

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopsdownprimary.org



26th March 2010

Dear Parents and Friends of Bishops Down

Newsletter No. 17

Children in Years one to six will be bringing their annual reports home with them today. Please share and discuss these with your children. We would appreciate a return of the acknowledgement slip by the end of next week, even if it is just a signature to confirm receipt.

A letter from Tunbridge Wells Headteachers

'Dear Parents

*The Primary Council of Headteachers in the Tunbridge Wells Local Children's Services Partnership would welcome your thoughts on the impending issue of **Year 6 SATs**. The Headteachers' union (NAHT) and National Union of Teachers are balloting members, and seeking support for an end to testing in Year 6.*

We cannot pre-judge the results of the ballots, but would wish to offer the following information. If the ballots are in favour of industrial action, union members would be advised not to administer the tests. This should not be confused with strike action as children would still be taught during the week designated for testing. However, each of us will remain free to make our own decisions about how we respond to the ballots.

*We believe that high stakes testing like SATs inevitably leads to 'teaching to the test.' Considerable evidence suggests that SATs narrow the curriculum at the end of Primary school. All of us have detailed systems of pupil assessment using the same criteria and levels as SATs. It would not be difficult for us to use this **teacher assessment** to provide you, the Local Authority, secondary schools, Government and Ofsted with pupils' attainment levels at the end of Year 6, as we do in Year 2.*

Without SATs, parents would get exactly the same information that they do now from us. It might be a bit fairer and more considered than one off test results. OfStEd and the Local Authority scrutinise our judgements of individual pupil progress intensively, so you can be assured that this approach has rigour.

As a group we are eager to understand the views of all our stakeholders, parents and governors, and to work together in the best interests of all the children in the town. We would be grateful if you would share your views via your child's Headteacher.

*Primary Council of Heads
Tunbridge Wells LCSP'*

Nursery Survey

Parent Representatives will be handing out surveys for those of you with small toddlers regarding our Nursery provision. Children already in the Nursery will receive this too. If you do not receive a survey, please let the Nursery know. This will give us an indication about parent preferences for Nursery provision in September. Please ensure that these are completed and returned by Friday 23rd April.

Lunch Menus

Lunch menus are coming home in book bags today. Please can these be completed and returned to school by Tuesday 30th March to have accurate records before the end of term of those children requiring lunches after the holiday. Lunch menus will be available to view on the school website in the next few days.

A message from First Class Football

Easter Football Fun - Healthy, exciting, fun and safe child care this Holiday!

Mornings will focus on learning new techniques and skills with the afternoons devoted to World Cup themed Tournaments!

Crowborough, Larkfield, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells

Please visit www.firstclassfootball.com for dates, times, venues & prices or call Ben on 07740 703397

Scooters

There are still a number of children, particularly younger ones, who are using their scooters in the school grounds. This is particularly dangerous when children use their scooters up and down the path by the drive. Please can you ensure that your child does not use their scooter until they are through the school gate and on Rydal Drive. Many thanks.

Reminders

Year 3's assembly is on Wednesday 31st March at 9.10am. All Year 3 parents are welcome.

The PSA Sponsored Bounce and Easter egg hunt will take place next Thursday 1st April.

The last day of term is also on Thursday and the children return on Tuesday 20th April.

Nursery children return on Wednesday 21st April.

Regards,

Dan Turvey