



Bishops Down Primary School

Spring Term 4 Newsletter No 13
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Dear Parents and Guardians

I would like to start this newsletter by introducing a new school policy. **'Tell us First'** is a new initiative that aims to improve communication with parents and will help the school deal with any parental queries swiftly and effectively. Recently some parental concerns have been shared on social media or class email before the school has been made aware and been given the chance to respond or investigate. Once issues are shared widely they can take on a life of their own with exaggeration, rumour and conjecture playing a large part. This then proves extremely difficult for the school to untangle and ultimately resolve. If you have any concerns or questions please **'Tell us First'** so we can talk face to face and respond quickly. General issues can still be passed through your class rep but personal matters or concerns for example behaviour matters, academic attainment, queries about teaching must come to us first. Putting concerns on social media will jeopardise your chances of a successful resolution if a concern becomes a complaint as stated in our Parent Behaviour Policy and our Complaints Policy (appendix E). Please **'Tell us First'** - *we are here to help!*

We have a strict **NO NUTS** policy in school as we have children and staff with nut allergies. These types of allergy, as we all know, can prove fatal. Please double check the contents of cereal bars if you are including them in your child's packed lunch.

A reminder that mid morning snacks should be **fruit and vegetables** only for KS2. KS1 have fruit and vegetables provided.

Thank you to Mrs Cowell for organising a great Science week. Here is one of the favourite experiments.

This week we have launched the annual parent questionnaire. We really welcome your feedback as it enables us to plan future improvements. See previous parentmail for the link.

Date for the diary: Parent 'Book Look' drop in will be 18th April 8.30am until 9.00am.

Annual PSA Easter Egg Hunt for the whole school Wednesday 28th March.

Please ensure that lost property is checked and lunch boxes are removed from school next week as anything left over Easter will either be recycled or thrown away. **Have a lovely Easter break.**



Bishops Down Easter Play Scheme



Tuesday 3rd April until Friday 13th April for 3-11 year olds
Full Session 8am-6pm £30
AM session 8am-1pm £15
PM session 1pm- 6pm £15

Clara



Children will need to bring a packed lunch, snacks and drinks for morning and afternoon breaks. Please contact WAC@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk or the school office if you are interested.

Fly the Flag

On Monday 12th March, years 5 and 6 representatives from School Council went on a trip to the Town Hall to celebrate Fly the Flag for the Commonwealth. Councillor Julia Soyke, the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells lead the ceremony. The Commonwealth is an international association consisting of the UK together with 53 sovereign states that were previously part of the British Empire. Every year the Commonwealth flag is raised and Elliot, our School Council Chairperson, raised it this year with six other representatives from other schools. We were lucky enough to be able to ask the Mayor some questions, and have our photo taken with her, which is now on Facebook and Twitter. We really enjoyed the day and learned a lot, and are very grateful for Mrs Magee and Mrs Parks for organising the trip and for taking us there.



Mason Mile– this Sunday
25th March at Tunbridge
Wells Boys Grammar School.

Registration will be via Event Brite on the Mason Mile website or on the day adjacent to the 3G pitch. Trainers or spikes are recommended for the course. Mrs Tizzard hopes to see some of you there!

Sports Day

Wednesday 27th June
KS2 AM
Nursery, Reception &
KS1 PM

Clubs

The following clubs **finished** this week as they were only running for or until Term 4:

Infant Football, This Girl Can, Change for Life and KS1 Art Club group 2. Tag rugby will run for one more week (on 28th March) to enable the teams to be selected for the tournament after Easter.

The following clubs will be **starting** after half term and will be running for Term 5 only, i.e. until May Half Term:

Y5/6 Athletics on Mondays, and Y3/4 Athletics on Wednesdays.

KS1 Art Club group 3 will start Wednesday 25th April until 11th July – please ensure you have paid the fees by 25th April on ParentPay, thank you.

KS1 Choir will start Wednesday 25th April until 11th July NB all school run clubs start the week commencing 23rd April.

Forest School finishes for Y4 Sycamore on 29th March – the whole class will be going out in the morning on this day, and then dressing up (if they wish) for the fantastic finish after lunch. After half term Y2 Apple class will be doing Forest School on Tuesdays, and Y6 Oak class will be doing this on Thursdays, please see the separate information already sent out to parents.

The Junior Netball league played at SKA over the winter has now finished. Year 5 & 6 children participated in the league with some great results. As yet we haven't had the final positions in the league. All girls and boys played with enthusiasm and determination and never gave up even on the rainy, snowy cold evenings. We were proud of all the team players and the commitment made to all their matches each week. This means that Netball club will now finish for YR6 and after Easter we will be opening netball club up to YR4. Well Done to everyone who played and to all the parents who supported the teams each week.
Mrs Gebbie & Mrs Gilham



Welcome to our new Digital Leaders, Edie, Eliot, Tom, Stefan, Henry, Millie & Jack! The Digital Leaders have already been busy discussing how we can become more involved in supporting the children with Online Safety. The group have come up with lots of great ideas.

The PSA needs support!

You will have seen from Paulina Wookey's letter that the PSA is very likely to fold at the end of this academic year as no one at the AGM held his week, stood for the positions of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

The PSA plays a vital part in supporting our curriculum, purchasing outside play equipment and enhancing our IT provision.

For the past year Empiribox Science has been heavily supported by the PSA and I am sure that you have all heard from your children how inspirational and exciting it is. The ipads that were purchased two years ago are in constant use. The school and your children need the funds from the PSA to provide the 'extras' that make Bishops Down a great place for our children.

This year the school was hoping that the PSA could help to renew our playground fencing. I have included pictures below of sports walls and new mesh fencing that is needed to improve the playground facilities for all children. We have quotes for approximately £30K to remove old fencing and to replace with sports walls and new mesh fencing. The school budget can possibly cover half of this amount and we are hopeful that the PSA could fund the shortfall.

Please consider volunteering for the PSA, it would be devastating for the children to lose the Christmas Fair, Spring Fair and all the other great events the PSA run for us.



From the PSA :Dinner Dance at High Rocks on Saturday 19th May! Please hand your reply slips to the office as soon as possible! Thank you

Road and Car Park safety

This week I have spoken with two parents who have been very concerned about road safety and careless driving in the school car park.

The road crossing point that is causing issues is the bend in Rydal Drive on the junction of Kendall park. There have been a few near misses recently with children crossing the road. Please remind children to take particular care at this point as driver visibility is impaired.

Secondly, may I remind everyone that the staff car park is for staff and Blue Badge holders only. It may be used for Breakfast Club and Afterschool club parents but only with extreme care. We have more near misses at Breakfast club drop off time than at any other time.