



# BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn Term 1 Newsletter No 4  
[www.bishopsdownprimary.org/](http://www.bishopsdownprimary.org/)  
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## Dear Parents & Guardians,

Last Friday we had an extremely productive Parent Reps meeting. Topics covered included: sweets in school, use of mobile phones by children, school dinners, behaviour system and parent contact with teachers. The minutes will be on the website shortly but just to give you the headlines from our discussions.....

Teachers will not be giving sweets out in classes either as class rewards or for birthday treats. We believe that parents should have the right to say if they would like their child to eat sweets or not, so birthday sweets and cake will be given out in the playground under the supervision of parents. Cake sales will remain as they are under parent supervision.

Year 6 have been asked to turn off mobile phones on school premises and hand them to office at the earliest opportunity. This is because some children are feeling pressurised to have the latest make and model, there is an element of competition starting. This is obviously going to happen at secondary school but we would like to protect our youngsters from peer pressure a little longer!

We discussed Gluten Free options for school dinners and the nutritional standards in general. These points were raised with Independent Caterers during the week. The response was that there is always a gluten free alternative and their menu (published on our website) contains all allergy information. If parents still had concerns they are to make an appointment with Debbie Huish in the kitchen. Independent Caterers follow the School Food Plan and they hold the Silver Food For Life Award, awarded by the Soil Association for quality of ingredients and the percentage of organic products used. They hope to be awarded the Gold in the near future.

To clarify the arrangements regarding parent emails to teachers. If you need to contact the class teacher, please email the office and they will forward to the teacher. In the subject line please type 'for the attention of Mr/Miss/Mrs..... Class.....' The change in policy is to relieve the pressure on teachers to respond to work emails in the evening. With this system emails can be processed during 'office hours'. If your teacher hasn't responded in a couple of days please contact the office and they will chase the teacher. Clearly if there is something very urgent call the school in the morning.

The feedback from the Spelling evening was very positive and the slides will be available on the website by half term.

There are some concerns that the Nursery Gate is not being closed after 8.45. We will remind staff to ensure that this is shut and make parents aware that they need to close the gate behind them on the way out.

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### PSA Corner

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Quiz, it was another fantastic night and we raised £971. A special thank you to Bob and Bruce for putting so much time into the questions – a bit easier next time though please! Also to Mark Brown for organising it.

The Year 1 & 6 cake sale raised £93.25, which is a marvellous amount.

### Christmas Fair 12 – 2pm Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Information will be coming out after half term. If anyone has any new stall ideas then please let us know as we always like to shake it up a little.

Have a great week off. The PSA

### SNACKS

It is school policy that only fresh fruit and vegetables are permitted for snack time. Reception and KS1 have free fruit and vegetables provided by the Government scheme so we follow this approach into KS2. This makes it easier for parents with children in each KS. All are treated the same and the policy is clear.

**Fruit winders and yoghurt covered fruit are not permitted.**



Parents, please be aware that we have had a case of **threadworms** reported in Chestnut class. We are reminding children to be extra vigilant when it comes to washing their hands and basic hygiene.

We have a new behaviour strategy in place for years 1-6– **Behaviour Ladders**. The children have named pegs which they move up the Green ladders for good behaviour and up the Red ladders for poor behaviour.

The steps on the green ladder are as follows:

- Verbal Praise (over and above the usual 'well done')
- House Points
- Stickers (Dojo's in Yr5 and 6)
- Sent to Headteacher for praise



The red ladder is for sanctions. If a child is showing poor behaviour or low level disruption they are to move their peg up on the red side. The steps on the red ladder are as follows;

- Verbal Warning
- Thinking Time
- Sent to senior member of staff
- Sent to Headteacher

Thinking time is to be done in class, by the children being removed for a set period of time to think about their behaviour choices and to reflect on how to improve this behaviour.

So far the strategy is working really well but as we know with anything new, it will take a while to embed and work consistently across the school. Please use the class drop ins if you would like more detail.

After half term we are welcoming an additional teacher to the school, Jenni George. Jenni is a very experienced teacher with senior leadership experience, so we are very lucky to have her. Jenni will be supporting **year 2** and **year 5** with maths up until Christmas. Jenni may work alongside groups in class or she may take them out, depending on the task. At Christmas this will be reviewed and it is highly likely that we will choose other year groups for her to support during the year, this may also extend to phonics teaching. If you have any further questions please see your Miss Ritman Meer for years 1-3 and Miss Hepden for years 4-6.

### Christmas

You may have already been made aware through the Parent Reps that sadly we are unable to put on the KS2 Carols at St Johns Church this year. This is due to a clash of staff commitments. We did spend a week or so trying to work around the problem, but to no avail. We have however, come up with an alternative which I know will please parents that are concerned about the lack of class assemblies this year and have requested additional time to see pupils' work.

We will now have Year Group Carols in the afternoons of the final week of term. You are warmly invited to sing with your children and afterwards there will be an opportunity to see class work.

**Tuesday 15th Dec 2.30pm-3pm - Year 3 - parents**

**Wednesday 16th Dec 2.30pm-3pm - Year 4 - parents**

**Thursday 17th Dec 2.30pm-3pm - Year 5 - parents**

**Friday 18th Dec 9.15am - 10am - Year 6 + KS2 Choir - also invited will be the local community school governors and volunteers.**



### IMPORTANT

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE DO NOT ALLOW **PEANUTS IN ANY FORM** IN PACKED LUNCHES, THIS IS DUE TO SOME CHILDREN HAVING A POTENTIAL FATAL ALLERGY.

Thank you to those parents who are supporting the school by parking away from Rydal Drive and walking if possible. We do still have a few parents who are really letting us down though. Irresponsible parking by a few is giving all parents a bad reputation.

When possible I can patrol Rydal drive and move people on but I can't be there every day so please can I urge you all to politely request that these parents move their cars. I think it is only by working together that we can pressure these people into behaving more responsibly.

Don't forget to pack some socks in girls' PE bags as they remove their tights for PE and then have no socks!

After half term all children should be in winter uniform please.

Have a lovely half term everyone, we look forward to seeing you on the 2nd November.

*Clare*

**SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION FORMS  
TO BE COMPLETED ONLINE BY  
31ST OCTOBER**

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places>

**WAC Reminder**

Spaces still available for our Holiday Play Scheme. Please contact the office.

**Wear your silly socks to school for Children in Need day!**



On the 13th November children are allowed to wear bright/wacky socks or tights to school for a donation of £1 to Children in Need.



**Year  
4**



	5.10.15 attendance	lates	12.10.15 attendance	lates
Beech	97.7%	0	96.3%	1
Apple	97.6%	2	95.9%	1
Olive	99.0%	1	97.3%	3
Maple	95.8%	1	95.5%	3
Mulberry	99.0%	2	95.3%	1
Hazel	96.2%	2	93.1%	1
Sycamore	98.3%	1	98.3%	0
Redwood	98.9%	3	97.8%	4
Pine	97.4%	2	97.8%	1
Oak	91.7%	1	97.0%	0

**Key Dates**

First day of term

2nd November

Yr5 Swimming

9th/10th November

Parent Workshop –Maths

18th November 7pm

Yr2 Visit to Pantiles and Tunbridge Wells Museum

24th November

Yr5 Visit to London Eye and Tate Modern

26th November

