



# Bishops Down Primary School

Autumn Term 1 Newsletter No 4  
[www.bishopsdownprimary.org/](http://www.bishopsdownprimary.org/)  
21.10.16 Page 1 of 3

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There is so much to report on this term, I will try however to fit it into three pages! Have a lovely half term break.

## Tunbridge Wells in Bloom



We are delighted to announce that Bishops Down won a Silver Gilt award at the Tunbridge Wells in Bloom awards. The judges commented on our 'imaginative use of recycling materials for flower displays and water collection' and presented us with a cherry tree. The gardens have continued to develop and flourish, with all children participating enthusiastically. Thank you to everyone involved, particularly Liz Gripper, Teresa Fennell, Alison Harding and Vicky Tuson. We will enjoy watching the cherry tree grow and, of course, harvesting and tasting its fruits.

## A Stogap Experience!

All of our key stage 2 children were lucky enough to work with professional dancer Hannah Rotchell, from Stogap Dance Company last week. Hannah put each class through their paces for a 30 minute taster session, to give them a flavour of what our weekly Stogap class at Bishops Down is like. One word responses we received about the classes were...emotional, fun, exciting, happy, entertaining, awesome, excellent, interesting, the list went on...

Some places are available for this term, please return your form if your child is interested in joining the group.

A lot of fun was had by all as you can see!



## FOREST SCHOOL FUN



This term our children have had so much fun in our Forest School sessions. A huge thank you to our Forest School Staff Tara Bell and Teresa Fennell who make the experiences so special and also to our parent volunteers, the sessions wouldn't be possible without the help of parent support.

Peter McLoughlin, parent volunteer who assisted this week, said 'it was a real pleasure to spend the time with the entire group, to see how much they enjoyed the activities and how inquisitive they were – there's clearly huge benefits to the children having such opportunity with a great leader.'

**PSA News:** "Last week's Year 6 cake sale raised £91.80 - that's a lot of cake! And a great start to our £5000 fundraising goal!"



PSA has a new email which is:

[psa@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk](mailto:psa@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk)



## DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY

On Monday 17th October Bishops Down Primary School took part in a Disability Awareness Day. The reason for the day firstly, was to celebrate our strengths and the things that make us unique. We are so proud of our inclusive school and the range of needs we make superb provision for. The other aims of the day were:

1. To highlight everyday barriers
2. To underline the idea of respecting differences between people
3. To understand that there are laws and obligations around this (Equality Act, etc)
4. To be able to reflect on our strengths and difficulties

The school welcomed two visitors from Valence School, Jake and Kirsty (see picture on left). They are both 18 and use power chairs. Jake and Kirsty visited year 5, 4, and 3 to have question and answer sessions. The children from BD were thoughtful and reflective. Jake and Kirsty were inspiring, honest and confident. It was an incredibly moving day.



We also welcomed Pepenbury who provide high quality care and support for adults with learning disabilities. They brought along a rabbit and guinea pig from their Small Animal Barn on Cornford Lane. They received a very warm welcome from the children. They loved being part of the session and hope more local schools will hold events like this.

All the classes took part in different activities to explore different forms of disability, including visual impairment, physical disability, hearing impairment, dyslexia and dyspraxia. The children reflected on their learning and enjoyed taking 'thought bubbles' home to share their experiences with their families.

Carlo in Hazel class commented: **'People with disability are no different to us. We can all do a lot of things. Nothing is impossible, always believe in yourself'**



Children exploring what it would feel like to have a disability.

Sarah Marriot, TA, talking to children about how her car is adapted so she is able to drive.

Thank you to all staff who took part and especially to Amy Adams, SENCo, for coordinating the day.

## Food and Fashion Day

Today the children have looked amazing. Thank you so much for providing the costumes and the food!

It has been a lovely day of celebration and fun. Thank you to Debbie Wilson and Juliet Silburn for organising the event and to the rest of the staff for their whole hearted support.



**STOP PRESS:** due to the popularity of our Prospective Parent tours we are adding another date after half term. **Thursday 3rd Nov at 9.30am.** If you know of any one interested in a Nursery or Reception please encourage them to call the office to book a place.

## Volunteers needed! Can you help with....

- Reception class for reading
- Y5 Redwood for reading any morning
- Y4 Hazel for reading 8.50am to 9.30am preferred
- Forest School – Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.50am to noon and 1pm to 3.15pm. As an exception for Forest School, Parents may help in the class of their child if the child is in the other session.
- Y2 – a reader for the end of the day a few times a week.

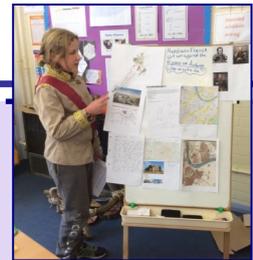


**If you are able to help in any way please contact Sue Solomon ([ssolomon@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ssolomon@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk)), who coordinates the volunteers, not the class teacher. Thank you.**

## Admissions

**Primary School Admissions:** Applications for children due to start primary school in **September 2017** open on KCC's website on **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and close on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**. You do this by applying through Kent County Council if you live in Kent. If you live in East Sussex then you must apply for a Bishops Down Place through ESCC. You must still apply online if your YR child is the sibling of an older child already at school. Kent's website for applying is: <http://www.kent.gov.uk> follow Education and Children/Schools/School Places/Primary Schools/Apply. If you need help completing this form and you are currently a parent at this school please ask Jo Sheldon, Admissions Secretary for help – [jsheldon@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk](mailto:jsheldon@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk). If you are advising a parent not known to us or you need clarification or have questions about your own application please seek advice from Primary Admissions at KCC on 03000 41 21 21 or email [primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk).

**Secondary School Admissions:** the deadline for applications is the **31st October**. Please refer to <http://www.kent.gov.uk> for advice.



## From the school office:

We need your forms back!

- ◆ Data Collection sheets Y1-6
- ◆ Parental Consent for Educational Day Visits/Health forms Y1-6
- ◆ Forest school health forms for Reception, Oak, Redwood, Pine, Maple
- ◆ Swimming forms for Redwood and Pine ready for Term 2

We have lots of items of **clothing** in lost property as they are not named. Also a reminder to parents that Apple and Larch finish **Forest School** at half term, and Oak and Reception start after the holiday. **Clubs** Reminder to parents that Y3/4 Hockey club, and Active club finish this week as they only ran for 1 term. Mrs Tizzard will be starting Y5/6 Hockey and KS2 Winter Athletics after the holiday for those children who are already signed up to these.

**Parent drop ins:** Please use the allotted time for drop ins after school. Teachers are unable to see parents before school as they are busy preparing for the day and cannot see parents on non drop in days as they have prior commitments.

**Monday** -Beech & Mulberry, **Tuesday**-Redwood, Oak & Larch, **Thursday**- Chestnut, Apple, Pine, Mulberry, Hazel & Sycamore. **Friday**-Maple

## Governor News

Governors have been supporting the school in many ways so far this term. A governor has attended all of the open mornings for prospective parents wishing to apply to Bishops Down for Reception in 2017, to explain about the role of the governing body and to answer questions about the school. Governors have been particularly impressed by the way the Year 6 "tour guides" have shown such pride in their school and answered lots of questions!

Governors have also been conducting their various monitoring visits, both formally and informally.

The full governing body met early in the term and the key focus of discussions was the governor action plan, which sits alongside the school plan and is designed to ensure that governors can support and monitor the school in achieving its objectives.