

# Bishops Down Primary School News

[www.bishopsdownprimary.org](http://www.bishopsdownprimary.org)



5<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Dear Parents and guardians

Congratulations to all the musicians who took part in the tea concert on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see how talented the pupils were, some of whom had only started learning this term. Many thanks to Sarah Camburn for nurturing all these budding musicians. We are aware that not all our pupils with a musical passion could take part and we are trying to arrange opportunities for as many to perform as possible in assemblies and future concerts.

**Change of INSET Days reminder** - Please note that there will be a change to the planned INSET days in 2015. There will now be an INSET day on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 in order to facilitate new assessment/data training for teaching staff. The INSET days on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> April have not changed. The INSET day planned on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June is now CANCELLED: if you have already booked a holiday on this date and can show evidence of this to the school office, this absence will be recorded as authorised.

**From the PSA** - The PSA would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated toys, books, DVDs, bottles, cakes and items for the Secret Santa stall. Not to mention working on stalls and coming along to the Christmas Fair last Saturday. We are pleased to announce that we managed to raise an amazing £2559 so thank you again! In addition to this we would like to say another thank you for buying Christmas cards, mugs and tea towels featuring the children's designs through which we have managed to raise a huge £700. All this money will be put towards buying iPads and the equipment needed to go with them for the whole school to use.

Fundraising aside, the PSA has had a letter (see below) from some students in Redwood Year 5 requesting sponsorship and funds for new netball kits. Does anyone work for a company that might be able to sponsor our netball team? If so then please contact the school office.

'Our plan is to raise some money for our new netball kits, we were wondering if we were able to have a cake sale but we also thought it would be nice to have a sponsor on our dresses, so do you belong to a company that you would be able to ask to sponsor us and if not do you know anyone that would sponsor us?

Kind regards, *Sophie, Alexi and Holly from Redwood Year 5.*

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December Second Hand Uniform Sale** – The PSA will be having a uniform sale next Friday where we will be selling all items for 10p. The sale will be in the hall from 3pm.

**After School Activities** – These all finish next week except Netball Club – see below. All clubs will restart after Christmas in the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**Netball Club**- There will be no Netball Club on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December due to the KS2 Christmas Concert taking part that evening.

**Drama Nuts** - What an eventful term we've had at Bishops Down with Drama Nuts!

We've been to the beach, to space, and on arctic expeditions....we've explored different ways of moving and been Super Heroes and exploding fireworks....we've taken part in games to warm up our bodies, voices and imagination, and all the while we've been having lots of fun! We've also just started a second class for the older children – years 4-6, in which the students have created their own adverts, learned and performed

short scripts, and devised their own scenes! Here are a few things the young people have said about 'Drama Nuts'-

'S really likes the warm up, especially 'paint pot''

'M enjoys everything, especially dressing up'

'A says really fun because every week you get to dress up'

'B likes being different things'

There are limited spaces available for next term, so do contact Miranda Webberley on 07811 316228 if you wish to find out more or to book your child into a class.

**Christmas Lunch Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Children will be ordering their Christmas Lunch as they do their normal lunches by indicating at morning registration on 17<sup>th</sup> December if they want a school meal, and their choice of main or vegetarian. Please note that on this day there will not be an option of Jacket Potatoes or Pasta. ***Please can all KS2 parents whose children will be requiring a Christmas lunch ensure that there is money on their Squid account to pay for it before the day in order for their child to participate.*** Thank you.

**Christmas Cards** - Instead of sending each other cards this year, you may wish to make a donation to the Evelina Children's Hospital. Donations can be left at the office sealed in an envelope and marked 'Evelina donation'. In addition, children can also choose to send cards to their friends via the red post box in the entrance hall. Year 2 will act as post men and women and empty the box daily and deliver cards to classrooms. Envelopes put in the red post box must include the forename and surname of the child, class name and year, and should only be sent to one child (not families).

**KS1 Christmas Performances Crèches** - We have 4 parent volunteers for Thursday afternoon, and only 2 for Tuesday morning. However, there is only 1 volunteer for Thursday morning so this will not be available unless a few more parents offer to help. If you can help please at any crèche contact the office. There will be a retiring collection at each of the performances for the Evelina Children's Hospital.

**KS1 Christmas performance tickets** – All ticket requests received up to Friday lunchtime have been processed as requested and tickets have been sent to classes to go home today. Nursery parents whose children are not due in until Tuesday and are coming to watch on Tuesday will have their names on the list on the door so do not worry if you do not have your Nursery tickets with you.

**KS2 Christmas concert** – the KS2 Christmas concert takes place next Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm at St John's Church. Please note that tickets are not sold for this event, there is sufficient space for up to 4 guests if required. Please remember that parking is very limited.

**Lost Property** – Please make time to check the contents of the lost property bin under the waiting shelter. It is again full of unnamed items, all of which will be passed to the PSA for resale if not claimed by the end of the term.

**Severe weather guidance** – With the weather becoming decidedly chilly it is time to refresh our guidance for you should the weather deteriorate further.

In previous years we have managed to keep the school open during the snow. Decisions about closure of the school will be made taking into account the health and safety of pupils, parents, staff and conditions on the school site such as ice and temperature.

KCC advice is, 'Parents and carers have the responsibility of getting children to and from school safely and need to decide if the journey is safe when severe weather affects transport and/or

walking conditions. Parents/carers should inform schools if their child is absent due to severe conditions making the journey unsafe. Please consider this carefully and only keep children at home if conditions are unsafe.'

Please make sure that your children have adequate warm clothing as we are continuing to go outside during the day. Children must have a warm coat, boots (in snow), hats, scarves and thick socks. I am also keen to ensure that no family that is particularly vulnerable struggles unnecessarily when others might be able to help. For example, I am aware that some families with very young children or babies might find getting to school particularly stressful. If you are in difficulty, or might be able to assist by picking neighbours children up, then please let us know.

I would like to discourage all cars from using Rydal Drive and Coniston Avenue where possible. This will help to prevent accidents. During cold, icy and snowy weather many staff walk or park close to Bennett School and find that the wider road makes it easier to negotiate the roads.

Late opening and/or early closure is a possibility in poor weather conditions and we would inform you in advance if this were to happen, though it is very unlikely. If conditions worsen during the school day and parents feel it is absolutely necessary to collect children, the school should be contacted prior to collection.

Finally, we are using the school website [www.bishopsdownprimary.org](http://www.bishopsdownprimary.org) as our main source of weather and closure information. This is the quickest and most reliable source as local radio stations and parent mail become clogged up. For those without computers we will continue to use parent mail texts when the school closes, however information may be delayed. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date. Should we have to close, messages will also be posted on: [-www.kentschoolclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentschoolclosures.co.uk)

Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any further queries.

Kind Regards,

*Daniel T Tunney*