

BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



May 20 2022, week 28, Term 5

Dear all

We are delighted to welcome Mariia and her son Dmytro to Bishops Down this week. They are Ukrainian refugees staying locally with the Roome family (ex BD parents, themselves!) Dmytro has already had a warm welcome to the class when he joined a PE lesson earlier in the week– language is no barrier in sport! In the next two weeks we are expecting another child into year 1 followed by her sister into our Nursery in September. We believe they are now in Romania, so hopefully not too long to go before they settle with their host family in Tunbridge Wells.



Thank you to the parent reps who have already prepared spare uniform and casual clothes for the children. Please speak to your class reps if you are able to offer support as they are in close liaison with Jo Sheldon who is coordinating their admission to school.

School Improvements

As you know since September the staff team has been working tirelessly to return the school to 'normal': catch up for pupils, restarting clubs, reviewing our curriculum for the current times and really analysing the impact of lockdowns on pupils and staff mental health. Covid knocked us all sideways and although we planned for recovery in September 2021, it hasn't been straightforward.

As part of this rebuilding, we wanted to engage external support for an objective point of view. To this end the leadership team commissioned a Safeguarding Review (January 2022), a Special Educational Needs and Disability Review (March 2022) and finally a Leadership Review (May 2022). We also invited parents to use the Parent View Ofsted Survey and Staff were given a staff survey to complete. All of these were in order for us to fully understand the state of health of the school. We wanted to be as self-reflective as possible, so we could be the best we could be for our pupils, our staff and for parents, coming out of the pandemic.

All of this external and internal scrutiny has been uncomfortable and difficult at times for the leadership team but completely necessary *and healthy*, we needed to get a full picture of the complex nature of our school. This shows a real strength of the leadership and a determination to succeed for our children.

The leadership team, including governors have reflected on *all* feedback and are confident that the school is bouncing back- the external Leadership Review last week actually stated that we 'had turned a corner'.

There is no mistake that Covid has turned our world upside and we were perhaps naïve to think that in September 2021 we could return to normal and be as we were, pre pandemic. Bouncing back has taken time, and to be frank with you we still require improvement in certain areas to get ourselves back to 'normal'.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for all the support you have given the staff during the last few months as we have readjusted to school life. You have been patient with us and have had good humour when things maybe haven't gone to plan! We are looking forward to a summer term full of activities and fun.

I really appreciate the time you have taken to complete the Ofsted survey– Parent View, the work of the class reps and especially the PSA who are creating a fantastic library space for your children. Bishops Down is a special place to work and learn and I want you to know that the staff are doing everything in their power to ensure your children have the best experience with us.

Regards, C Owen



Here is [the LINK to the May/June issue](#) of Families Kent magazine .

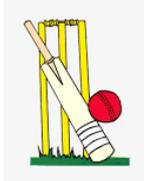


We are sad to announce that **Mr Nelson** is leaving next week. He is off to New Zealand! Lucky him! He takes our very best wishes with him.



Sports Round up

A team of year 5 girls took part in the Year 5/6 girls cricket tournament at Bells Yew Green. The girls improved with each game. They lost their first game so they practised in their break, showing determination and resilience. They lost their next game by only 1 run (232 to 231) and then went on to win the next two games. They qualified for the final, finishing 2nd place.



Our amazing year 5 girls and even some amazing year 4 girls played in the 'Road To Culverden Football Tournament' finals and were absolutely outstanding. Despite being the youngest and smallest team there by far, our team narrowly missed out on getting into the final.

We drew 0-0 in our first game against St Johns. We defended amazingly as a team.

We lost 2-0 against Slade, a very tight game and a team of year 6's.

We then drew 0-0 against Claremont, however we perhaps deserved to win in the very last moments of the game!

This put us into the 3rd /4th play offs against St Johns, which we lost 1-0.

The girls have really done the school proud, working so hard as a team no matter how hard the conditions!



Please note: There will be **no Running Club** or **Y3/4 Singing Club** taking place on Wednesday 15th June, due to staff involved in the set-up, or supervising of children, on Sports Day.



Reception Class visit the Fire Station!

Reception class had their first ever school trip and went to Tunbridge Wells Fire Station on Thursday, 12th May. They were able to try on some protective clothing, sit in the fire engine and learn about the equipment that the fire fighters use to rescue people. They also got to spray water to knock some bollards over. We have since heard from the fire station that we were the best school group they had had! Well done Reception class!

Early Years working party

Mrs Holliday would like to organise a working party day on **Saturday 11th June from 10am**, for our Early Years Area and would love parents to join her! We have great plans for necessary improvements to our outside space after a few years of not being able to do anything. If you are able to join her, there will be doughnuts and bacon butties on offer. Please sign up via the office.



We do regret that the **PSA Summer Fayre** has had to be cancelled due to lack of support. The school is however, planning a tea party for the children next week to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. We will be planting a very special apple tree, donated by the PSA, to commemorate the occasion.

