



30<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Dear Parents and Friends of Bishops Down,  
**Week 19 Newsletter**

In a bid to try and reduce the number of letters going home, we are aiming to include more information in the weekly newsletter, so apologies in advance if suddenly this becomes too long!

**Music Lessons**

We are trying to find out what further demand there is amongst you for music lessons for your children. Presently we are able to offer piano, 'cello and violin lessons through the Kent Music School, and guitar lessons through SCAMPS. In addition, we are now providing curriculum keyboard sessions to Year 3 in partnership with Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and hope to build on this by providing drum and ocarina lessons to classes in Key Stage 2. If you are interested in accessing further lessons, please let the office know by returning the form below by next Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Obviously the school will look at your requirements and investigate any further lessons where possible.

Also, in November, 'SCAMPS' came to the school and gave a presentation to the pupils promoting guitar lessons. Sadly, only 2 children were signed up and another 2 are needed to make this viable. Please include this on the form if you are interested.

**Late in School**

Please note that if your child is late to school they must be signed in via the office in the morning in order to ensure that accurate records of children on site are kept. Children should not be brought into school after 9.00am via the playground gate. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

**Emergency Contact**

In order that we can offer quick guidance in the event of an emergency, or should there be a need to pass information on quickly, we are able to offer this via text messaging using the 'Parentmail' system. To take advantage of this, please complete the attached form. You may, if you wish, also sign up for the electronic newsletter at the same time if you are not already registered.

**Reading Buddies**

Year 5 have enjoyed their first week in Reception class as reading buddies. Every week 4 people from year 5 go to Reception class and we read with the children. It's great fun talking and discussing books with them and we have made new friends – also they're really cute!

**Amber and Arran, Year 5**

What do you think of the Year 5 readers?  
Alfred – It's nice because I know some of them already from breakfast club.

Jamie – I'd be sad if they weren't here.

Jack – We like Year 5 because they read to us

Euan – I like it because they read all of the story 'til the end.



***PSA News- A Note from Nikki Wheeler***

The PSA are pleased to confirm that the Quiz Night made a profit of £913.54. Thank you to everyone who supported the event. The monies raised by the PSA will continue to purchase items from the school's wish list.

***Walking Home***

We have always encouraged Year 6 children to walk home on their own if given permission by their parents. However, we have discouraged children younger than this from doing so. Recently some younger children have been seen walking home on their own. If you wish to discuss your particular circumstances please see me.

***Sever Weather Conditions***

Heavy snow is expected on Monday. The school will stay open if at all possible. KCC advice is:

*'Parents and carers have the responsibility of getting children/pupils to and from school safely and need to decide if the journey is safe when severe weather affects transport and/or walking conditions. Parents/carers should inform schools if their child is absent due to severe conditions making the journey unsafe. If your child has a disability and/or learning difficulty your decision to take the journey must take this into consideration. **Please consider carefully and only keep children at home if conditions are unsafe.***

*On occasions, schools will need to close and a message will go out on Local Radio if the decision is made before 7.00am. Local Radio information is given out on BBC Radio Kent, Invicta FM and KMFM. If on the rare occasion school closes at a time within the school day, parents/carers will be informed by telephone.*

*Late opening and/or early closure is a possibility in poor weather conditions and schools will either inform parents the night before or via the Local Radio.*

*If conditions worsen in the school day and parents feel it is absolutely necessary to collect children, the school should if possible be contacted prior to collection. **Please avoid collecting children before the end of the day unless you feel their safety is at risk.***

Should school have to close we will endeavour to send a text message via ParentMail as early as possible. Otherwise, please check local radio for advice.

Kind regards,

Dan Turvey

**Music Lessons**

Child's Name: ..... Class .....

I am interested in music lessons for .....  
(Please state instrument)

Signed: ..... Date: .....

✂.....  
**Parent Mail®.**

I would like to sign up for the electronic letters service and give permission for my email address to be registered with Parent Mail®.

Parents Name/s...../.....

Children/s Name(s) ..... Class.....  
..... Class.....

My email address/es ..... (Insert email address/es)\*

I would like to sign up for the emergency text service and give permission for my mobile number to be registered with Parent Mail®.

Mobile telephone numbers..... /.....\*

Signature..... Date.....

\*Additional email address and/or mobile numbers can be written overleaf if required.