



BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

22nd May 2015 Summer Term 5

www.bishopsdownprimary.org/

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I can't believe we are at half term already! My first few weeks have flown by. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some of my initial impressions and explain some of my future plans for the school.

Quality of Teaching– it is imperative that we have the best quality teachers for our children so this term I have been reviewing teachers' planning and I have been scrutinising the children's books for effective marking. We have recruited two new teachers for September and I am reviewing the Teaching and Learning Policy of the school as well. Teachers are our greatest resource and we have some very talented ones here!

Ethos– the inclusive, creative, positive ethos of the school is great and that is something I am keen to nurture and develop. It creates such a strong foundation to build from.



Leadership and Governance– it is a pleasure to work with such committed and forward thinking Governors. They are very supportive of the school and I feel that they know the strengths and weaknesses of the school well.

Pride in our School– I am working hard to inject some pride in the school. I want the children to be proud to wear their Bishops Down uniform and to respect each other and the school environment. The Gardening club have done an amazing job in the front of the school, with Adrian's help, and we are entering Tunbridge Wells in Bloom this year.

Relationship with parents. Everyone I have met on the gate in the mornings has been so warm and welcoming; it is a great community here. I am keen to improve reporting to parents so this year reports will be later than usual. We are using a new software tool which will help us deliver much more information on your child's progress than ever before. This is taking a while to embed, however it will be ready for me to present to you in June and your child's report will be ready near the end of July. I know parent reps have reported that you are keen for me to improve the consistency of homework and that is on my *to do* list!

Community– I am concerned about the school's relationship with it's closest neighbours. On a weekly basis I have to respond to angry residents over inconsiderate parking. I would much rather be spending my time with your children. I have been in contact with the police and they will be sending a **parking reinforcement camera** to Rydal Drive and Coniston Avenue over the next few weeks.

Finally– your children are amazing! They are busy trying to teach me all of their names, they have made a sign for my office door, they are teaching me to sign and above all, they are a delight to work with. I am thrilled to be working in such a school!

Have a super half term, see you in Term 6.

C Owen



Key Dates

Term 6 starts. 11+ online registration opens	1st June
3.15 Maple parents to meet Mrs Alkureishi	2nd June
Beech Class Assembly	3rd June
3.15 Beech Parents to meet Mrs Roberts	4th June
Teatime Music Concert	10th June
Information Evening for Parents on Reports 7pm	11th June





Staff news

I am delighted to say that Kelly Kyte has announced her pregnancy and will start her maternity leave in the Autumn term. We wish her well.



On a sadder note Abigail Clarke, teacher in Maple class will be leaving us this half term as she has decided to take a break from teaching. Mrs Alkureishi (Deputy Head) will be taking the class for the majority of the time for the rest of the Summer term. Mrs Pain, who knows Year 6 well, will be taking Oak for the rest of the year.

There will be no Striking and Fielding Clubs on Wed 10th and Thursday 11th June as Mrs Tizzard is away with Year 6 on their residential trip.



Meeting new Teachers

For parents of Maple class children there will be an opportunity to meet Mrs Alkureishi after school on Tuesday 2nd June in the classroom.

Some parents from Beech class have not met Mrs Roberts so you are welcome to pop in to the classroom after school on Thursday 4th June.

WAC



If you need to contact Kate Smith during the day about an after school session *that day* please use the office email or phone number as she is unable to check her emails during class time.

If it is a query about the next day or week use her email as she can answer them after her TA working hours.



YEAR 3 INVENTORS EXHIBITION



On the 14th of May 2015 three children went to Rusthall Library; Leo, Maddie and Sebastian. The first story to be read out was Leo's called 'Lawrence and the magical pixies'. Next was Maddie's called 'Are they coming home tonight?' Unfortunately, they were both runners-up for their category against several different schools, but they had fun and did well to come in the top three. Sebastian read his out next which was called 'The men who didn't come back' but also came runner-up for his category which was for 10 to 11 year olds so he was up against year sixes. We won books like 'This book is not good for you' by Pseudonymous Bosch. We would like to say thank you to Mrs Spoor and Mrs Wilson who came along and supported us the whole way.

Jane Clement SENCO/Assistant Headteacher has sadly announced her resignation this week. Jane has worked tirelessly for the children at Bishops Down over many years.



She will be missed by pupils, parents, staff and Governors.

We wish Jane all the best with whatever the future holds.