

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopsdownprimary.org



8th February 2013

Dear Parents,

Science day - What is the best biscuit for dunking? - Today the whole school has been investigating this very question! From Nursery to Year 6 we have been answering the question through a variety of child-led investigations. Children have planned, investigated, recorded, evaluated and presented their findings. Look out for the photographs on the website! Will it be custard cream? Bourbon? Rich Tea or something else...? Many thanks to Miss Spoor for organising and leading the day!

Volunteer Readers - A couple of our teachers are looking for volunteer parent readers to read with individual children first thing in the morning from 8.55 am to 9.15am, and also to read in the afternoons. If you would be interested in helping please could you complete the attached Parent Volunteer form and return it for the attention of Sue Solomon.

Therapy Dog - by Kate Spoor. Your children may have told you that we had a visit from a gorgeous chocolate Labrador last week, they weren't teasing! We welcomed a 'therapy dog' (Harry) into our school to discuss him supporting children with their reading. This may be new to you, but is in fact a scheme that has seen a lot of success in Kent and Sussex as children feel far more confident to read and tell stories to a dog, rather than a human.

Harry is a specially trained, assessed and insured dog from the charity 'pets as therapy'. Due to his working dog status, he is an exception to our 'dogs on site' policy which remains unchanged for pets. Harry has a strict medical regime ensuring that he presents no health risk to children (those who are allergic to dogs will of course not come into contact with him.) Harry already makes regular visits to hospitals and an old people's home with his owner and is obviously the right dog for the job as he adores being stroked!

He met a lot of the staff and some pupils when he popped in with his owner, and the reaction was exactly the same across all the ages - the need to stroke and talk to him!

We will be introducing Harry (with parental permission) to some selected children on a weekly basis, however I am sure that far more will want to meet him. Obviously strict health and safety procedures will be followed at all times, and you will be notified if Harry will be visiting your child's class and any questions can then be directed to either myself, or Jane Clement.

Class Assembly Dates - Parents are invited to come and watch their child's class assembly at 9am, and then go into their classroom to look at their work until 10am. The school is willing to make space available for a crèche during assemblies, but responsibility for organising this will remain with parents. Please inform the office in advance if you wish to do this.

Wednesday 13 th February	Y6 - Kate Spoor
Wednesday 27 th February	Y4 - Cathy Spoor
Wednesday 6 th March	Y3 - Jane Crawford
Wednesday 13 th March	Y2 - Olive Michelle Reader
Wednesday 20 th March	Y2 Apple - Francesca Affleck
Tuesday 26 th March	Y1 Bonsai
Wednesday 27 th March	Y1 Beech - Emma Akers
Wednesday 1 st May	Reception Chestnut - Natasha Cleveland
Wednesday 8 th May	Reception Willow - Tara Bell
Wednesday 15 th May	Nursery - Alison Wilmshurst

WOW Challenge Day - As part of the Walk On Wednesday scheme, there will be a Challenge Day on Wednesday 13th February where the number of children walking in each class is compared to other classes in other schools across the region. If successful, there is a prize for each child, and a prize for the school so please try to walk on this day.

Calling all Grandparents! - Thursday 28th March is 'Bring your Grandparents to School Day'. The morning session is 9.00am - 11.30am and the afternoon is 1.00 - 3.15pm. If you have more than two children at the school grandparents are welcome to join us for the morning and afternoon sessions. Otherwise we look forward to seeing them at one session or the other. Further details to follow.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - We are beginning to think about costumes and props and would like to know if anyone is willing to donate any of the following:

Lots of white fabric or old white bed sheets - to be cut up

3 men's old striped shirts

2 old fashioned nighties

Blue/purple fabric

Purple top hat

If you think you may have something useful on the list above, please email Sinead Roberts on the following address:

sroberts@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk

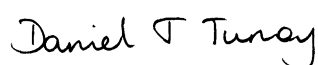
Side Nursery gate - You may be aware that we have now fitted a door lock to the side Nursery gate. To lock the gates after leaving the door handle must be twisted. Unfortunately, we still have issues with the gates being left open as parents leave the site. This puts the safety of children at risk as they then have a direct route to the car park. We have put extra supervision into this area as a result. My request to you is please do not leave the gates open under any circumstances. If in any doubt that the gate is not closed please inform a member of staff. Thank you.

Toys and games - The children's school council have recently asked the PSA for funds to help improve the quiet area of the playground opposite Garden House. I am delighted that they are taking responsibility for this. This might include purchasing some large equipment and storage; however I am keen that we are able to provide more for those children who would rather play quiet games such as construction or imaginative games during break times. So, if you are having a clear out and have any items that could be used by children sitting in this area we would really appreciate them. Please bring items to the school office and label them 'Quiet area'. Please note that items must be safe, clean and in good condition. We do reserve the right to give unsuitable items to charity. Thank you for your help.

Final call for Photograph orders

The photographers will be collecting orders from school on Monday morning, so if you have not already sent your order back and wish to do so, please bring it to the school office Monday morning.

Regards,



Dan Turvey

Dates for your Diaries

18 th to 22 nd February	Half Term Holiday
25 th February	Inset Day
26 th February	Children return to school
	Sir Humphry Davy Memorial Lecture for selected Y6 pupils at Rose Hill
27 th February	Y4 Indoor Athletics Tournament at 12.30pm
	Netball Match here against St Marks's School at 3.30pm
1 st March	Y2 Cake Sale at 3.15pm
6 th March	Netball Match here against Claremont School at 3.30pm
15 th March	Y1 Cake Sale at 3.15pm
20 th March	Pupil reports home to parents
22 nd March	Parent Reps meeting at 9am
28 th March	Grandparents Day
	End of Term 4
29 th March to 12 th April	Easter Holidays
15 th April	Children return to school