



Bishops Down Primary School

Spring Term 3 Newsletter No 9
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back and happy new year.

We are holding parent consultations on the 30th, 31st January and the 1st February this term. The sign up sheets will be available on Wednesday 18th in the morning and afternoon and also on the morning of Thursday 19th. After these dates, please contact Karen Miller to make an appointment. These meetings will be focussed on attainment and progress.

Prior to these meetings on the 27th January you will receive your child's data report. This is the blue and red coloured report that you will now be familiar with. Curriculum statements are coloured red if your child is working towards achieving them and coloured blue if they can achieve it confidently and independently. I will send a covering letter at the time to explain more fully.

During these consultations the school kitchen will be open providing samples of their food this term for you to try. Jo-Anne Grey from Independent Catering will be present to answer any questions regarding our meals. On the subject of meals, we have a special theme day on the 19th January – **American Day**, children just need to order on the day as usual.

This term we welcome Deborah Chapple, TA to the school. She brings a wealth of skills and experience with young children and will certainly be an asset to Chestnut class this year.

During our INSET day on the first day of this term, all staff received safeguarding training by our DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads), this is now an annual requirement (previously it was every three years). We have three specially trained DSLs in the main school: Miss Hardman, Mrs Adams and myself. Kate Smith Manager of WAC is DSL for our WAC provision. If you have any concerns with regards to the safeguarding of our pupils do not hesitate to get in touch with one of us.

Clare



THURSDAY 19TH
JANUARY

AMERICAN THEME DAY

Hot Dog or Veggie Hot
Dog in a Roll

with Tomato and
Onions, Spiced Jacket
Wedges, and

'Build-Your-Own
Hot Dog Salad Bar'

OR

Filled Baked Jacket
Potato

Plain Pesto Pasta

Snickers Doodle Cake
with Butterscotch Sauce



Violin/Viola Lessons

There are currently places available for individual, paired or group violin and viola lessons at Bishop's Down. Miss Wort, an experienced violin, viola, piano and class teacher, comes in to teach on a Friday. Lessons are rotated throughout the school day so no child misses any one curriculum area repeatedly. In order to make good progress on a musical instrument, students do need to practice regularly and encouragement with this at home is vital, helping children to find a good time to do this, although parents do not need to be able to play an instrument themselves. Once children have reached an appropriate level, they are invited to join the recently formed Band.

To register interest or find out more information, please contact Miss Wort directly at rwteach.in@gmail.com or 01892 542753.

From the PSA: This Friday 13th January, the PSA invites you all to drop into **Velo House** for a coffee after school drop off - come along for a catch up and a caffeine fix! Invitation is open to all parents; it would be great to see you there!

Date for the diary: Saturday 4th February is the annual Bishops Down Quiz Night! Tickets are £10 per person, which includes entry and a fish & chip supper. Make up a team of up to 8 people, or come along and join a team on the night. Well stocked bar available!

Sign2sing 2017

Bishops Down will be taking part in the 2017 event on Wednesday 8th February. For those families who are new to the school, this is a national annual event organised by the deaf health charity SignHealth and is their biggest fundraising event.

Now in it's 7th year, it is an annual national singing and signing event that makes a difference to the lives of thousands of hearing impaired children and adults. Bishops Down have been keen supporters of the event for many years, and our Makaton Masters this year have chosen a SuperSigner theme.

Your children are learning in class a brand new song they will sing and sign during a special assembly during that afternoon. The Bishops Down Makaton Masters from Oak and Larch Class are busy organising other activities happening during the day, and we will let you know all about these in the next weeks.

In addition to this your children are invited to create a Super Signer eye mask, like a superhero would wear. The idea is that the children design their own mask with a signing theme to highlight the fact that people who sign are being Super Signers by communicating with their hands, and helping a big part of the community. Children will be permitted to wear their masks, during break and lunchtime and to the assembly in the afternoon. There will be a prize for Early Years, KS1 and KS2 for the most eye-catching designs. Children are asked to bring in a donation of £1 for the charity SignHealth for taking part in the competition.

Curriculum news

Science— You will be aware that we launched our new science curriculum, **Empiribox** in September. We have had great feedback from parents and children alike and the staff have been so inspired by the experiments we can now offer they are keen to go one step further. So from this term, every Friday will be a **Science Day** for the whole school.

All children will be undertaking a practical experiment in the morning and then all other lessons on Friday will be linked to the science eg mathematical data handling skills such as graphs & tables. Literacy skills— how to use formal language to write up experiments or it could link to some creative writing such as poetry. Links can also be made to History and Geography.

These **Science Days** will create meaningful links between subjects and enable staff and children to get really 'stuck in' to scientific concepts. Rest assured that teachers will still cover **all** National Curriculum objectives for the year, nothing will be dropped! This is just a more engaging way of delivering the curriculum. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Cowell.

Phonics - a Workshop for Reception and Year One Parents Tuesday 7th February 2.15-2.45pm

The session will include information on:

- How synthetic phonics is taught at Bishops Down - Read Write Inc. programme
- How parents can support their child's learning in phonics
- Y1 Phonics Screening Check



A letter will be sent home to Reception and Year One parents in due course.—Mrs Akers

Redwood Class

This term Mrs Cowell will be teaching on Mondays and Fridays and Miss Hardman on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Does your child start Reception in September 2017?

If so you must apply to Kent County Council by **16th January** for their school place. If you need help with this please see Jo Sheldon, Admissions Secretary, who will help you with the online form. If your Reception 2017 child is a sibling of an older child at the school you **MUST** still apply.

Lost Property

We are aghast at the amount of jumpers and cardigans that do not have names in them at all. Not even a faint marking of a name. The lost property box is getting full so quickly. Jumpers and cardigans are the number one piece of uniform that gets taken on and off during the day by the children - they get left everywhere! We can't give them back with no name in them. Staff do write in them when they find their rightful owners, but really it would help if you could do this for us. At the end of the term they get thrown out or given to the PSA or Charity. If they have a name they do not get put in the lost property box. Thank you.



Bishops Down is 50 this year!

Discussions on how to celebrate this milestone year are starting to take place. We have one working group led by Kelly Kyte which is looking at a birthday tea party, gift ideas and some sort of permanent memorial.



The second group is working on a whole school video that all children and staff can be part of. The video will be full of singing, dancing and be a true celebration of our unique school. Jo Sheldon is coordinating this group.

If you would like to lend your support in any way please see Kelly Kyte or Jo Sheldon. We are also keen to hear from ex pupils, so if you know anyone that has been a pupil here can you ask them to get in touch. Thank you

Urgent notice

Please can parents and guardians collecting children from after school clubs minimise their movement around the school site at the end of the day. We have children attending Wrap Around Care that we need to closely supervise outside and this can be challenging when 2 or 3 clubs are leaving around 4.15pm. As from next week all clubs will be given a specific exit point which the club leaders will take children to, eg the side gate or a classroom door. A list of collection points will be displayed on the school notice board. **Thank you**