

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopsdownprimary.org



19th December 2014

Dear Parents and guardians

Christmas Events - This week we have enjoyed a number of Christmas activities including a lovely Christmas lunch, parties and creative projects. Last week our younger children performed the Christmas story in 'Angel Express'. Hopefully you will be able to see a photo in the Kent Courier this week. The children did amazingly well and responded to the challenge as always. We were also delighted by our junior children in our second Christmas Concert at St John's church. Thank you to the pupils and staff involved in these events, we were very proud of them.

Staff news - This term we say goodbye to two teaching assistants, Jo Clement and Charlotte Yussuf. Both are moving into new jobs and we wish them well. Sadly we have to say goodbye to Mrs Cleveland at the beginning of next term as she goes on maternity leave. She will be sorely missed by the children, parents and staff. We wish her all the best for the future as she enjoys being a new mum.

Governors - Tarif Chowdhury has resigned as the Chair of the Governing Body for personal reasons, with immediate effect. Thank you to him for all his hard work over recent months, particularly leading the recruitment of a new Head Teacher. We wish him well in future. A letter with information about the vacant parent governor position will be sent out in early January. I am pleased that Vaughan Harding has agreed to become interim Chair of the Governing Body until a new one is elected in the Spring term.

Head Teacher recruitment process - The Governing Body and KCC will be carrying out a two day selection process for a new Head Teacher in early January and will communicate the outcome as soon as possible afterwards.

Admissions - Application forms must be completed by Thursday 15th January 2015 for children starting school in the next academic year 2015/16. You will need to have completed an online form from the Kent.gov.uk website which is http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/school_education/applying_for_a_school_place.aspx

Provisional Class Assembly dates - Parents are invited to come and watch their child's class assembly at 9.10am, and then go into their classroom to look at their learning until 10am. Year 6, and Year 1 will do their assemblies in the Summer Term.

Date	Class or teacher
Wednesday 21 st January	Y5 Redwood
Wednesday 28 th January	Y2 Olive
Wednesday 4 th February	Y3 Mulberry
Wednesday 11 th February	Y2 Apple
Wednesday 25 th February	Y4 Sycamore
Wednesday 11 th March	Y3 Maple
Wednesday 18 th March	Reception
Wednesday 25 th March	Y4 Hazel

Change of INSET Days reminder - Please note that there will be a change to the planned INSET days in 2015. There will now be an INSET day on Monday, 23rd February 2015 in order to facilitate new assessment/data training for teaching staff. The INSET days on Monday 5th January and 20th April have not changed. The INSET day planned on Monday 1st June is now CANCELLED: if you have already booked a holiday on this date and can show evidence of this to the school office, this absence will be recorded as authorised.

Published Authors! - Huge congratulations to Dylan Bridge and Lexi Nicolaou in Year 4 Sycamore, who wowed children's author Sam Hay in the nationwide creative writing competition. Out of hundreds of
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entries, ONLY 50 were shortlisted and published onto an online e-book. To read Dylan and Lexi's incredible take on penning 'a new festive classic', visit this link: <http://www.cartridgesave.co.uk/writchristmas>. A huge well done to all of the children who took part. We are incredibly proud of you all.

After School Activities – These all start from Monday 12th January 2015. Please check the website for changes to clubs as some which were running last term may have stopped, and new ones may be starting. **Girls Football** will continue until February half term for all those currently attending as there are some girls football matches in the New Year in which the school has agreed to play. If your daughter wishes to join Girls Football Club on Wednesday mornings, please speak to the office.

Charity collections in school – The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal charity collection in school raised £196.43. The retiring collections for the Evelina Children's Hospital after the Christmas performances also raised an amazing £411.97. Thank you so much for your support for these worthwhile causes.

Newspaper request - Please can parents donate any spare newspaper they have after Christmas to either Year 2 class as they will need lots to make their Paper Mache models at the start of next term. Many thanks.

Volunteers - Thank you very much to all our Parent Volunteers who help on a regular basis and also to those who have come in on an ad-hoc basis to help with phonics resources. Your help is invaluable and much appreciated. Year 1 and Year 2 would be very grateful to anyone who has a spare hour or two in the New Year to listen to readers. If you can spare sometime then please complete the Volunteer Form available on our school website and return it to Sue Solomon.

Forest School – Children from Bonsai and Apple classes will be taking part in Forest School every Wednesday next term starting 7th January and ending on 11th February. More information will be sent out by email on Monday 5th January. Please note that these sessions take place whatever the weather and so you will need to ensure that children bring in appropriate warm and waterproof clothes including gloves, hats and wellies. They also need to recognise their bag with these items in, and know they have to dress up warmly.

School closure due to severe weather - Further to my letter in early December about severe weather this is a reminder that you can find out whether the school is open or closed by checking the Kent Closures website. This is helpful when you have children at different schools and nurseries. Search for the school in the search box. You can also sign up for SMS/e-mail alerts which will automatically inform you if the school is closed.

Milk provision - The school uses Cool Milk to provide free milk portions to those children under 5 whose parents have registered with them, and also to other children whose parents pay the subsidised price. These milk portions are given to the children at mid-morning break. If you have a child in any class and want them to receive milk each day, please register with Cool Milk at www.coolmilk.com

Midday Supervisor - We are looking for a Midday Supervisor from January 2015 supporting children during their lunch hour. The role is term time only, 2-3 days per week. A free lunch is available afterwards. Please come to the school office for details and an application form if you are interested. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo an enhanced DBS check.

Have a fantastic festive holiday,

Daniel T Tunney

Dates for your Diaries

Mon	5 th Jan	INSET Day
Tues	6 th Jan	Term starts for all children
Thurs	8 th Jan	Y5/6 Athletics Tournament at the Angel Centre
Mon	12 th Jan	After School Activities start today
Wed	14 th Jan	Individual and sibling photographs today, more information in the New Year
Tues	20 th Jan	Y4 Indoor Athletics Tournament at the Angel Centre
Thurs	22 nd Jan	Parent Reps
Thurs	5 th Feb	PSA Meeting at school 7.30pm
Mon	9 th Feb	Full Governing Body Meeting 6.30pm
Fri	13 th Feb	Term ends
Mon	23 rd Feb	INSET day
Tues	24 th Feb	Term starts for all children
Fri	27 th March	Parent Reps Meeting 9am