

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopsdownprimary.org



20th December 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Charity collections

It is very humbling to know how generous the Bishops Down community has been over recent weeks in giving to charity. The retiring collections after the recent events raised a total of £607 for the Evelina hospital. The School Council raised £170 for the Philippines appeal and Year 5 raised £565 for Children in Need. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Christmas Events

Christmas is always a very busy time in school, but it is also very rewarding. Last week our younger children performed the Christmas story in 'Hey Ewe'. Hopefully you will be able to see a photo in the Kent Courier this week. It was quite a challenge getting approximately 210 pupils, staff and an audience into the hall which is why we offered three performances instead of the usual two. The children did amazingly well and responded to the challenge as always. We were also delighted by our junior children in our first Christmas Concert at St John's church on Wednesday evening. It was a very peaceful event, but one which the children threw themselves into with enthusiasm. We were very proud and hope that we can now make this an annual event. You can view photographs of both events on our school website. Festivities were topped off by a pantomime performance from a travelling theatre company to the whole school this morning.

Staff news

This term we say goodbye to two teaching assistants, Julia Gearing and Heidi Campion. Both are moving into new jobs and we wish them well. We have recently welcomed two new teaching assistants onto our staff, Catherine Ashley in Beech class and Sophie Stock who will be working in Apple class.

Admissions - Application forms must be completed by Wednesday 15th January 2014 for children starting school in the next academic year 2014/15. 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](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education%20and%20learning/school%20education/applying%20for%20a%20school%20place.aspx)

Illness

At this time of year it is not uncommon for illness to spread easily. There have been a number of cases of Ringworm reported to school in the last few days. Whilst children do not need to be kept off school if they have Ringworm, treatment is required and parents should consult their local pharmacist regarding treatment and prevention. Hopefully, this will ensure that children are fit and healthy ready for Christmas. The school have been working hard to clean and sanitise all communal areas in order to prevent any further problems in the new year.

Flute lessons

New year, new skill and new year resolution. Why not try learning an instrument such as the flute? Lessons are available at Bishops Down School from January. For more information please contact Mrs. Harris on 01580 754109.

Class Assemblies - 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.

Date	Class or teacher
Wednesday 15 th January	Year 1 – Beech
Wednesday 22 nd January	Year 1 – Bonsai
Wednesday 29 th January	Reception - Chestnut
Wednesday 5 th February	Reception - Willow
Wednesday 12 th February	Year 4 – Sycamore

Lost Property

Despite a clear out a few weeks ago when several items which were named were returned to their owners, the bin is still full. All these items have been in the bin for several weeks and so anything not taken by the end of today will be given to the PSA for resale in the New Year. Please can you ensure you name all your child's belongings and then we are able to return them if found around school. Please can you also remember to securely replace the lid if you do look in it, in order to stop everything getting wet!

After School Activities

The After School Activities run by various members of staff will all commence from Monday 13th January. Please note that Speed Stacking for Y5&6, Basketball, Winter Athletics, and Hockey have all *now ended*. Clubs *starting* in January are Speed Stacking for Y3/4, Creative Writing, and Gymnastics, all of which are already full with waiting lists. If your child has got a place in one of these clubs and no longer wants it, please let the office know as soon as possible so the place can be offered on. All other activities continue as before.

Dates for your Diaries

Mon 6 th Jan 2014	INSET Day – no children in school
Tues 7 th Jan	Term 3 starts for all children except Nursery
Wed 8 th Jan	Nursery children start
Thurs 9 th Jan	Y5/6 Workshops in school
Fri 10 th Jan	Parent Reps meeting at 9am
Mon 13 th Jan	All After School Activities (Clubs) start this week
Tues 14 th Jan	Y1-6 Fire Safety Day
Wed 15 th Jan	Closing date for Reception applications for September 2014 Netball Match at Skinners Kent Academy
Fri 24 th Jan	PSA Cake Sale (donations of cakes from Y2 please) 3.15pm
Wed 5 th Feb	Prospective Parents visit at 2.15pm
Mon 10 th to Thurs 13 th Feb	E-Safety week in school
Fri 14 th Feb	INSET Day – no children in school
Thurs 6 th March	World Book Day

Have a lovely Christmas,

Daniel T Tunay