

# BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



BISHOPS DOWN  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wednesday 19th October 2022

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all the parents that attended the Early Years and YR 1 meetings in school over the past two weeks, it has been great to hear directly from you. All notes have now been sent out and I will book a parent rep meeting shortly after half term to follow up on any subsequent concerns.

Some parents have been in touch regarding the comments about Reading in the Ofsted report. We have been undertaking training as a staff to refresh our skills and you should have noticed a renewed focus in every class on reading. EYFS and year 1 have had, or will be having sessions for parents on Early reading and phonics. All children are accessing the library and Griff our reading dog is busy every Friday hearing children read! If you would like to hear children read in school please let us know.

Behaviour was also mentioned on the Ofsted report. As you will understand, I cannot publically discuss individual behaviour matters due to confidentiality, however Governors are taking a keen interest in this area and have undertaken visits to classrooms and the playground to see how behaviour is managed. With regards to the most drastic sanction, exclusion (now known as suspension) Governors are informed and procedures discussed.

This week Governors have been in school to look at safeguarding procedures, as well as behaviour. They are satisfied that the school is following protocols and routines. The one area I would like to draw to your attention to is the school car park; this is where parents can support with safety. Friday afternoons we have 'All In Club', DramaNuts Club and Football Club all leaving at the same time and last Friday it was incredibly congested and therefore dangerous. Car park signage clearly states 'Staff and Visitor Car Park'. Parents are not permitted to use the car park for club collection– the only exception to this is collection from Beehive, even then we would prefer parents to park and walk to the school. Thank you

Have a lovely half term. C Owen

Years 5 and 6 entered the Mixed Tag Rugby Tournament at The Juddians, Tonbridge, and played fantastically. Bishops Down came 3rd out of 12 teams! The children should be really proud of themselves and a few were even asked to train with Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club.

Well done, Elliott, Ruby, Kaiya, Zak, Evie, Caitlyn, Julia and Matthew.



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>

## Staff news

**Miss Susan Burton** will be joining Bishops Down after half term as the **year 1** class teacher. She will be teaching Monday Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (Mrs Jennings will continue with Thursday cover). For the first two weeks after half term both teachers will be employed to work with the class ensuring a thorough and smooth handover.

**Miss Daisy Fish** will be taking over from Mr George after Christmas. She is an experienced **year 2** teacher with a keen interest in sport! She is currently teaching a year 2 class and has experience of the Cornerstones curriculum which we have recently adopted.

**Mrs Holliday** continues to make progress in her recovery. She is very grateful for the flowers and warm wishes from the parents.

**Sophie Tier, SENDCo** starts with us after half term. Her working hours will be Monday to Thursday. She has been able to meet a few parents informally already, which has been great. I know you will all make her feel very welcome.

### Midday Supervisors

Thank you to all of those parents that have offered their time to help during lunch service. We still have been unable to recruit midday supervisors so we have changed our approach. We have decided to add hours onto the MDS role to include reading support throughout the school. If you are interested in combining MDS work with helping children read please contact Jo Sheldon.

### Leadership

I will be absent from school for approximately 3 weeks from the 9th November due to planned surgery on my leg. Mrs Bettles will be Acting Headteacher for the duration. The Governors, with assistance from the Local Authority, have arranged Leadership support during this time. Mrs Tier, SENDCo and Mrs Stock, Family Support worker will continue to be a contact for day to day matters.



### Messages from the office:

**Parent consultations** will be held the week beginning 7th November. These will be a mix of online and in person. The appointments will be live on Gateway shortly after this newsletter comes out.

There will be a new **lunch menu** after half term– please see attached for details.

**Yr4– 6 choir** will end at 4.15 pm after half term in line with other clubs

**Open classroom** will be from 3pm on Tuesday 1st Nov. for all classes except Y4 & Y6. On Wednesday 2nd Nov. its for Y6, then it will be for Y4 on Thursday 3rd Nov. You are welcome to come in from 3pm to see your child's work.

### PSA Fundraising

There is a really easy way that you can donate money to the PSA without costing you a penny and it only takes a few minutes to set up. By using AmazonSmile when you do your shopping on Amazon you can easily raise money for our school. AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. This may not sound like much but if we all used AmazonSmile then it would make a huge difference to our fundraising.

All you need to do to start raising funds for Bishops Down PSA is the following:

**JOIN** - Click [here](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) (or go to smile.amazon.co.uk) and choose to support **Bishops Down Primary School Parent Staff Association**.

**SHOP** - Shop on AmazonSmile to your heart's content.

**RAISE** - A donation will be made to Bishops Down PSA, at no extra cost to yourself.

Thanks so much. We always appreciate your support for the PSA and our school.