

## Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back!

I am starting the first newsletter of the year with some lovely staff updates. Firstly I am delighted to announce that Mrs Debbie Wilson is expecting a baby! She is due late February so is planning on staying with us until the Spring half term, all being well.



Secondly many congratulations to Miss Sophie Hardman who recently married. She will be joining her new husband in San Francisco after Christmas. Although it is sad for us, it is a great opportunity for them both and we wish Sophie well with this new exiting chapter in her life.

Other staff news– we welcome TAs Louise McCredie, Cecilia Bekesi and Charlotte Bailey to the teaching support team, Elizabeth Mackie to the teaching team, as Sycamore’s class teacher and Michelle Woods as SENCo. Louise Reynolds who used to be a TA and Wrap Around Care worker at Bishops Down now re-joins us as a student teacher. Miss Reynolds will be co teaching Hazel class under Miss Hepden’s supervision for the Autumn term.

## Nourish

We are receiving great feedback from the children regarding our new school meals provided by Nourish. We know there are still some difficulties with payments and booking which they are working on behind the scenes, so please bear with us through this transition time. With Nourish **ALL MEALS** must be booked and paid for in advance by Sunday evening for the following week. If the meal is not booked your child will have to bring a packed lunch.

Packed lunch boxes are now being stored in the Admin corridor at the front of the school where the library used to be. This means that boxes no longer have to stay outside and run the risk of being opened by squirrels! Children store their packed lunch boxes on the named shelves and then collect them at the end of the day. All lunches must be stored there so we can eliminate the risk of ants and rodents being attracted to the classrooms.



On a similar theme many congratulations to Kate Smith and the Wrap Around Care team for achieving the highest rating for food hygiene from Tunbridge Wells Environment Health this summer. WAC are now providing their own food for breakfast and tea and are keen to make the food choice healthy and good quality. We would be interested to know if your children are seeing an improvement.

Class Drop in days 2017-18	
Yr1	Monday
Yr2	Thursday
Yr3	Monday & Thursday
Yr4	Thursday
Yr5	Friday
Yr6	Friday

Along with the improvements to the WAC kitchenette and the re location of the library to the mobile this summer, work was also completed on the heating system, 2 classrooms and the hall were decorated and now all classrooms have interactive flat screen boards replacing the old projectors and white boards. Thank you to Adrian Beaton for such an amazing effort to get the school ready for September. It was a busy Summer!

Finally a reminder about uniform: We do expect all children to be wearing suitable school shoes– **not** trainers. If there are medical reasons why your child cannot wear school shoes please can you supply a note of explanation. Hair ties should be of neutral colour or school colours, such as blue, red, brown or black. Long hair must be tied back. As of term 2, winter uniform is to be worn. Thank you.

*Clare*

**Messages from the school office:**

All **forms** need to be returned promptly. Many hours have been spent chasing parents this week for swimming and Forest School especially.

There is a **Y6 residential** parents meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> at 3.15pm in Oak Classroom.

**Parent consultations** are on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Nov – the sign-up sheets will be available after half term.

**EAL Coffee morning** on the 29th September at 9.00 . This is for parents of children that speak English as an additional language. The agenda will be planning the Food & Fashion event on the 10th October. Mrs Silburn will be personally inviting parents of EAL children.

**This Is Us Youth Dance Company**  
**Our first festival performance!**

A huge well done to our wonderful team of dancers who performed at the Hillfest 2017 event at Tonbridge Castle on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July. Despite being the very first day of the school holiday, our dedicated group of talented young artists took to the stage for their 3<sup>rd</sup> ever public performance like they had been doing it all their lives. We are so very proud of how far they have come in the last few years. Performing were Anja, Arian, Devon, James, Joe, Lakishia, and Oliver, A massive thank you to our outstanding support team of teaching assistants who too gave up their precious time on the first day of the holidays, Mrs Gripper, Mrs Gardner, Miss Goodfellow, Miss Marriott and Mrs Williams, We will be starting back this term on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September and have spaces available. Children from Y2 upwards of all abilities are welcome, do let me know via the office if you'd like your child to come to a free trial session. We've got lots of exciting plans for this year!

Mrs Cockburn - Stopgap Dance Company  
Co-ordinator

**Parent rep meetings 2017-18**

9am in the Drama room

Term 1	Fri 6th October
Term 2	Fri 8th December
Term 3	Fri 2nd February
Term 4	Friday 23rd March
Term 5	Friday 18th May
Term 6	Friday 6th July

Volunteers are needed for **Forest School** on Tuesday's and Thursday's. please contact Sue Solomon (Heads PA) at [ssolomon@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ssolomon@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk) if you are interested in helping out.  
Thank you



# Food & Fashion Festival



Dear Parents and Guardians,

After the success of last year, we are delighted to inform you that Bishops Down will be hosting its second Food & Fashion Festival on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017. We are so fortunate to have a multi-cultural community here at Bishops Down and we can't wait to celebrate all of our cultures through food and fashion again!

The Food & Fashion festival will be hosted from 3.30pm-4.30pm, in which you will be able to try a variety of country's traditional foods. We would love you to enjoy this experience with your child/children, so we will dismiss the children as usual at 3.15pm onto the playground. Once your family is ready, you will receive a paper plate per person. You will then be invited to begin your multi-cultural experience at 3.30pm.

We encourage children to dress for the school day in outfits traditional to their culture (staff and parents too!). However, please do not feel obliged to do so. If you would like to celebrate a different culture to your own, you are more than welcome to do this too!

This event cannot happen without your support, so if you would be happy to prepare food linked to your culture or a country you have a particular culinary passion for, please contact [dwilson@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk](mailto:dwilson@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk) by Friday 22nd September 2017. Thank you in advance for your generosity and hospitality. We do hope you get on board with this exciting opportunity, to celebrate the diversity of cultures we share at Bishops Down.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Wilson, Mrs Silburn and Mrs Parks

Mrs Wilson and Mr Wyke are running The Royal Parks Half Marathon, London on Sunday 8th October 2017 in aid of Hospices of Hope. Several parents from Bishops Down are running too: Andrea Taylor, Simon Cureton and James Bridge.

If you would like to make a donation please use the following link:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/thewykeandwilsonrunningduo>