

Bishops Down Primary School News



www.bishopsdownprimary.org

14th December 2012
Dear Parents,

Congratulations to all of Year 1 and Year 2 for all their hard work in putting together such a wonderful Christmas Performance this week. Well done to the pupils and special thanks to all the staff. We have many happy memories!

PSA Christmas Fair - It goes without saying how successful the Christmas Fair was on 1st December. The turnout was fabulous and we anticipate a profit of around £2000 raised by the PSA. Many thanks to Mel and Vicky for organising and planning it so well and to all of you who contributed in some way.

Goodbye - Sadly we have to say goodbye to Mrs. Emma Bonwick at the end of this term. She will be sorely missed by the children, parents and staff. She has had many roles here at Bishops Down over the years and worked with a large number of children. In recent years she has led our Early Years department, mentoring and coaching colleagues and developing our provision. Personally I will be very sad to see Emma leave and hope that her absence is only temporary! We wish her all the best for the future as she enjoys being mum full time.

Admissions - Application forms must be completed by 16th January 2012 for children starting school in the next academic year 2013/14. You will need to have completed an online form from the KCC website http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/school_education/applying_for_a_school_place

KCC Consultation Feedback for Admissions - Following on from the item in the newsletter of 16th November, some parents have had problems leaving feedback on the KCC website. If this is the case, please send your feedback to the following email address instead: simon.webb@kent.gov.uk

Governors News - Term 2 has been as busy as ever. There have been meetings of the three key committees, Standards, Strategy and Resources and of the full Governing Body. Governors have met with their subject staff partners to discuss progress towards the School Development Plan targets and plan meetings and visits for 2013.

One of the functions of the committees and the Governing Body is to discuss and agree school policies. The policies are updated on a regular basis and, after they have been agreed, they are posted on the school website. Among recent policy updates are Health & Safety and Gifted and Talented.

At our last Full Governors' Meeting we received two presentations. The first was from Mrs. Affleck on Data for Academic Year 2011-12 and the second from Mrs. Clement on Special Educational Needs Provision. Both presentations were illuminating and thought provoking and Mrs. Affleck and Mrs. Clement were commended for what they had done.

To date, we have no further information about the size of the September 2013 intake. Lynne Russell, our Chair of Governors, with the support of Dan Turvey and Stuart McTavish, Vice Chair, has been proactive in attempting to move towards a satisfactory conclusion but we await a response from KCC. Please be assured that Lynne and Dan are doing everything possible to resolve this issue.

This term the Governing Body has the pleasure of welcoming Tarif Chowdhury as the newly elected Parent Governor. The Governor's page of the school website is in the process of being updated and a short biography for each governor will be available soon.

The Christmas Fair was, once again outstanding and reflected the enormous effort of the PSA. The Governing Body would like to thank you all for your contribution and congratulate the PSA members, and all who helped, on a very successful afternoon.

With Christmas fast approaching, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the ongoing achievements of the school and wish staff, children, parents and helpers a wonderful Christmas with continued success and happiness in 2013.

Clubs - Please note there will be **NO** after school activities next week. The following clubs have now finished completely and will **NOT** be resuming after Christmas: Basket Ball, Cross Country, and Multiskills. The first group of children attending Infant Football club have also finished, and the second

group will start in the New Year. Children currently doing Year 1 & 2 Drama, KS1 Art and KS2 Art continue until February half term.

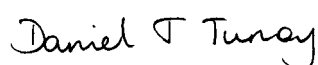
New clubs starting are Tag Rugby for Years 4-6, Speed Stacking for Years 3 & 4, and Gymnastics for Years 1 & 2. Children have already signed up to these in September, but if you are not sure if your child has a place, please speak to the office. There are still spaces available in Tag Rugby and Speed Stacking, but not in Gymnastics.

Swimming - Next term Year 1 and Year 5 will be swimming. Please look out for the letters regarding this which will come home separately.

School Council News - There have been lots of requests from the children to have a say in the choice of school lunches. School Council came up with the idea of 'Lunchtime Specials'. For the last day of each term, one class will get to choose the lunch for that day. Starting with Year 6, next term's 'Special' will be 'An All Day Breakfast, & Chocolate Brownies'.

I hope that you all have a safe, restful and enjoyable Christmas season.

Regards,



Dan Turvey

Dates for your Diaries

18 th December	2.30pm	Nursery & Reception Christmas celebration
19 th December	9.30am	Nursery & Reception Christmas celebration
20 th December		Christmas Lunch
21 st December		End of Term 2
7 th January		INSET day
8 th January		Start of Term 3 for all children except Nursery
9 th January		Nursery children start
11 th January	9am 2.15pm	Parent Reps meeting Sign2Sing Parent group meeting
18 th January	3.15pm	Maple Cake Sale for the PSA