



27th February 2009

Dear Parents and Friends of Bishops Down,

Week 22 Newsletter

This week has been an exciting week in many respects. Not only has the weather given us a glimpse of Spring, but I have also seen some fantastic learning going on around the school. Yesterday, infant and junior classes were treated to workshops and talks by Ian Macdonald, a children's author. He was inspirational, encouraging children to use everyday events as a source of creative writing ideas and certainly had many children thinking about a future career as authors or illustrators!

You may also hear your child talking about 'Building Learning Power' and using words such as absorption, collaboration, perseverance and distilling. We are keen to teach our children the skills they need for life which means teaching and identifying when these skills can be used and celebrating children's use of them. For example, this week children in Reception and Year 1 were practising 'collaboration' whilst making pancakes as they learned to share, discuss what they were doing and take turns. We often assume that these skills come naturally, but life skills must also be taught and learned from each other.

It is exciting in these times of emphasis on testing and exams, to step back and take a long term view on what skills and strategies children need for life. I would encourage you to take time to chat with your child about this, particularly when they come home using unusual words!

Feedback and Concerns

Please remember that every teacher has an available 'drop in' session each week if you have any queries you wish to discuss. A number of parents have been coming into school in the morning to speak to teachers. We appreciate that you may have urgent problems, but the morning is an important time for settling the children, talking to Teaching Assistants about the day ahead and sorting those last minute problems. Should you have any urgent messages please come into school via the front entrance and speak to Carol or Karen, alternatively have a chat with any staff at the gate. Thank you.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March and to celebrate reading in school we would like the children to come to school dressed as a book character. To make it a little different this year every class has taken a theme that ties in with their work in class and the children should come dressed up as a character from that theme.

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| Nursery | Fairy tale character |
| Reception | Builders e.g. 3 Little Pigs |
| Year 1 | Fantasy characters |
| Year 2 | Fairy tale characters |
| Year 3 | Characters from myths and legends |

Year 4 Stories from other cultures
Year 5 Characters from narrative poems
Year 6 Secret Agents

The children will also be bringing home a book voucher which they can exchange from a selection of specially chosen books in the shops.

TWSSP Dance Through the Decades

Some of our Year 4 children took part in the Tunbridge Wells Schools Sports Partnership dance festival recently and there are some photographs taken during the event available at the following link.

http://www.dephotos.co.uk/cgi-bin/pro/emAlbum.cgi?c=show_album;p=Schools/Tunbridge%20Wells%20School%20Sports%20Partnership/2009

Adventure Playground

Please can Reception and Nursery parents ensure their children do not play on the adventure playground at the beginning and end of the school day.

News from the PSA

Don't forget the Sponsored Bounce which is being on Friday 13th March in school. Sponsor forms are in book bags tonight.

Tag Rugby

Years 3-6 will be doing Tag Rugby this half term and will be going outside as much as possible. Could you therefore, please make sure your child has a school jumper and jogging bottoms to use on these days. If possible old trainers would be preferable to plimsolls.

Headteacher Awards

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| Reception | Alfred | Cushla |
| Year 1 | Natasha | Ryan |
| Year 2 | Will | Corey |
| Year 3 | Keira | Lily |
| Year 4 | Charlotte | Oliver |
| Year 5 | Harry | Georgia |
| Year 6 | Eleanor | Elijah |

Regards

Dan Turvey