

BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



BISHOPS DOWN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy term ending this week with very difficult weather conditions! We have battled through and the children have clearly loved their performances and playing in the snow on the fields– it is a great time of year to work in schools.



Staffing plans have moved at great speed this week with the interviews for a part time deputy head taking place and a (last minute!) replacement year 2 teacher. I am delighted, and somewhat relieved to say that we have appointed for both roles.

Mrs Lightbody, previous deputy head at Broadwater Down school will be joining us in January on Thursdays and Fridays to complement Mrs Bettles on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays. Mr Bailey will now leave us, as he was seconded whilst we found the right candidate for Bishops Down– thank you to Temple Grove Academy for allowing him to support us for the past few weeks.

Today we said a sad goodbye to Mr George. He will be missed but we know he is going on to do great things. We send all of our best wishes with him.

For year 2 we have secured Mrs Rosalind Randell for 4 days a week. Mrs Randell has been providing supply cover in KS1 and Early Years this term and is delighted to have been asked to join the team on a substantive basis until July 2023. On the other day, Mrs Silburn will be teaching. The children know Mrs Randell and she knows the school so this is a very good fit for us.

Severe weather conditions

I understand that there was some confusion over opening arrangements on Tuesday. Please always assume the school is open and fully functioning unless we communicate otherwise. We will only close if we lose water or heating, or if we cannot get a safe number of staff into school.

With social media, rumours and misinformation can quickly circulate, so can I ask that you are patient and wait for the official notifications. Arrangements and risk assessment can take a few hours on a snow day so we start planning and risk assessing at 5am when Mr Beaton starts clearing paths, with the aim of communicating to parents by 7.15-7.30am. If we cannot provide hot lunches for any reason we will communicate this, however the following day, assume all is well.

The staff at Bishops Down send their best wishes to all of our families for a restful Christmas break. See you in the new year.

Mrs Owen



Mislaidd a school letter? Did you know you can view most letters sent home on the school website – here is the link: <https://www.bishopsdownprimary.org/recent-letters-sent-home>

Cost of Living

December can be a difficult for families at the best of times, however this year it does seem to be much harder. Ellen Stock, our Family Support Worker, has put together the following list of places you can access for support. Please remember to contact us if you are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, as the school can purchase uniform for your child ,and if you are struggling and not in receipt of pupil premium, there are ways we can support you– just ask.

Some information below for parents. We do also have a lot of signposting under our Safeguarding area on the school website.

[Citizens Advice North & West Kent](#)

[Independent fuel debt advice – British Gas Energy Trust](#)

[Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](#)

[Tunbridge Wells Nourish Food bank | Local Kent Directory](#)

[Tunbridge Wells Branch — Crosslight Advice](#)

First established in 2002, West Kent Debt Advice ('WKDA') is an independent local charity with its own board of trustees which exists to support the provision of debt and money advice in the West Kent area and beyond.
www.crosslightadvice.org

[Release the pressure - Kent County Council](#)

Text the word Kent to 85258 or phone 0800 107 0160 for free confidential support at any time.. Free expert advice from trained counsellors is available for every mental health concern, including: anxiety; depression; low self-esteem
www.kent.gov.uk

[Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen](#)