

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopdownprimary.org



23rd September 2011

Dear Parents,

Turning Circle

This is a gentle reminder to park considerately if you are dropping off or collecting children. Please do not park in the turning circle (the area of road at the bottom of the school drive), on the pavement or blocking access to local residents. Since the start of term we have had a number of incidents including congestion and anti social behaviour. As a result we have been monitoring the road and I have also informed our local police. I am pleased that our local community support officers have been in attendance this week.

The best advice is to avoid parking on Rydal Drive and walk from further away. Remember, in the mornings you can arrange for children to join a walking bus, even if it is just the last part of the journey along Coniston Avenue and Rydal Drive. Please contact the school office for further information or Mrs Ruff (Y6 parent) or Mrs Aves (Y1 and Y2 parent).

Chickens

Yr 6 got to look after the latest addition to the school, the chickens. The three chickens, which are brown and white are very brave chickens considering they have spent two days here and are settling in well at school. They are very quiet and are very soft we are having lots of fun looking after them and are very lucky to have them.



We are having a competition to see which class can come up with the best three names. We've saved the chickens from going to a battery farm

and are working hard to give them a happier life. One of them went up the ramp and all of them have gone outside.

Jasmine and Jake, Oak Class

Phonics

We are writing to you to inform you of some exciting changes to the way we teach phonics at Bishops Down. Phonics is how we read and put together sounds to make words. It has a big impact on children's reading and writing and so we have been working hard to find a way to ensure that all children are moving on and making progress in their phonics. The teachers have been combining all the best elements of different phonics programmes to develop our own programme at Bishops Down.

We will be teaching phonics at the same time each day for 15-20 minutes. The children will be taught their phonics by a teacher who has expertise in that child's phonic phase, giving them the best possible teaching input. This means that your child's phonics teacher may not be their class teacher.

The emphasis will be on short, quick activities to get the children tuning in to different sounds and letter shapes. We will be doing large and small group activities within our phase groups, giving the children time to consolidate and practise what they have learnt with the teacher. We are trialing our phonics programme this term and will review it at October half term. A leaflet detailing how you can support your child with their phonics will be sent out shortly.

We look forward to helping the children develop great phonic knowledge and confidence right through the school.

Regards,

Dan Turvey