



Bishops Down Primary School

Summer Term 5 Newsletter No 15
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Dear Parents and Guardians

It has been a busy week for year 6 and their teachers with the KS2 SATs. Well done to all involved– it has been quite a week and we are proud of you all!

The other big event of this week has been the launch of **'School Gateway'**. So far almost 20% of parents have downloaded the app and have started booking WAC and Holiday Play Scheme sessions. As the summer term progresses we will be increasing the use of the app to include booking and payment for the school disco, trip payments and consent and *hopefully* school dinners but as yet we do not have confirmation of this. You should already be receiving email from School Gateway (aka Schoolcomms). As of September all school clubs, trips and payments will be through the app so I would urge you to try it now so we can smooth out the inevitable glitches this term. Instructions on how to download can be found on the email sent on Monday and also on the 'recent letters sent home' on the website.

At the parent reps meeting today we discussed the quality of school meals. If you have any concerns about the meals please email Julie Watson, Food Development Executive at Nourish (julie@nourishcontractcatering.co.uk) and copy in the school office for our information. Thank you. Look out for an upcoming school/community afternoon tea event to be hosted by year 6 next term. We are just trying to confirm the final details and will let you know arrangements in due course. Thank you to Sarah Bailey (parent) who is helping with this event.

Clare



On Sunday 6th May Bishops Down ski team took part in the Kent Schools' Ski Championships 2018. The children have all been training hard since December for the competition and skied fantastically on the day.

Bishops Down junior team (Tommie, Dylan, Barnaby and Eva) won gold in the years 2-4 team event.

Bishops Down senior team (Lila, Georgina, Nate and Jack) won bronze in the years 5-6 team event.

Lila won gold in the individual years 5-6 race and also won overall fastest Kent primary girl 2018.

In the afternoon there was a fun team event and Nate and Barnaby won silver and bronze.

Well done everyone. Special thanks to Lindsay Ayton for her time organising and coaching the children.



On Thursday the children in Beech class made cards for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle to celebrate the Royal Wedding. The children wrote good luck messages inside the cards before decorating them.

We have sent the cards off to Kensington Palace and are hoping to get a thank you letter from the Royal couple!



'This Girl Can' 11 girls represented the school in the 'This Girl Can' tournament on Friday 11th. We had a fantastic morning taking part in activities including American football, football, cheerleading and yoga. The girls took part in every activity with enthusiasm and worked with children from other schools. This Girl Can came about because there is a decline in girls taking part in sport and boys continue to be at least 20% more active than girls, this is along with an increase in the number of girls having a negative body image and low self confidence. We are proud that our 11 girls ignored this statistic to say 'This Girl Can'! Lydia, Anna, Anniemay, Mina, Karis,



Zemzemma, Zohra, Farrah, Lizzie, Libby and Charlotte. More information can be found at <http://www.thisgirlcan.co.uk/>



Tennis Two teams from year 3 and 4 took part in the primary schools tennis festival. Both teams competed extremely well in the first half of the tournament with one team winning their group to move into the A league, the other team came 2nd in their group to play in the B league. The remainder of the event was non competitive with no overall winner. Pair of the tournament were Lawrence and Leo.

Governor News

With the end of the academic year in sight, there are many challenges facing schools and governors for the coming autumn.

Parents will be very aware of the news headlines around the shortage of teachers both in primary and secondary schools and with budget restrictions meaning a drop in how much schools are able to spend, these are two of the key areas that we'll be working on in the coming months.

Recruitment of teachers is a national problem and here in the South East we face greater challenges with house prices and the cost of living all impacting on the availability of staff.

The National Union of Teachers (NUT) has stated:

"In October 2016, the Government confirmed that nearly a third of teachers who joined the profession in 2010 had left teaching within five years. Of the 21,400 teachers who started working in English state schools in 2010, over 6,400 (30%) had quit by 2015

In July 2017, the School Teachers' Review Body stated that there is a 'real risk that schools will not be able to recruit and retain a workforce of high quality teachers to support pupil achievement' particularly in light of the predicted increase in pupil numbers"

So lots of challenges ahead but Mrs Owen and the Governors continue to work tirelessly to find excellent teachers, classroom assistants and support staff for all the children at Bishops Down.

Parent meetings

The Chair of Governors, Kate Merrin, was delighted to be able to attend the Parent Rep this week and will be meeting the new Reception year parents in early July.

Marathon

Congratulations to Sarah Barker on completing the marathon on the hottest day in April – a fantastic achievement, though not sure she's planning on doing it again!

Good luck

There's a lot going on in the coming weeks including SATs, Sports Day, Year 6 productions in July and the PSA Cake Sale! Good luck to everyone and we're now on the road to the long summer holidays.

Kate Merrin– Chair of Governors

SPORTS DAY

Wednesday 27th June

KS2 AM and KS1/EYFS PM