



Newsletter



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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to term 4! This newsletter contains information on the second page from 'This is Us' the inclusive dance group that originated from Bishops Down. The group has now grown and evolved and is an independent company which we are proud to still be associated with. 'This is Us' has organised the 'Be You Arts Festival' to be held in May at West Kent College. This has been quite an undertaking, so well done to Mrs Cockburn and all school staff involved in the planning of this event. We know it will be a success!

Secondly Coronavirus is currently dominating the news and as a consequence my inbox! For clarification, as a school we are following the DfE and Public Health England guidance. I receive daily communications from the DfE and pass the relevant information directly to you as parents. Over the past week I have sent two communications regarding actions we are taking as a school and website links to the most up to date information. Link to handwashing information <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

Please can I ask that children that are unwell are kept away from school for the specified 48hrs. Inform the school office by stating what your child is suffering from. This is so important for the management of risk to others not only for Coronavirus but for vomiting bugs. We have vulnerable children at Bishops Down and we have to risk assess accordingly. Also if you have family or close friends returning from Coronavirus affected areas please inform the school so advice can be sought from Public Health England. Thank you for cooperation and support in this matter.

It is Mrs Kyte's last day on Thursday, 12th as she starts her maternity leave. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her well for the beginning of April when baby Kyte is due!

Finally apologies for omitting the year 3 & 4 Winter Athletics tournament on the last newsletter. The team spent the afternoon jumping, running and throwing. Our top results on the track were scored in the boys obstacles, 1 lap hurdles and the over and under relay and in the field were girls 5 strides and the boys javelin. The team were placed 3rd out of 12 for the afternoon after St James and Paddock Wood. We are very proud of this result and the effort the children put in on the day. It was also great to see the support and encouragement amongst our team. Thank you to Mrs Sloan for her support on the day.

SEND Drop-in on Wednesday 18th March 9-10am
Family Support Drop-in Wednesday 18th March 2-3pm
Headteacher Drop-in Thursday 19th 2pm to 3pm



Here is a photo of the Bishops Down Running Club water station volunteers at the TW half marathon the other weekend which went ahead despite the storms.

They did a fantastic job handing out water and cheering loudly - big thanks to them.

We will be holding a **Coffee Afternoon** for parents that are interested in finding out about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) at 2pm on Thursday 19th March. There will be a short presentation by the local SEN support group, that offers advice and support for parents of SEN children in Tunbridge Wells. More information about them can be found on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SENsTW/>



The school SENDCo, Michelle Woods and Family Support Advisor, Ellen Stock will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have. This event is informal and will hopefully give you the opportunity to meet other parents in similar circumstances. Please book via the Gateway app.



On Wednesday 26th March 15 children took part in the annual schools Swimming Gala. This year we competed with the larger schools in the A league, which was a new challenge for us. The team embraced this challenge and proved themselves in the higher league. There were some outstanding individual swims and everyone added to our points total. We came 3rd overall. We also did exceptionally well in the diving competition, with both divers qualifying for the finals. Zac came 3rd, this is the highest diving result we have had since I've been at Bishops Down.



Team: Bella, Clem, Iris, James, Tommy, Dylan, Alex, Rico, Max W, Max M, Zac, Marzena, Anna, Annabelle and Williw. Mrs Tizzard and Mrs Parks

The **'Be You Inclusive Arts Festival'** will be coming to West Kent College in Tonbridge on Monday 25th May 2020. This festival will give families an opportunity to celebrate individuality through various performances and workshops. The arts are a huge part of allowing, particularly those with needs, a chance to express themselves freely. As well as supporting the community, 'Be You' is offering a chance for all in attendance to embrace diversity.

'This Is Us Dance Company' are the co-ordinators and directors of the event. It is our mission to ensure that more minority groups are given the opportunity to participate in high quality creative sessions. We feel everyone should have access to the arts and have the chance to be seen, heard and belong. We felt it necessary to offer a platform where other fantastic pockets of inclusive art can celebrate their businesses, share ideas and support one another in strengthening the importance of inclusive practice.



BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW via our website www.thisisusdance.co.uk/beyou

Can't wait to see you there – this is an event not to be missed! Mrs Cockburn

Help to keep **'This Is Us'** dancing...

What a great way to celebrate our 4th birthday!

Thanks to one of our dance Dad's who nominated us, the lovely people at Waitrose in Crowborough have This Is Us as one of their Community Matters charities for the whole month of March

All you need to do...

1. Tell all your friends and family to stop-by Waitrose in Crowborough to do their shopping during March
2. At check-out make sure you are given a green token
3. On your way out find the 3 posting boxes, there are two of them, and post your green token in the one on the left for This Is Us!

It couldn't be easier, all funds donated will help to keep our fabulous company dancing! Thanks so much in advance and happy shopping!!!

