

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopsdownprimary.org



10th January 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

New Baby! Lizzie and Ben Godden are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their daughter, April Evelyn Godden, born on 5th January at 5.08am, weighing 7lb 12oz. Congratulations and best wishes to them all.

Staff news Congratulations to Sinead Roberts who is expecting her second child in the summer. It is likely that she will go on maternity leave in early summer. We will inform parents as soon as arrangements have been made to cover the class.

Welcome to Sophie Stock who has joined us as a Teaching Assistant. Many of you will already know her as she has worked in WAC and during holiday play schemes.

Building changes You may have already noticed changes to the school building. We now have a new 'Discovery Den' in the junior corridor for our SEN pupils and those pupils needing specific extra support. We have also extended the size of our entrance lobby area and added internal doors. This gives us additional security with all the comings and goings during the school day. These works were carried out and paid for by KCC and they were the second phase of the building works carried out last summer.

Admissions Application forms must be completed by Wednesday 15th January 2014 for children starting school in the next academic year 2014/15. You will need to have completed an online form from the Kent.gov.uk website which is http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/school_education/applying_for_a_school_place.aspx

Absence from school for holidays You may be aware that the Department for Education has tightened up considerably in its view on school pupils taking holiday in term time. Essentially the discretion of the school to allow holiday has been removed. Head Teachers can no longer authorise leave of absence for a family holiday, even if a parent cannot take time off at any other time.

Whilst this might seem draconian, it is underpinned by the fact that absence from school is proven to damage educational prospects whether it be due to illness, holiday or any other circumstances. Missing individual lessons can cause a learning gap, the majority of which can be caught up. Missing a number of days, for whatever reason, creates a gap that in most cases will not be bridged.

In essence, I cannot authorise holiday in term time. Such absence will therefore have to be recorded as unauthorised, and referrals may be made to the Attendance Service, with Penalty Notices resulting. I appreciate that nearly all parents are fully supportive of the school and attendance is good. Nevertheless, there will be potential educational and financial consequences of unauthorised absence from school for those who do take holiday during term time.

Fish We are looking for an enthusiastic parent to maintain the school fish tank which is now outside the Hall door. Once it is up and running again we will be re-populating it with fish. If you are willing and able to take on this role, please speak to Jane Clement.

Sign2Sing A separate letter was sent out this week with details of Sign2Sing. Please return your slip to the office if you would like to be part of this Guinness World Record attempt on 5th February.

Class Assemblies Parents are invited to come and watch their child's class assembly at 9.10am, and then go into their classroom to look at their learning until 10am.

Date	Class or teacher
Wednesday 15 th January	Year 1 – Beech
Wednesday 22 nd January	Year 1 – Bonsai
Wednesday 29 th January	Reception - Chestnut
Wednesday 5 th February	Reception - Willow
Wednesday 12 th February	Year 4 – Sycamore
Wednesday 26 th February	Year 2 Apple
Wednesday 5 th March	Year 3 Mulberry
Wednesday 12 th March	Year 5 Redwood
Wednesday 19 th March	Year 2 Olive
Wednesday 26 th March	Year 3 Maple

After School Activities The After School Activities run by various members of staff will all commence from Monday 13th January. Please note that Speed Stacking for Y5&6, Basketball, Winter Athletics, and Hockey have all *now ended*. Clubs *starting* in January are Speed Stacking for Y3/4, Creative Writing, and Gymnastics, all of which are already full with waiting lists. If your child has got a place in one of these clubs and no longer wants it, please let the office know as soon as possible so the place can be offered on. All other activities continue as before.

Flute lessons New Year, new skill and New Year resolution. Why not try learning an instrument such as the flute? Lessons are available at Bishops Down School from January. For more information please contact Mrs. Harris on 01580 754109.

Dates for your Diaries

Mon 13 th Jan	All After School Activities (Clubs) start this week Year 6 Oak swimming lessons start
Tues 14 th Jan	Y1-6 Fire Safety Day Year 3 Maple swimming lessons start
Wed 15 th Jan	Closing date for Reception applications for September 2014 Netball Match at Skinners Kent Academy
Fri 24 th Jan	PSA Cake Sale (donations of cakes from Y2 please) 3.15pm
Wed 5 th Feb	Prospective Parents visit at 2.15pm Sign2Sing event at 2.45pm in the school hall
Mon 10 th to Thurs 13 th Feb	E-Safety week in school
Thurs 13 th Feb	Term ends
Fri 14 th Feb	INSET Day – no children in school
Feb 24 th	Term 4 starts for all children including Nursery
Thurs 6 th March	World Book Day
Mon 24 th to 31 st March	Y6 Bikeability
Thurs 27 th March	Bring your Dad to School Day – morning or afternoon
Fri 4 th April	Term 4 ends

Regards

Daniel T Tunay