



Bishops Down Primary School

Spring Term 3
15th February 2019
Newsletter no 11

Newsletter



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End of term message from Kate Merrin, Chair of Governors

It is hard to believe that the half term break is looming as it seems no time at all since the Christmas break. We know the children and staff have all had a busy term and thankful the snow hasn't impacted on the activities so far.

Governors have recently met to discuss various strategy strands for taking the school forward over the next five years and these include working with the nursery, working with the local primary schools in our Collaborative Trust, reviewing our IT processes and marketing the school to new parents and the wider community.

There is much discussion in education at the moment regarding careers for children but often the focus for this is on secondary school education. Some of you may have seen the recent publicity around the 4 year old girl who wants to be a firefighter (Fireman Sam is her favourite character), but didn't think it was something a girl can do. Fortunately the power of social media meant a lot of female firefighters did videos for her to show that girls are definitely working in the fire service!

It highlighted a greater conversation though around ensuring that primary school children are given every opportunity to explore what is on offer as they grow up and our meeting on Monday 11th February looked at how best to share examples of different jobs with each age group at primary level. If any of you would be happy to come in to school and talk to the children about what you do when they're busy in school do let Mrs Owen know.

We've had district briefings on the potential complexities that may occur with a "no deal" Brexit, particularly given the roads in Kent are forecast to suffer if there are issues at Dover. Kent County Council are putting in place a variety of strategies to deal with this for catering and staffing purposes etc, but as with everything else Brexit related, as yet we don't know what the impact will be.

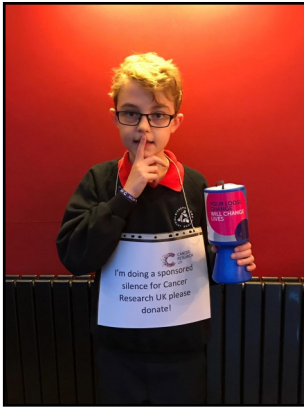
All governors attended training in January by our Resources Chair, Martin Johnson, on School Finance and by Gilly Shankland on our SEND responsibilities as governors.

We are delighted to have arranged a new format this year whereby Governors will be in school on Friday 8th March. Different governors will be attending during the day and we hope to meet parents and guardians at the beginning and end of the day, as well as spending time in class with the children and seeing what they are currently working on. This forms part of our role to monitor all aspects of the school and we are looking forward to being involved during the day. If you see us, do come and say hello.

Have a very happy and hopefully dry half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in some spring sunshine, all ready for the run up to Easter.

Kate Merrin, Chair of Governors





Well done to William who has raised an amazing £500 with gift aid, for Cancer Research, including £72.77 from the collection at the school gates.

A great achievement!

More children are now coming to school with fit bits and other smart watches. We do not recommend that children wear these to school as they can be a distraction and are expensive if lost or broken. If you allow your child to wear one of these please note that the school is not responsible for their safe keeping, also the text facility must be disabled to limit distractions.



V tech watches that take pictures **are not permitted** as we have strict policies on photography and the distribution of images.

Many cases of headlice have been reported over the past two weeks. Please can you check your child's head over the half term and take a look at the information available at the following link to help us prevent headlice spreading in school. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>



Please be mindful of wheelchair and walking frame users around the side gates of the school. When there are many parents waiting to come in through the gate it can be very difficult for our children with physical disabilities to navigate their way through. Please give them a little more space.

Updates and Requests

Senior Boys Football practise on Tuesday 5th March is cancelled due to there being a home Football Match being played against St John's Primary School. Thank you.

We have not set a limit for the number of children attending **Tag Rugby club**. We are happy to take a large number on the field but we would really appreciate some parent help. You do not need any experience of rugby coaching as Mrs Tizzard will set up the drills, however we would really welcome some support from those experienced in rugby. We know there are a large number of boys playing rugby outside of school therefore please let Mrs Tizzard know if you are able to run one session.

We are delighted to say that Charles Bailey has been re appointed as a Parent Governor. Thank you to Charles for his continuing support.

The **Travelling Book Fair** is a pop up book shop that has books for all ages for parents and guardians to buy for children. The school receive rewards from the book fairs to buy new books for the school both in class and for the library. The more books that are sold the more rewards we get in school. You can pay by either cash or cheque.

The book fair this year will coincide with **World Book Day** and will be open at Bishops Down in the school hall from Wednesday 6th March - Friday 8th March. We look forward to seeing you all there.
Mrs Kyte and Mrs Wood-Lynch

It is with sadness that we are informing you about **TAs Emma Wright and Donna Gaskin** leaving the school. They have new and different challenges ahead, so we wish them well.