



23rd May 2008

Dear Parents and Friends of Bishops Down,

Week 31 Newsletter

Jamie's Fun Day on Saturday was a huge success. Thank you so much to everyone involved in organising and supporting it. The weather was pretty awful but it didn't stop the fun or competitive spirit; well done staff who beat the parents in the netball match, an excellent game I'm sure you all agree. Special thanks to Angela Applegate for leading the organisation of the day.

Consultations

Please note that ***Year 1 to 5*** consultations are on the following dates;

Monday	30.6.08	3.30-6pm
Wednesday	2.7.08	5.30-7.30pm

Y5 Parents – Important Notice re Secondary Transfer

We have been informed today that 11+ testing will move to September from **this year**. Please see information below.

SECONDARY ADMISSION SCHEME FOR 2009

We received a decision from the Secretary of State at 12pm today advising what Secondary School Admission arrangements will apply for 2009. This is an imposed Scheme, which is binding on all Kent's schools and academies.

As initially proposed after consultation by the Kent County Council Cabinet, Kent grammar school testing will move to September. In order to be able to administer this change, parents will be required to pre-register to sit the test. Registration opens on 2nd June 2008 and will close on 11 July 2008.

A full version of the imposed scheme (including all the dates for the tests) can be found at http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/Children/admintrans_determinations09_sec.cfm

We have today sent by first class post the following publicity materials to all primary schools - a poster for display in a prominent area within the school and flyers to be given to all Year 5 pupils/parents. In addition now we have confirmation from the Secretary of State, registration forms and information relating to registration for the Kent 11+ Test have gone to print. This material will be in schools by 2nd June for distribution to parents.

These will also be available on our website www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions from Tuesday 27 May 2008 and parents can also be directed to this site for further information.

Scott Bagshaw
Head of Admissions and Transport

I will be contacting you in the week we return to discuss this issue further and support this new transfer process.

School lunches – September 2008

We have managed to keep the cost of school meals at £1.75 for almost 2 years now. However, due to continually increasing food and staffing costs we will have to increase this amount to cover these charges from September to £1.85. This still compares favourably to County's price of lunches at £1.90 and also considering the quality of the food. You are very welcome to come and see for yourself and have lunch next term. Please contact the office. For those parents who are unaware, children can ask for smaller or larger portions at the hatch. There is always plenty of choice and food.

Chess Club

Congratulations to Daniel, Oscar and Arran who took part last Sunday in the mega final of the British Land Chess Challenge 2008. They each won 3 out of 6 matches they played, and they had great fun.

Congratulations to Freddie who is the school's overall tournament winner.

Litter

We have been contacted by one of the residents in Rydal Drive regarding an increase in sweet and chocolate wrappers which are being dropped in his front garden. Please can you ensure that any rubbish is taken home? Thank you.

From the PSA

"Second Hand School Uniform"

If you have any clean school uniform in good condition which you are willing to donate for sale at the school fair (June 7th), could you please hand it in to the school office. We are particularly in need of uniform for children 8 years and upwards.

The PSA would like to receive donations as soon as possible to allow time for sorting. Thank you to everyone who has already donated school uniform."

Striking and Fielding Club on Mondays 3.15-4.15pm

The Striking and Fielding Club has been extended to include children from Y1 to Y6. This means that all children from Y3-Y6 who were already doing this still have a place, and all those who applied for the extra spaces by completing the letter sent out on 8th May are able to join starting Monday 2nd June. For your information if you are not sure whether your child applied or not, there will be a list in the office. The club is now full.

Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Douglas	Rosie
Year 1	Eloise	Lewis
Year 2	Trent	Miriam
Year 3	Jake	Kerensa
Year 4	Billy	Harry
Year 5	Regan	Thomas
Year 6	Ed	Emma

Wishing you a very happy and relaxing break next week. We look forward to seeing the children return on Monday 2nd June.

There are still a few places for our Holiday Playscheme next week.

Tel: mobile 07845 161792 to make a booking. Lots of exciting activities planned.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Savage