

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am delighted to announce that Rebecca Hepden is to be appointed as the new Deputy Head of Bishops Down in January 2018 to replace Sophie Hardman. Well done to Rebecca, we are so pleased to be retaining her expertise. Sadly we are saying good bye to Nicola Whittington as a TA at half term. She has been a great asset to the team and will be sadly missed.

Nourish the caterers are settling in and you may have seen their new branding around the hall. If you have any feedback for the school regarding the new dinners please can you pass your thoughts to the parent reps. The first parent rep meeting of the year is on Friday 6th October.

Clare

After the success of last year, we are delighted to inform you that Bishops Down we will be hosting our second **Food & Fashion Festival** on Tuesday 10th October 2017. We are so fortunate to have a multi-cultural community here at Bishops Down and we can't wait to celebrate all of our cultures through food and fashion again!

The Food & Fashion festival will be hosted from 3.30pm-4.30pm, in which you will be able to try a variety of countries traditional foods. We would love you to enjoy this experience with your child/children, so we will dismiss the children as usual at 3.15pm onto the playground. Once your family is ready, you will receive a paper plate per person. You will then be invited to begin your multi-cultural experience at 3.30pm.

We encourage children to dress for the school day in outfits traditional to their culture (staff and parents too!). However, please do not feel obliged to do so. If you would like to celebrate a different culture to your own, you are more than welcome to do this too!

This event cannot happen without your support, so if you would be happy to prepare food linked to your culture or a country for which you have a particular culinary passion, please contact dwilson@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your generosity and hospitality. We do hope you get on board with this exciting opportunity, to celebrate the diversity of cultures we share at Bishops Down.

Kindest regards, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Silburn and Mrs Parks

Headlice

If a case of headlice is reported (and it is not always) a standard letter is sent home to all parents of that class. I can't stress enough the importance that you check your child's hair and treat the headlice appropriately immediately. My advice to you would be to not wait for a letter and check your



child's hair weekly using a nit comb. This is an issue we, the school, can't enforce and have no control over we rely on parents to do the right thing. Please note that all children must put their hair up if shoulder length, preferably in plaits or a bun. If a child does not have their hair up the school will request that they do. I know that girls leave home with their hair up (thank you) only to then let it down at school – they wear their hairbands on their wrists! The staff are continuously nagging them and it would be appreciated if you could have a word at home please. This time of year headlice become prolific and we are getting complaints already from parents who are continually treating and tying up hair only to find their child catches it again. If we all do this, boys too, then maybe just maybe we can win.

Thank you for your cooperation.



New parents please be aware that parking in the turning circle at the bottom of our drive is prohibited unless you are dropping off and then driving off. Leaving your car there at drop off or pick up is simply not allowed and if you do we get complaints from both parents and residents alike. Also, may I ask that you all park considerately along Rydal Drive and Coniston Avenue – please don't block resident's drives and leave enough space for an emergency vehicle to gain access for both the school and residents. Thank you all.

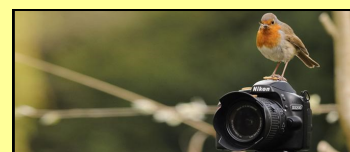


A note from Mrs Bell

Last week Vicky Waymen and her daughter, Sophia, came to Forest School to teach Redwood class how to take great wildlife photos. They spent the whole afternoon with us and it was so inspiring listening to Sophia (Year 6 pupil at St. James') talk so passionately and knowledgeably about this competition that she is organising.

<https://www.timesoftunbridgewells.co.uk/rescue-centre-launches-sophias-wildlife-photography-competition/>

The children loved it and were so proud of their photographs! The competition is explained at <http://www.wlife03.com> but photos can include pets, native animals, plants etc (max 3 pics each). The deadline is 31st October; I will need to submit all school entries by Thursday, 26th.



Requests: Volunteers are needed to help in school Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons. Please contact Sue Solomon if you are interested. ssolomon@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk

Library. Calling all yr 5s and 6s, your Library needs you. Mrs Kyte and Mrs Ahmed are going to be advertising for an important job role in the library. You will be expected to keep the library tidy, help do displays, manage the library during one lunch time a week and operate the computer. If you think this job is for you, please see Mrs Kyte for an application form.

Messages from the school office:

'Meet the Teacher' Powerpoints have been put on your class pages on the school website to remind you of class expectations – if you missed the meeting you may find this information helpful. Also on the class pages are Autumn Term Curriculum Updates which you may wish to look at. Also, don't forget to take a look at *Recent Letters Sent Home* under the Parent Tab on the website to find that letter that has gone missing and you need to refer to again. May I ask you to please try and adhere to the requests from office staff of responding within the time scale they give you in trip/sporting event letters – it really helps us.

Mrs Wilson and Mr Wyke are running The Royal Parks Half Marathon, London on Sunday 8th October 2017 in aid of Hospices of Hope. Several parents from Bishops Down are running too: Andrea Taylor, Simon Cureton and James Bridge.

If you would like to make a donation please use the following link:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/thewykeandwilsonrunningduo>