

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopsdownprimary.org



17th October 2014

Dear Parents and guardians

Book Fair – The Book Fair is open after school tonight and again on Monday at 8.30am and 3.15pm. Do please come and browse.

Curriculum

At the end of the last academic year we wrote to you about the new national curriculum that was introduced in September. I am pleased to say that teachers here have embraced the changes and have continued to offer varied and engaging activities for the children. You can read about our Maths day and Year 4 who became movie stars below. It has also been very exciting to see some of our younger pupils learning outdoors as part of our new Forest School programme with Mrs Bell. We hope to introduce that to older pupils later in the year.

Assessment

You may have become increasingly aware of the phrase 'assessment without levels' which refers to the assessment changes that the government has introduced alongside the new curriculum. Children will no longer be assessed and awarded a level in Years 1-6, with the exception of Year 2 and Year 6 who will be the last to be tested under the old system. There are no longer levelled assessments and there is no national assessed levelling system, it is up to individual schools to have their own assessment systems. As you can imagine this has been a challenge for all schools. We have been working with other schools, consultants and attended training to ensure the systems we introduce will be fit for purpose for our school. We look forward to giving you detailed information in the near future, but please be aware that these changes will lead directly to changes in the way that we report to parents in future.

Marvellous Movie Megastars: Year 4 delve into the world of film! *By Miss Perolls*

On Friday 26th September 2014, Year 4 were treated to a spectacular, show-stopping day! Mike, a director and Chris, a producer, visited Sycamore and Hazel, engaging them with their knowledge of all things film! After becoming immersed into the film and advert world, Year 4 courageously became up-and-coming actors and actresses, starring in their very own adaptation of Matilda. All we can say is WOW – Hollywood, watch out! Exclusive viewing coming soon... A huge thanks to Mike and Chris, from everybody in Year 4!

Math's Day – *Bryn Kirkby & Sebastian Garwood*

'On Monday 12th October Y5 & Y6, two of many classes, went to a Math's Workshop in the hall. It was a lot of fun as the parents came in and helped us with the activities. The difficulty of the tasks ranged from easy to hard. For instance, Prop Zone we found quite difficult, however, Reflection was fairly easy. Problem Pipes were really fun as the instructions were very clear. We learnt a lot from this Math's Workshop which was kindly set up by a man called David. We would like to say a big thank you to all the people and parents who came in.'

Help your school win! Park-and-Stride next Wednesday, 22 October

Next Wednesday, 22 October is our first Walk to School Challenge Day – a competition to see which class in each district of the County has the most "green travelers" on that day. Every child in the winning class for each district will win FREE ENTRY tickets to beautiful Leeds Castle! Perhaps you feel that walking to school is not for you. This may be because you live too far away from the school, or travel to work straight after the school run. Because many parents and carers are in this position, we would urge you to "**park and stride**". You can park 5 - 10 minutes' walk from the school and walk your child into school from there. This way you

can contribute to reducing congestion and pollution around the school gate and help create a healthier and safer school-gate area. Thank you also to the families that walk, cycle or scoot all the way and thank you for helping improve the school environment.

Secondary transfer

This time of year is a stressful time for pupils and parents in Year 6 as they make decisions about their new secondary school. This week pupils received their 11+ results; congratulations to all those who passed.

Flute lessons - Why not try learning an instrument such as the flute? Spaces have become available for additional lessons, so for more information please contact Mrs. Harris on 01580 754109.

Admissions 2015

The school is aware of 21 siblings expected to apply for reception places next September based on the feedback from parents which was asked for in a previous newsletter. If you have not informed us that you will be applying for a place please let the school office know before half term.

Please don't forget that next week we have parent consultations on Tuesday and Thursday. Please contact the school office if you have yet to book an appointment.

Kind Regards,

Daniel T Tunney