



BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spring Term 3 Newsletter No 8
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Dear Parents,

Happy new year! We extend a warm welcome this term to Mr Harvey who is teaching in Redwood, Miss Woodcock in Chestnut Class and Miss Sharman, TA, who is mainly supporting Pine Class. Mrs Naismith, one of our regular supply teachers has now joined us to job share with Mrs Roberts in Mulberry class until Mrs Akers returns from maternity leave.

Miss Woodcock is the Phase leader for the Early Years so if you have any curriculum/teaching queries regarding the Nursery or the Reception class please see her. Miss Ritman-Meer is the KS1 Phase Leader so parents of Year 1 or 2 children with queries that can't be resolved by the class teacher should go to her. Miss Hepden is KS2 Phase Leader so parents with year 3 to 6 children should refer to her if the need arises.



Spelling- Well done to Oak Class for achieving the most 100% scores last term in the spelling tests. They win a 'Spelling Bee' cuddly toy for the class to keep until the Spring test results are announced. Which class will be next? Please support your children in their spellings. We are finding that children who do not routinely learn their spellings are not achieving as highly in writing assessments as those that do.

I would like to thank David Hodgkinson, one of our parents, for taking some professional photos of our pupils. For many years large photos of pupils enjoying school have been displayed in the corridors and the hall and I felt they needed updating. I have used three on this newsletter and others will be displayed soon. We will also use the images for the website and marketing material. Thank you David, it is much appreciated.

There will be three attachments to this newsletter. The first being the new Home School Agreement. The second, a letter informing you of teacher training opportunities with our local teaching school, Altius. The third being the Kent Schools Ski Race 2016 application form- we would like to enter two school teams this year.

The home school agreement has been significantly updated to bring Bishops Down in line with other Primary schools in Tunbridge Wells. **Please sign and return at your earliest convenience.** Thank you.

Please ensure your child has the appropriate PE kit and that the kit is in school. This week there have been many children without kit or the wrong kit.

Finally, on the 29th January you will be receiving a data report from your class teacher. These reports contain highlighted key curriculum statements for Reading, Writing and Maths. The coloured highlighting indicates how successful your child has been in attaining these since September. A detailed letter of explanation will be sent with the report. These progress reports will then be discussed with you at parent consultations which will take place on the 1st and 2nd February. Regards,

Clare



| | 8.01.16 attendance | lates |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|
| Beech | 93.3% | 1 |
| Apple | 98.3% | 2 |
| Olive | 93.1% | 3 |
| Maple | 96.7% | 5 |
| Mulberry | 95.0% | 0 |
| Hazel | 95.7% | 0 |
| Sycamore | 89.2% | 1 |
| Redwood | 96.2% | 1 |
| Pine | 94.8% | 1 |
| Oak | 84.6% | 3 |

Already outbreaks of **Head Lice** have been reported in Years 3, 4 and Reception
Please be vigilant.



Check hair on a weekly basis

Long hair must be tied back at school to prevent the spread of lice.

We would also recommend Lice repellent sprays as a preventative measure.

Severe Weather Protocol:

Please refer to our website under the parent tab for our severe weather procedures.



Makaton
Masters

Wrap Around Care would like to remind parents that invoices are being sent out by email now, using the parent emails registered with Parentmail. A number of parents have advised us that they have not received recent invoices. We would be grateful, if you are expecting an invoice because your child has used WAC, to check that the school is sending it to the correct person and email address. This is because some parents have more than one email address registered with Parentmail, and the system is using the first one listed which may not be the one you check regularly, or perhaps do not even use anymore but this has not been noticed as you are receiving information through a second email address instead.

Any questions, please speak to either Kate Smith or Deborah Norman. Many thanks.

Sign2sing 2016

Bishops Down will be taking part in the 2016 event on Monday 1st 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 national fundraising and deaf awareness event.

Now in it's 6th year, it is an annual national singing and signing event that makes a difference to the lives of thousands of deaf children and adults. Bishops Down have been keen supporters of the event for many years. Your children are learning in class a brand new song they will sing and sign in a special assembly on that afternoon. The Bishops Down Makaton Masters and Oak Class are busy organising other activities happening at breaktime, lunchtime and after school and we will let you know all about these in the next week.

In addition to this your children are invited to bring in a special pair of gloves, these can be any pair of gloves, the idea is that the children can customise them to highlight the fact that hands can be a big part of communication through signing. Children will be permitted to wear their gloves, (please note not mittens, as fingers are a big part of signing) 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 pair - key to remember that we need to see the signs clearly! Children are asked to bring in a donation of £1 for the charity SignHealth for wearing their gloves.

This is the link to learn the song 'Reach Out Your Hand', why not have a go with your children?

<http://www.sign2sing.org.uk/how-to-get-involved/learn-the-songs/>

Happy signing!