

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Bishops Down in a GOOD school! Ofsted March 2017

The staff are delighted with the recent **Ofsted** inspection and I know from the parents I have spoken to, you are as pleased as we are with the report. It has really highlighted the progress we have made in the past two years and accurately reflects all that we are proud of. The two areas for development were already identified by the Senior Leadership Team earlier in the year and as a result progress is under way.

Lunch boxes and Lunch bags – the new rule of placing left lunch containers in a black bag is working - the squirrels are less interested than before! If your child forgets to bring home their box or bag you will find it in the black bag on top of the lunch trolleys. At the end of term I am afraid this bag gets disposed of as we do not have space to keep them.

Uniform - I have noticed that some children are not wearing regulation school uniform. May I remind you that it is part of the Home School Agreement that you ensure children are wearing the correct uniform. This includes the correct shoes – ankle boots are not permitted. Please refer to our website for the full uniform list if you are unsure. Whilst on the subject I have also noticed that many older girls have to be told time and time again to tie their hair up. Can you ensure they do this in the morning please – it really does help limit the spread of head lice and all classes do get affected. After the Easter break children can wear their summer uniform – please refer to the uniform list.

Book Fair - My thanks to you all for supporting the book fair at school we took almost £1300 which will give us commission of £600! This money will be spent on library books - my sincere thanks for supporting the school and encouraging your child to read more.

Encouraging the children to walk - As the lighter mornings and evenings are now upon us I would like to encourage year 5 and year 6 children to start walking to and from school. For our year 6 children it is not too long before they start secondary school where most will want more independence. Year 5 and 6 children can walk home as long as we have a letter or email stating that you give consent.

Thank you for your continued support.

Clare

Pepenbury - our fantastic local school charity this year!

A huge thank you to Camilla Slattery, the fundraising and communications manager at Pepenbury, for coming into Year 5 Pine, to share all of the amazing things that the charity does to support adults with learning difficulties. It added such a purposeful and meaningful touch to what we have been learning about charities in RE. We can't wait to do lots of fundraising for this fantastic charity!

On Saturday 24th June, Pepenbury will be hosting a Family Fun Day at their main site on Cornford Lane, Pembury. This is a fantastic opportunities for us to get on board to support such a great cause! For more details, please visit the website <http://www.pepenbury.info/>

Hope to see you there!

From the PSA

Date for your diary - Wednesday 29th March is our Annual General meeting at 7pm, at the school. This meeting is open to all parents so please come along and see what we've been doing and what we're planning to do! This is a great chance to get involved in the school, as little or as large a commitment as you like!



This Is Us Youth Dance Company at The Royal Tunbridge Wells Variety Performance

Last Sunday afternoon our incredible group of dancers took to the stage at The Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells. We took part to support the exciting new adventure playground that is being built in Calverley Park later this year, so a very worthwhile local cause and somewhere a lot of Bishops Down children will play!

Alongside a host of other talented children This Is Us were able to show Tunbridge Wells who we are and what we do. It was only our second public performance ever and with a larger group of dancers, in a larger theatre, the excitement and nerves ran around our dressing rooms! This performance gave us the opportunity to dance with a more sophisticated light show and sound system.

We completed the first half of the show and left the stage to rapturous applause. It was so lovely to have so many Bishops Down staff and families in the audience it really gave our company a buzz!

Once again our group were complimented on their impeccable behaviour in a public, hectic, busy theatre and we are already talking with the organisers about another future event which is really exciting.

Our class could not run without the tireless support of TA's who give up their time after school and their precious weekends to make these classes happen, Mrs Gardener, Mrs Williams, Miss Goodfellow, Miss Marriott and Mrs Gripper. A special mention to Mrs Gebbie and Mr Beaton who supported our team this weekend too!

This Is Us Youth Dance Company are Lakishia, Joshua, Edward, Devon, Oliver, Anja, Freddie, James, Joe , Anniemay and Arian.

We have some spaces available for next term, please contact me via the office for more details.

Jan Cockburn - Teaching Assistant/Stopgap Dance Company Co-ordinator



More dance news!
Lizzie is dancing at the Royal Albert Hall on 23rd of April with the Catherine Bellinger school.
What a fantastic opportunity– we wish her all the best!

A polite reminder that dogs should not be brought onto the school grounds and this includes the drive way and car park. Please leave dogs tied to the fence opposite the school drive gates when dropping off and collecting children.



Whole school 50th Birthday photograph

Please ensure that your child is in correct winter uniform on Monday 27th March for the whole school photo.



Second hand book sale

Have you got any books that you no longer require?

Adult, children's, non fiction or fiction books are needed . Mrs Kyte is going to be organising a second hand book sale to raise some money for the 50th celebrations at the school. Donations of books will be gratefully received in bags addressed to Mrs Kyte. Date and location of book sale will be announced once enough books have been collected.

Volunteers are needed across the school to help with reading and other class support roles. Hazel class, in particular are in need. Please contact Sue Solomon if you are interested in volunteering. ssolomon@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk



Lego Needed Please

We are in need of Lego for a learning intervention we are trialling called 'Lego Sentences'. We have had some success already with this new approach but now we need more Lego so each class can benefit.

If you have any second hand Lego that you are disposing of, or if you are passing a charity shop please keep a look out for us.

Please pass any donations to the school office.

News from the Governors

The governors were delighted to receive the formal Ofsted report following the school's recent inspection. Congratulations are due to Mrs Owen, Miss Hardman and all of the senior leadership team, as well as all the staff and pupils at the school. The school has made tremendous progress over the last two years and it was very pleasing to see this recognised by the inspector.

The school is now in a good position with a clear vision and will no doubt continue to move towards being an outstanding school.