

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopdownprimary.org



21st July 2010

Dear Parents and Friends of Bishops Down,

It seems incredible that this academic year is drawing to a close. So much has happened. I want to start this newsletter by saying thank you to all of you who have supported the school this year in any way. This may have been as a volunteer in school, on the PSA, as a Governor, running a club, helping on trips, transporting children, attending events, donating money, as a parent rep. or simply by encouraging your child. I cannot emphasise enough how valuable your support is and you are very much appreciated.

Leavers – On Friday we will be saying goodbye to our Year 6 children and children moving to other schools. They will be missed greatly by all of us here at Bishops Down. We wish them every success in their new schools. Also, we say goodbye to Lorraine Smith our Assistant Headteacher and Steve Wellstead our teaching assistant as they move on to other jobs in education. We wish them both well.

Governors - I am writing to inform you that our chair of governors, Nick Powell, will be stepping down from this position from September 2010. Nick has been in this role for the past seven years and has seen through many changes at the school. Due to work commitments and increasing pressures on his own time, Nick has decided to reduce his role with the school. He is not leaving the Governing Body completely though, Nick will stay on as Vice Chair to assist his successor.

I am delighted to be able to inform you that our new Chair of Governors will be Lynne Russell who has a long association with the school. Lynne is the mother of Kyle Russell who will be in Year 6 in September. Lynne is also an experienced governor and I look forward to working closely with her in September as we continue to develop the school. We wish them both all the best.

Pond Development - You may have noticed that the pond is now taking shape. This is thanks to the whole of year 5 spending a day digging, cutting and pruning! A special thanks to the adults who also helped, including Mrs Baker, Mrs Applegate, Hannah Stock, Mrs Orr, Mrs West, Joanne Clement and Mrs Allworthy. A big thanks to the Applegate and Russell family who joined me on Saturday to get the pond liners in and the pond filled. Already many insects are stopping off for a quick drink! Finally a big thank you to Pete the caretaker for all his hard work! Well done year 5 for making this project a success. We look forward to the Autumn when the pond will be more established. *Mrs Clement. (Well done to Mrs Clement for her determination and enthusiasm for this project).*

Swimming - After a prolonged period of consultation, negotiation and discussion with parents, coaches, other schools, bus companies and swimming pools, I can confirm that from September children in Years 1 to Year 6 will receive swimming coaching at St John's for a period of up to 13 weeks during the year. Arrangements for this long term are of course dependent on the voluntary contributions that parents make, but we will write to confirm which year groups are swimming in which term. This has been possible as we have been able to secure a Tuesday morning slot in addition to our current Monday one. We look forward to further awards at the swimming gala next Spring.

Building works – The building works have finally begun in earnest and good progress is being made. The crane will be lifting the classroom modules on Tuesday 3rd August. Unfortunately the company have asked that adults and children do not come onto school premises. However, a good view should be possible from Hurst Woods or Rydal Close. Things should start happening from about 10.00am.

Strictly Cool Dancing and Year 6 Production – Congratulations to all the children who took part in both of these performances. The dancers took the competition by storm in Tonbridge last Friday. It was a proud moment for all. Thank you so much to Nicky Wheeler, Helen Lawton and Sinead Roberts who have worked so hard for many weeks. Well done to Year 6 for scaring us all with tales of vampires this week. What a way to end the year! Well done to Mr Tutt for his creative thinking and musical prowess and to all the staff who have helped.

...and finally, I wish you a very enjoyable holiday. Please keep safe and return your children refreshed, nit free and ready for action in September.

Dan Turvey – Headteacher

Term Dates- (One more Inset day has yet to be arranged)

TERM 1

INSET DAY

WED 1ST SEPT, THURS 2ND SEPT, & FRI 3RD SEPT 2010

Start: Monday 6th September 2010 (Nursery children start Tuesday 7th September)

Finish: Friday 22nd October 2010

Holiday: Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October 2010

TERM 2

Start: Monday 1st November 2010

Finish: Friday 17th December 2010

Holiday: Monday 20th December 2010 – Monday 3rd January 2011

TERM 3

INSET DAY

TUES 4TH JAN 2011

Start: Wednesday 5th January 2011

Finish: Friday 18th February 2011

Holiday: Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February 2011

TERM 4

Start: Monday 28th February 2011

Finish: Friday 8th April 2011

Holiday: Monday 11th April– Monday 25th April 2011

TERM 5

INSET DAY

TUES 26TH APRIL 2011

BANK HOLIDAY MON 2ND MAY

Start: Wednesday 27th April 2011

Finish: Friday 27th May 2011

Holiday: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2011

TERM 6

Start: Monday 6th June 2011

Finish: Friday 22nd July 2011

Holiday: Monday 25th July – Wednesday 31st August 2011