

BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

19th January 2024

Last week it felt as if winter had really arrived. This week we are in for a change, with daytime highs forecast to reach 15C in places, almost unimaginable after the recent cold conditions. However this milder weather won't leave us basking in warm sunshine! Please ensure that your child has a raincoat with them in school each day this week.

X-International Hockey Players Coach at Bishops Down



Sisters Frances Houslop and Christina Houslop-Duffy are taking our school's hockey lessons to the next level!

Christina, who has 3 sons at Bishops Down, volunteered to coach alongside her sister upon hearing that we were covering hockey in PE lessons this year.

Having volunteered to coach year 5 last term, they are now coaching year 6.

Both sisters have played at Junior International levels, competing across Europe and the Home Countries as well as flying the flag for their clubs domestically, playing against other top flight teams fighting for Champions League titles.

Frances went on to travel the world playing for England Seniors and Great Britain, winning a Commonwealth silver medal, training for the Olympics, competing in the World Cup, Champions Trophy and much more.

Both coaches are passionate about sport and the important role it can play in the lives of children; helping develop positive communication skills, team work, resilience and physical and mental fitness. They are thrilled at the opportunity to encourage as many children as possible to play hockey and to share the wealth of their experience to the pupils of Bishops Down.

Francis and Christina have also managed to secure discounted hockey sticks from one of their old sponsors for our school. We are very grateful for this wonderful opportunity. Thank you.



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KEY DATES

6th Feb: Safer Internet Day

9th Feb: PSA event—Wear what you love day

12th—16th Feb—Half Term

7th March—World Book Day

11h—15th March—Science Week

19th March: Year 4 Class Trip

LEARNING LEGENDS

At Bishops Down, we love to celebrate success. Every Friday, each teacher selects a child from their class to be their Learning Legend! This means that they have demonstrated one of our school values through their learning that week. Well done to all our learning legends!

Friday 19th January

Freddie

Benji

Henry S

Teddy

Charlie

Quin



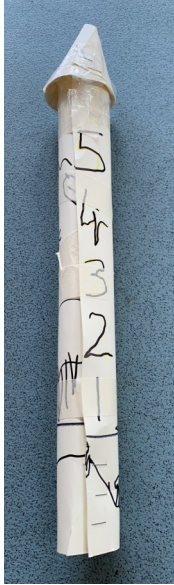
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Learning spotlight

Nursery children have this week continued their marvellous machines topic, looking at different machines in the air. They have looked at rockets, helicopters, and airplanes. They created rockets at the beginning of the week and we made airplanes towards the end of the week using junk modelling materials.



West End Star

One of our parents, Muzz Khan, is in a cast of 7 actors in a comedy/farce called THE UNFRIEND. It's written by Doctor Who's Steven Moffat and directed by Mark Gatiss (League of Gentlemen and Sherlock). It stars Lee Mack, Sarah Alexander, Frances Barber, Muzz Khan, Nick Sampson, Maddie Holliday and Jem Matthews. The play runs until Saturday March 9th at Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, a 6 minute walk from Charing Cross train station. If any parents would like to go and see Muzz and the rest of the cast, please get in touch with him directly for cheaper tickets by emailing muzzkhanbookings@gmail.com.

A message from our new Headteacher—Laura Johnson

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It was great to meet so many of you at the Meet the Headteacher presentation last week. For those who were unable to attend, I wanted to add a quick 'hello' and introduction into today's newsletter. My name is Laura Johnson and I will be formally joining the school as the Headteacher on the 15th April. I have already started working with the senior team and the Governors at Bishops Down, and I will be working with staff across the school during the spring term. I will also meet more of the children over the next few weeks and hope to be able to join some lessons and assemblies.

I have been a Headteacher in Hertfordshire for about 4 ½ years. I've also worked as a Hertfordshire local authority KS2 writing moderator.

I am very excited to be joining Bishops Down School, which has many strengths, with a strong governing body, knowledgeable and experienced school leaders, staff who are passionate about teaching and pupils who are eager to learn. I am also looking forward to meeting you, our parents, and working with the whole school community to provide an excellent education for all the children. Thank you for the warm welcome that I received from parents last week and I look forward to meeting everyone after Easter.

Mrs Johnson



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