

BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



1st September 2022

Welcome back, I hope you have had an enjoyable and restful break.

This week the staff are busy with curriculum and assessment training, safeguarding updates and classroom preparations for the children on Monday.

Adrian Beaton, our Site Manager has been tremendously busy over the summer break– you will see improvements to the school drive and borders around the school and we have had new flooring laid in Nursery and the main school corridor. We have also upgraded the classroom computers and have had a very good clear out! Jo Sheldon has been hosting play sessions on the school site for our new reception children and the leadership team have been busy interviewing for various posts across the school. It has been a busy few weeks! The new staff we are welcoming in September are:

Sarah Archer– Year 3 teacher

Megan Skipper– Reception teacher

Louisa Jennings– part time Early Years cover teacher (T,W,Th)

Alison Johnstone– Finance Officer (M,T,W) starting the 19th September

Beth Leong– Teaching Assistant

Jess Owens–Teaching Assistant

Sophie Tier– SENDCo will be starting after October half term and we will announce her working hours nearer the time.

Sadly Sam George will be leaving us at Christmas for a new role teaching PE at a local private school; we wish him all the best in this new challenge. Fortunately he has given us plenty of notice so we have started the recruitment process.

Announcements

As you know, Mrs Woods left the school this summer for her new post with the Specialist Teaching Service, which means that Poppy the PAT dog will sadly no longer be visiting on a Friday. The good news is that we have a replacement! Griffin qualified as a Pets as Therapy dog during the summer and is from the same animal rescue centre in Ireland as Poppy, Ainmhithe Animal Rescue. He has visited Beehive a couple of times during the holiday and the children that have met him have given their seal of approval. He will visit on Fridays as Poppy did; will listen to children read and be a help to children that may need some emotional support.



This academic year we will be working closely with The Amelia Scott (Museum and Library) on our new curriculum provision. We had several planning meetings in the summer term with the education team to discuss how The Amelia can enhance our provision and as a result each class will be visiting at least three times a year. If you have been on our school website recently you will have noticed that we will be using Cornerstones, to underpin our curriculum provision. Cornerstones covers History, Geography, Science, Art & Design and Design Technology. It uses Knowledge Rich Projects (KRPs) to deliver an engaging 'diet' of skills and knowledge. We have discussed these projects with The Amelia so they can provide the hands on experiences that we know children will benefit from.

Meet the Teacher sessions

These are returning to 'in person' meetings on Wednesday 7th September 3.20pm and 3.40pm. It is an opportunity for you to hear about how the timetable will be organised and to ask any questions. If you have two children, please go to one classroom at 3.20 and then go to the second at 3.40pm. The teachers will be running the same session twice so they can meet the most parents. I'm sorry if you have three or more children with us; we will put all the information given out on the first class memo for those that can't attend.

Finally.....

We have raised £303.00 as at 29.7.22, for Hospice in the Weald. We have received this message from Just Giving.

"Thank you for raising money for **Hospice in the Weald**, your fundraising has made a real difference. When people get together who want to change things for the better, great things can happen. **Hospice in the Weald** couldn't continue their work without your support."

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 5th September and a big welcome to our new Nursery and Reception families. C Owen