

BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



BISHOPS DOWN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

May 6 2022, week 27, Term 5

Naming Uniform

We have very helpful lost property monitors in year 6 who work each lunchtime giving back named property to the right class. However, so many items are not named and have to go into the lost property box. Please name all clothes, especially jumpers and cardigans, as these get left on the playground at this time of year due to the better weather. Your child's initials don't work – sorry – surname is best. Please do keep a check on the lost property box under the parent shelter as this is emptied each term, and items disposed of as we do not have space to keep lost property. See attached flyer for information from Price and Buckland, our uniform supplier for orders for next year.

Nursery Admission

Please contact Jo Sheldon in the front office if you require a nursery place for September. If your child is currently in our Nursery and will be staying on in September then please get in touch with Jo to confirm sessions and/or increase or swap so she knows what to offer out to new children starting.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We are marking the Queen's Jubilee during the week of 23rd May in school, classes will do activities and have whole school learning. On Friday, 27th May we shall be holding a tea party for all the children and also shall be planting a commemorative apple tree from the PSA. We will be in touch with your Class Reps with more information soon.



School Admissions – Ukrainian Hosted Families

I thought you would like to know that we are working closely with all Tunbridge Wells schools to ensure that displaced Ukrainian children, moving into our area with hosted families, are given school places as quickly as possible. We do have to follow KCC Fair Access admission's guidance and any children sitting on waiting lists will not be disadvantaged. So far we have been approached by 4 host families looking for school places and, although we have not been able to offer due to our classes being full in the year groups they are asking for, we are signposting and helping with information of other schools in town. Jo Sheldon, our Admissions Officer, is happy to help any host families with information and how the system works. Please, if you know of any host families that need assistance, do give them our school number and ask them to talk to Jo.



School House News

Hopefully your Parent Reps have reported to you that we have revamped our school house system. We were acutely aware that post pandemic we needed to rebuild our cross-school links, as classes had been isolated in bubbles, and we were missing the much needed interaction between year groups.

This week has seen our first house meeting with Reception all the way up to Year 6 coming together under our new house names **Coniston** (Yellow), **Thirlmere** (Green), **Rydal** (Red) and **Derwent** (Blue). During these meetings the Year 6's campaigned to become House Captain, before the houses voted for their winner. The results are as follows;

Coniston - HC Oliver and Deputy HC Alice

Thirlmere - HC Tom and Deputy HC Lily

Rydal - HC Will and Deputy HC Evie

Derwent - HC James and Deputy HC Riley Y

Mrs Owen has kindly bought each of the children a house badge which we hope will arrive next week. Replacement badges can be bought at a cost of 65p each.

Healthy eating reminder - KS1 and Reception children are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable each day from the national scheme. In other years groups, we ask parents to adhere to the same guidance providing a piece of fruit or vegetable.

Summer Fayre News, Price and Buckland Information and Eco News attachments can be found with this newsletter

Staff news

Sadly but unsurprisingly, Mrs Gale has decided not to return to Bishops Down after the birth of her second child, Magnus. We wish her well with her new part time role in a school much closer to her home. She has sent this message:

"I'd like to say a huge thank you to the Bishops Down community - staff and families - for a tremendous two years. It's been eventful and tumultuous thanks to the pandemic but I couldn't have asked for a better place to work during such a tricky time. I'm very grateful to all the parents with whom I've been able to work with in partnership, my Early Years team who have been able to move towards our vision despite the challenges presented to us and the wider staff team for always rallying to support each other. I will be very sad to say goodbye to Bishops Down but will be working part time a little closer to home whilst my own children are little. Thank you again and don't forget to look after the fairies outside Garden House for me"

Charlotte Manley (Teaching assistant) will leaving on 17th May for a different role. We wish her well in her new challenge.



Staffing in this summer term continues to be very challenging due to illness. We are trying our best to ensure continuity for our children, however there are days when there are last minute unavoidable changes and agency staff need to be used. Please bear with us and ask if you are unsure of anything that is happening in school. We are hear to help and listen to concerns.

Our successful Year 5/6 girls have their finals day at Culverden stadium on Monday!
We wish them the best of luck!
A huge achievement to get to this stage!



Help needed!

In Early Years we are required to cover the importance of oral health and teeth brushing and would appreciate some help with this. If there are any parents who are **dentists, hygienists or dental nurses** that can spare an hour or two to speak to our youngest children please let Mrs Holliday know.



Parent volunteers to hear children read. Thank you to those volunteers already in school. We still need more readers in school. If you have any availability during the week please let the office know.

Midday Help

We are still looking for a Midday Meals Supervisor. If you have any spare time between the hours of 11.40am and 1.30pm and would like to volunteer or apply for the role, please speak to the office. Thank you.

