



24th April 2009

Dear Parents and Friends of Bishops Down,

Week 28 Newsletter

Welcome back, particularly to parents new to our school. What a stunning week we have had in terms of weather and learning. I have had the great privilege of observing lessons in the past few weeks and enjoying a range of investigations, role plays and creative experiences. I have been impressed by the level of enjoyment, challenge and discussion going on in all classes. Well done to both staff and children!

Lorraine Smith - Many of you know that Lorraine, our SENCO (Special Needs Co-ordinator) has been off school since the end of February. She has had some issues with her sight and had a range of tests to indentify the problem. It is unclear when she will return. In the meantime, if you have any queries about your child, please speak to your class teacher in the first instance. Of course, I am always available to answer any questions you may have.

Uniform - Many of you will be aware that the parent representatives have been canvassing views about the current school uniform. As a result, a number of you have queried whether they should buy only certain colours of dresses or polo shirt. **No changes** have been made to the current school uniform. There have been a range of views and opinions, none compelling enough at this stage to make changes. A formal consultation will take place in future, but this should not effect any current purchasing you make.

Summer Health

Now that we are enjoying the sunshine at long last (and I hope by writing this I will not frighten the sun away) just a few reminders of how you can help children remain safe and well during the summer months at school.

Water Bottles - Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle to school every day so they have easy access to water throughout the day.

Sunscreen - Unfortunately, we cannot apply sun cream to all the children so please can you ensure that you have applied it to them before your child comes to school. Many high factor sunscreens are available and even some that only need applying once a day. Arrangements are being made separately with After School Club to ensure that children's skin remains protected when they play outside after school.

Sunhats - Sunhats are available from the school office to provide protection from the sun. Please make sure sunhats are clearly named.

Hayfever - The hayfever season has begun and your child may be experiencing symptoms already, particularly if they are allergic to tree pollen. There are a number of birch trees in the grounds and these are known to be a trigger.

Please consult your GP and/or a pharmacist for advice regarding the most appropriate treatment. Eye drops and antihistamine medicines are readily available without prescription and most will last throughout the day so can be given at home.

If you have any particular concerns please feel free to contact me via email: schoolnurse@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk or at school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Helen Lawton, School Nurse

Assemblies - This term we have made some changes to the way that we deliver our daily assemblies. We have decided to change the day of class assembly to a Thursday morning at 9.15am. We hope that this will allow those of you who need to get off to work the chance to do so earlier. It will also allow classes to use the full 15 minutes to feedback to the school community about their learning. I must stress that this assembly is not intended to be a performance, instead an opportunity for us all to enjoy and share learning that has taken place. The change of day also allows us more flexibility on our celebration assembly on a Friday to provide more opportunities to musicians and children with other talents to share what they have been doing. The dates for this term are as follows.

Thursday 7 th May	Year 6
Thursday 14 th May	Year 1
Thursday 21 st May	Year 2
Thursday 4 th June	Reception
Thursday 11 th June	Year 4
Thursday 18 th June	Year 3
Thursday 25 th June	Year 5

Additional Diary Dates

30 th April	3.30-5.30pm	Parent Consultations for children in Reception
6 th May	6.30-9pm	Swimming Gala at St John's for Year children.
7 th May	5-7.30pm	Parent Consultations for children in Reception.
13 th May	7-8pm	Secondary Information Evening for Year 5 parents.
20 th May	7.30	PSA Meeting
11 th June		Secondary Transition meetings for parents in Y5
23 rd June	5.30-7.30pm	Consultations for parents in Years 1 to Year 6
24 th June	PM	Parent consultations for parents in Nursery, Y1 & Y2
25 th June	PM	Parent consultations for parents in Y3, Y4 & Y6
14 th July	6.30pm	Provisional date for Y6 production
15 th July	6.30pm	Provisional date for Y6 production

Clubs

Summer Games - This club commences on Monday 11th May due to Mrs. Tizzard's other commitments. All children who have expressed an interest in Summer Games (Y1-Y6) will receive a further permission letter shortly.

Athletics - This club commences on Wednesday 13th May. Priority will be given to KS2 children who expressed an interest in joining Athletics, but if there are spaces then it

will be opened up to KS1 children as well. A further permission form will be sent out shortly.

Garden Clubs - In order for children who are on the waiting lists for these clubs to start gardening, due to changes in circumstances we now need **three** volunteers to help run the clubs. One volunteer is needed for KS1 Garden Club on Tuesdays (3.15-4pm), and two volunteers are needed to run KS2 Garden Club on Wednesdays (3.15 - 4pm) alongside Eco-Green Club. If you are interested in helping, and have a current CRB from school, please contact the office.

TW Tigers Inline Hockey Club - The Tigers are an inline hockey club set up to teach local children the sport. It's rather like ice hockey but played on inline skates and played in sports halls or on purpose-built rinks. We welcome both beginners and experienced skaters and have teams for players aged seven to seniors (so you can bring your parents!). We have a second-hand kit shop to help keep costs to a minimum. We train on Tuesdays - 6.15 to 8pm - at the High School, off Pembury Road. You are welcome to come along for two free taster sessions to try it out and for these, kit will be provided. We also run a roller disco at the High School on alternate Saturdays from 4.30 to 6pm - all welcome. Cost is £3.50 per person and there are skates for hire.

For more details or to book a session, please contact us at <twtigersihc@hotmail.co.uk> or ring 01892 535439.

Information from Mrs Goedkoop (Y4 parent)

PSA News - The Sponsored Bounce raised £1001.00, and the sale of second hand uniform on Tuesday this week produced a further £120 profit. Many thanks for all your support.

PSA

Head Teacher Awards

Reception	Ishbel	Matthew
Year 1	Freddie	Ryan
Year 2	Christian	Daniel
Year 3	Freya	Jake
Year 4	Will	Milly
Year 5	Arran	Tom
Year 6	George	Tanya

Next week will be the last of our weekly newsletters. After this we will be sending home a bi-weekly letter. We hope that this will reduce the amount of letters you receive, the administrative burden on the school office, and make the newsletter more useful to you in future.

Regards

Dan Turvey