak Class.

A massive thank you to the Makaton Masters for their dedication and hard work in putting the day together, delivering a fun and informative assembly and keeping the signing momentum going at Bishops Down, they should all feel very proud of their achievements. Keeeeeep signing!

*Jan Cockburn*

Wrap Around Care have replaced their football table and are happy to donate the old table to whoever would like it. It is:

A large free standing football table approx. 1m by 1.5 m and it is on legs approx. 1.5 m tall. Free to collector, first come first served. Contact Kate Smith in WAC if you are interested.

**LEARNING LEGENDS** week ending 12th February

Chestnut- Riley H, Beech- Fred G, Olive- Anniemay, Apple- Hannah W, Maple- Issam, Mulberry- Freya, Hazel- Anna B, Sycamore- Leo M-B, Redwood- Ethan M, Pine- Sophia S, Oak- Bryn

**WELL DONE EVERYONE!**

**Internet Safety week**

This week all children have been learning about Internet safety. Here are some useful links for parents:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>  
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/0/21259413>



PE kits should be in school all week as sometimes there are timetable changes and your child might have PE on a different day to the one scheduled - if your child does not have their PE kit they have to sit out of that lesson.



Oak Class have won the Spelling Bee again this term. Well done! However, we also have a special mention for Mulberry class today as they have made the most progress in their spellings, well done Mulberry! They were awarded a class certificate by Mr Bailey (KS2 Literacy Leader)

We would welcome more volunteers especially for reading with our Y2 children. It is school policy that parents should help out in year groups other than that of their children. Please complete the application form on the school website should you be interested and return it to Sue Solomon.



Applications from grandparents, relatives other friends of the school are also most welcome. The children and staff are very grateful for all the help our current volunteers provide.

Thank you so much for supporting 'Team Bagpuss', as they embark on the Tunbridge Wells half marathon on Sunday 21st February 2016 at 9am. An amazing £1358.88 (including gift aid) has been raised so far. This will make a HUGE difference to the work that Hospices of Hope does - THANK YOU. In case you wondered where Bagpuss comes into all of this, Oliver Postgate, the creator of Bagpuss, helped to finance the first Children's Wing of Hospices of Hope in 2002. Oliver was a great supporter of Hospices of Hope and when he passed away in December 2008, he gave Hospices of Hope the right to use the Bagpuss name and character in their fundraising efforts.



Bagpuss joined the incredible Bishops Down Running Club on Wednesday morning, where they shared lots of running tips with him - did you spot him? Bagpuss will be out for a couple more adventures before the big day, so do wave if you spot him!

<http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/BishopsDown>

Our school wants cleaner, less-polluted air around the school-gate, fewer cars and safer roads. So this is an important date for everybody's diary – whether you normally walk to school or not.

On **Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February** we want every child to try their best to either walk, cycle or scooter to school, or, if you live too far away to do this, **park-and-stride!** Park-and-stride is where you drive part of the way to school, park and then walk, cycle or scooter the rest of the way (10 minutes walking distance, i.e. from either end of Coniston Avenue). We are hoping that one of our classes will be top in the district for green travel on **Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February** 2016. If your child has walked, cycled or scooted to school (or been a park-and-strider), they will be able to put up their hand in class to say that they are a green traveller and so be a part of this exciting challenge!

The top green travel class in each District will win free child entry tickets to beautiful, Leeds Castle in Leeds, Maidstone and be Walk to School winners!

So don't forget – get ready to take part in the Walk to School Challenge!

**Brittens Music's next Instrument Try-Out Day**

will take place on Saturday 13th February. Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells  
01892 526659

