

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopsdownprimary.org



26th October 2012
Dear Parents,

BUG HOTEL SUCCESS! - Green team's bug hotel was a huge success because we entered the Tunbridge Wells in Bloom school's competition and we came first out of six schools. We got a glamorous trophy and many more vegetables and bulbs to grow in our patch as well as a shiny Gold Award certificate. We are really pleased with our school and our bug hotel and the effort that all classes and Mr. Beaton, our caretaker, put into creating the different layers of the bug hotel. We were lucky enough to go to Salomons to receive the award from the Mayor and also we got to eat lots of cake!
By Toby Dray & Alfred Rule

Year 5 Drop In sessions - Mrs. Pain has changed her drop-in day from Tuesdays to Mondays with effect from Monday 5th November. The time remains the same, 3.15pm to 4pm.

Clubs - Please read carefully for the changes in Term 2

Indoor Athletics has now finished.

MultiSkills Sports starts on Wednesday 7th November for those children who have places.

KS2 Art will be moving to Y5 classroom from 6th November.

Senior Football practice will now take place on **WEDNESDAYS from 3.15-4.45pm** instead of Thursday lunchtimes as Mr. Beaton would like the boys to have more time to practice.

Y6 Drama Club starts on Friday 9th November in the hall for those children who have places.

mSPOTi Football will continue on Thursdays in Term 2 and a separate letter will be sent out by them inviting parents to sign their child up for the next term.

A new Basketball Club for Y3-Y6 will be starting for Term 2 only on Mondays after school with effect from 12th November. Please see the separate letter which will be sent out to the appropriate year groups.

Please check with Karen in the office if you are unsure if your child is due to start a club in Term 2.

WOW Challenge Day - As part of the Walk On Wednesday scheme, there will be a Challenge Day in mid-November where the number of children walking in each class is compared to other classes in other schools across the region. If successful, there is a prize for each child, and a prize for the school.

Road Safety Training - There will be Road Safety training during November for those children who are using the walking buses.

Children in Need

It is nearly time for Children In Need day, a charity that as a school we support.

Oak and Redwood classes are putting together a selection of fun activities for the whole school to participate on Friday 16th November so that every child will have the opportunity to join in the fun!

We are requesting the following donations:

Non uniform (wear something spotty!) - 50p

Break time cake - 50p

Activity - 50p.

It would be really helpful if you could send your child to school with the correct money to avoid the issue of losing change on the way home!

We do hope that you will support this very worthwhile charity.

Regards,

Mrs. Spoor & Mrs. Pain.



Lost Property

There are a number of non-uniform items in the Lost Property box. Please have a look if your child has mislaid any of the following: hair accessories, action figure toys, drink bottles, snack box, clear plastic rucksack, baby blanket, and others. These will all be disposed of at the end of the first week back to school if they have not been claimed. There are also four pairs of glasses, and five watches in the office to be collected. Any un-named items of school uniform will be handed to the PSA for resale after the 9th

November. Please let the office know if you have seen a navy waterproof jacket age 9-10yrs with a fleece lining and green cuffs made by 'Joules' which is named and has gone missing. Thank you.

Nursery gate - A reminder please that only parents from Nursery should be using the gate at the end of the car park, and that parents must supervise pupils until 8.45. All other parents who need to, including Reception parents, should be using the big metal gate by the pond to go into the playground to drop off and collect their children.

Operation Christmas Child - We are supporting the charity The Samaritan's Purse again for 2012 by making Christmas shoeboxes for children around the world who would benefit from a special gift at Christmas. Please support us to try and raise over 160 shoeboxes (our total in 2011). You will find a leaflet in your child's book bag with the instructions and what you need to put in the shoebox. The shoeboxes are being collected on the 15th November so please have your shoebox in school by Wednesday 14th November so we can count the total.

Many thanks for your support,
Olive Class.

Christmas Lunch - Christmas Lunch this year is on Thursday 20th December. If your child would like a Christmas lunch and does NOT normally eat school dinners, please ensure you do complete and return a School lunches Calendar Form for them indicating they will be eating Christmas lunch. These have been sent out in book bags this week to all children, and they can be printed from the school website or ask for a copy from the office. There will be no jacket potatoes or pasta available on this day. Please can you ensure your order for Christmas Lunch is received by us by 30th November. We will assume your child will be eating the main Turkey option if having a school Christmas lunch, unless the office is informed that they would prefer the vegetarian meal. Please pay for Christmas lunch in advance using ParentPay.

From the PSA - Calling all crafty parents!! We would like to expand our offerings at our fabulous Bishops Down Christmas Fair on Saturday 1st December so if anyone would like a stall to sell their wares then please get in touch! A stall will cost £15 and we ask you to bring your own table wherever possible. If you are interested then please contact Anita on anitabryant@talktalk.net for more information or an application form.

Governors Report

With the building works now complete, we would like to thank the staff for all their hard work over the summer to get the new rooms ready in time for the school year. Special thanks to our Site Manager Mr Beaton for all the extra hours he put in on this project.

Following a recent change in legislation, there have been some changes to the constitution of the Governing Body. This year, Lynne Russell continues as Chair of Governors, and Stuart McTavish has been elected as Vice-chair. The remaining 11 Governors are representatives from parents, staff, the Local Authority and the Community. Angela Applegate has now completed her four-year term as Parent Governor, so there is now a vacancy for a new Parent Governor. More details on how to apply have been distributed this week on Parentmail, and we look forward to welcoming a new member soon. Angela remains on the governing body as she has been co-opted by the governors for a further four years. As well as sitting on one of three key committees (Standards, Strategy and Resources), all Governors work in Partnership with Staff linked to specific subject teams. As Governors we visit the school to discuss with teachers their plans for those subjects throughout the course of the year, and to assure ourselves that the school development plan is being fully implemented.

In addition to being linked to specific subjects, Gilly Shankland is the Governor responsible for Children with Additional Needs, and also Children in Care. Lynne Russell is responsible for Child Protection issues. As we welcomed our 60 pupil intake for the third time this year, you will no doubt be aware of the uncertainty for future expansion. The Local Authority had made the decision to revert to an intake of 30 with effect from September 2013; however, following a complaint, the Schools Adjudicator over-ruled this decision in the summer. We have been advised by KCC that they do not plan to dispute this ruling, and will be applying for the necessary planning consent to provide an additional classroom. We are waiting to hear if this planning application is approved but in the meantime, please do be assured that Staff and Governors take their responsibility to existing pupils seriously and remain focused on their needs.

Dates for your Diaries

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| 6 th November | | British Legion Assembly and the start of the Y6 Poppy Appeal |
| 7 th November | 2pm | Prospective Parents visit |
| | 7.30pm | PSA Committee meeting |
| 8 th November | 9am | Parent Reps meeting |
| 9 th November | 3.15pm | Beech and Bonsai Cake Sale |
| 19 th November | | Road Safety Week |
| 27 th November | 9.30am | Prospective Parents visit |
| 1 st December | 2pm-4.30pm | PSA Christmas Fair |
| 3 rd December | 6.30pm | Full Governors Meeting |
| 4 th December | 2pm | Prospective Parents visit |
| 12 th December | 9.30am | KS1 Production |
| | 7.30pm | PSA Committee meeting |
| 13 th December | 9.30am | KS1 Production |
| 14 th December | 2.30pm | KS1 Production |
| 20 th December | | Christmas Lunch |
| 21 st December | | End of Term 2 |
| 7 th January | | INSET day |
| 8 th January | | Start of Term 3 for all children except Nursery |
| 9 th January | | Nursery children start |
| 11 th January | 9am | Parent Reps meeting |

Regards,

Daniel T Turvey

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