Bishops Down Primary School

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2
23rd November 2018
Newsletter no 7

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I start this week's newsletter with the sad news that Debbie Wilson (class teacher) will not be returning to Bishops Down after her maternity leave. It is a loss to the school and we wish we could have found a way of retaining her talents for a little longer! Debbie has had a huge impact on all children at Bishops Down throughout her time with us and we wish her all the best in her teaching career in the future. I am pleased to announce to Redwood parents, that Mrs K Owen and Mrs Tizzard have both agreed to continue to teach the class until the end of the academic year; I thank them for their flexibility and commitment to the class.

Club cancellations

Now that we are heading into the winter term the weather is sure to get worse. If we have to cancel an after school club we endeavour to let parents know by lunchtime in order that parents receive enough notice. Clubs that are indoors or on the field should run unless there is heavy rain. Clubs on the playground may be cancelled with lighter rain and frost that make the playground unsafe for large group ball games.

If a club is cancelled the member of staff leading the club will still be available to supervise the children for the full hour if a parent is unable to collect. Occasionally the weather has brightened up and the club has continued without another notice being sent. We suggest that parents have back up childcare arrangements for any clubs held on the playground.

Children in Need

A massive congratulations to Redwood class and Mrs Kyte for their efforts in helping raise over £600 towards Children in Need. Starlings Performing Arts group added to this over the weekend bringing the total to a whopping **£627.87**. Thank you to everyone who donated. If you have any further Children in Need donations, please bring them to the office as the cheque will be sent later this week. Thank you to Mrs Refet for coming and helping to marshal the fun run. The winners for crazy hair were Miss Manley (staff) , Lily in Maple and Matthew in Beech. The winners for the fun run were Noah in Apple, Rupert in Maple and Ella in Larch.

Thank you to **Tunbridge Wells Harriers!**
The school was delighted to receive a cheque for £500 from Tunbridge Wells Harriers last week. This is in recognition of our help over the last few years at the Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon, where members of our Running Club and their parents man the first water station on the course. We will ensure the payment is put to good use at school.
We will be looking for water station volunteers again next year, so please put the date of the Half Marathon in your diary (Sunday 17 February 2019) and consider volunteering.

We are always looking for helpers for our regular Wednesday morning Running Club sessions, so please contact sarahbarker.mrs@gmail.com if you'd like to join us. Dads especially welcome!

This week we have seen an outbreak of head lice across the school. Please can you ensure you check your child's hair on a weekly basis and treat accordingly. For advice on treatments please go to: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/

SENCO Office

Drop-ins for Term 2

Ellen Stock

(Family Support Worker)

Wednesday 28th Nov 9-11 am

Michelle Woods (SENCO)

Wednesday 28th Nov 1-3pm

No appointment necessary- just pop in!

The United Nations have been observing People with Disabilities Day since 1992 and this year's theme is 'empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'. The children at school will be participating in lots of activities in class to find out about a range of disabilities and to learn about how we can support others.

Guy Bass- Author

Visited the school last week and spoke to KS2 children about his books. It was very entertaining!

Christmas Around the World KS2

We are getting really excited as the Christmas season is approaching. Just a little reminder that if you would be willing to donate any nut free mince pies that would be amazing. Also if you have any kitchen roll tubes, jam jars and battery operated tea lights that we could borrow it would be much appreciated. Please make sure anything that you would like returned is clearly named.

Many thanks

Mrs Kyte and Mrs Silburn

ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Over the last week I have received photos of inconsiderate parking– see below. Our neighbours are becoming increasingly frustrated at drivers ignoring the white lines on the road. It is road safety week so the children will be helping me spread the message to parents about safe and considerate parking. Our neighbours in Rydal Drive have now requested that a Traffic Warden makes regular visits at peak times.

Saturday 24th November is the PSA Christmas Fair, please respect the parking restrictions around the school, even at the weekend and park considerately. Do not block driveways and do not bump up on the verge on the opposite side of parked cars along Rydal Drive as this restricts access for emergency vehicles.

Sports News

Boccia

Two teams attended the Boccia qualifying round. It was a great day with some outstanding play. All players contributed to our overall score. Players of the tournament were Mina and Edward. Well done to the whole team, Aidan, Devon, Morgan, Lakisha, Mina and Edward. The following children have qualified for the final in Canterbury, Mina, Edward, Devon and Aidan.

Basketball

Our team took part in the basketball tournament on Thursday 15th. It was a fantastic event. Our team won all of their group games progressing to the knock out stages as leader of their group. We came up against a traditionally strong St James team. Our team played amazingly ending in a 12-12 draw leading to 2 minutes extra time. Again it was a very even match with both sides scoring baskets. Alana (star shooter) lined up for the final basket unfortunately the whistle blew before she could take the shot resulting in the final result 4-2 to St James. St James went on to win the whole competition which proves how amazing we were and how close we were to the trophy!

It was such an exciting competition with every team member making a difference on the court. Some highlights were Alana's star shooting, Freddie's long shots, Zechariahs defence and Teddy dribbling up the whole court and scoring. Well done Edward Parish, Teddy, Zechariah, Freddie, Aaron, William B, Phoebe, Ella, Alana, Scarlet.

We would like to thank Martin Ralph for his support and team management

Football Scores this week: Bishops Down A 1, Langton Green A 1, & Bishops Down B 3, Langton Green B 1. Well Done!

Next Headteacher drop in surgery <u>Thursday 29th November</u> 2.00pm-3.00pm. No appointment necessary.

From the School office:

A reminder for parents in Nursery, and Y3-6 to book and pay for your child's Christmas lunch by Wednesday 5th December.

Also, for parents of children in Reception to Y2, please let the office know if your child will NOT be eating a school Christmas lunch on this day, but bringing in a packed lunch from home (as there will not be any pasta or jacket potatoes).

Finally, please can parents return the completed/amended Data Collection Sheets and attached forms which they were either given at consultations, or have had sent home since then. These need to be back at school as soon as possible please.

Many thanks, Admin team

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The term leading up to Christmas is always exciting and exhausting for everyone involved and particularly so for those taking part in the Christmas Fair, Carol Service, Christmas performances etc. The Year 6 trip to the Imperial War Museum in December will undoubtedly be a fantastic experience as part of their learning and we were all highly impressed with the work and contributions made for the Remembrance activities from WW1.

It has been a busy second half of the autumn term with Governors implementing the 2018/19 Governor Action Plan - this details responsibility for individual governors with regard to links with Key Stage 1 and 2, our SEND Governor, Early Years, Resources and Safeguarding and incorporates all aspects of strategic planning and financial management. Governors have also been allocated specific roles linking to parents and community work, and in the coming months you will see and hear more from them as they build links between Bishops Down and the local community. The pressures on staff workload and finances continues unabated and Governors are very conscious of the challenges facing us all at the present time.

We have been delighted to welcome two new parent governors - Dr John Burke and Mr Will Palmer, who attended their first meeting in October. We also welcome Debs Holliday as the Staff Governor, taking over from Ellen Stock. They will all be undertaking their Governor Induction training in early December. We sadly said goodbye to Harriett Agard who had to give up her role as Governor due to family commitments. David Adams will be succeeding as SEND governor later in 2019 and will be attending training for this specialist role in the new year.

I attended the Governor Annual conference in early November which looked at Teacher Workload and Safeguarding and this information is cascaded to all governors on the Board for information.

If anyone is interested in the role of becoming a Governor at Bishops Down, please do let me know - there is nothing stopping a parent becoming a co-opted governor and we are always keen to hear from anyone who may be considering supporting the school in this vital role.

Data training will be taking place in late November - it is part of our role as Governors that we understand, challenge and interrogate the information provided by the school for every level including academic attainment and individual development. This helps us to analyse how the children are catered for across the spectrum throughout their time at the school. Like parents, this data information can sometimes be highly confusing when you don't work in education, and it is crucial therefore that we have a clear understanding of what the figures are telling us.

It was a delight to see so many potential children come along to the New Parent Days earlier this month and the children did a fantastic job as guides, showing the parents round and answering all types of questions.

Governors are hoping to man the bottle tombola at the Christmas Fair so do come along and say hello.

We look forward to seeing parents and children at the upcoming festive events.

Kate Merrin
Chair of Governors