

Bishops Down Primary School News

www.bishopsdownprimary.org



6th September 2013

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school whether you are an 'old hand' or have joined the school this term. I trust that you have all enjoyed the beautiful weather and had a really good chance to relax with your children.

New staff - This term we welcome our new teachers; Mrs Birmingham (Y5), Mrs Pierce (Y3), Mr Wyke (Y1), Mrs Cheeseman (Y1) and Mrs Dugan (Y6). They are all excited about the year ahead and have been working hard in preparation.

Update on buildings - Despite a very challenging timetable, we are delighted that our new Year 4 classroom was completed on time. Significant changes have been made to the Junior part of the school which will have long term benefits, these include a toilet refit (new design, basins, toilets, hand-driers, flooring, windows, ceilings and toilet partitions). New ceilings have been added throughout the corridor, new carpets laid and walls redecorated. Please feel free to pop in after school with your child if you wish to have a look.

Walking to school - Do you need to drive all the way to school?

You will understand the drawbacks that being at the end of a cul-de-sac brings which include lack of space to park or turn cars around, large numbers of buggies and young children on the pavement. In addition, since September 2010 we have an additional 120 children coming to school. As a result we regularly have complaints from both neighbours and parents about incidents that occur. The message that I wish to convey in the strongest possible terms is to avoid parking on Rydal Drive and surrounding roads including Coniston Avenue. Please park further away and walk the rest of the journey. Leaving home 5 minutes earlier in the morning, parking the car and walking the last 200m will benefit everyone. Alternatively get involved with the walking bus, which you can join at the starting point or midway. You can even park further away from school and wait for a walking bus at either end of Coniston Avenue, just contact Karen in the office to arrange this.

2 Form Entry Proposals - Earlier in the summer draft plans for the proposed increase to permanent two form entry were made available on our website. These were quickly withdrawn as some of the details on the plans were incorrect. I apologise for any confusion caused. Plans are being re-drafted by KCC and when a planning application is submitted you will be notified and will be able to respond accordingly. We hope that this is sooner rather than later in order to plan ahead.

Pond - You will have noticed the sorry state of our pond area. We are keen to rectify this and make this a useful tool for our Science curriculum. We have some ideas as to how to improve the area, but do not have anyone on the staff with the time to pursue this. Are any of you skilled in the care of ponds who would be willing to assist? We need someone to manage the transformation of the pond area (with help) and then maintain it longer term. If this does interest you please contact me in the first instance. Thank you.

Meet the Teacher Meetings - These are all scheduled for Monday 9th September. Each teacher will hold 2 sessions commencing at 3.20pm and 4pm in classrooms. We would appreciate it if parents could seek childcare for toddlers. The hall will be made available for parents to mind children during these sessions. Parents should ensure that they have made an arrangement for another parent to supervise their children in the hall beforehand.

Website - Please keep an eye out for our new website that will be launched very soon. We hope that it will be more user friendly for everyone.

Dates for your Diaries

Wed 11 th Sept	11+ Tests
Thurs 12 th Sept	11+ Tests
Fri 13 th Sept	Year 1 trip to Painshill Park
Thurs 19 th Sept	Reception children stay full time
Mon 23 rd Sept	Year 3 Mulberry start swimming sessions
Tues 24 th Sept	Year 5 Redwood start swimming sessions
Wed 2 nd Oct	Year 3 and Year 4 visit to Museum of Kent Life
Mon 7 th Oct	Full Governing Body meeting
Tues 8 th Oct	Parent Consultations for Year 6 only, 5.30-8.30pm
Wed 9 th Oct	Year 5 and Year 6 visit to Museum of Kent Life
Thurs 10 th Oct	Prospective Parents visit 9.30am
Thurs 10 th Oct	Parent Consultations for Year 6 only, 3.30-6.30pm
17 th Oct to 22 nd Oct	Travelling Book Fair opens 8.15-8.45am and again at 3.15-3.45pm
Tues 22 nd Oct	Prospective Parents visit 2.30pm
Tues 22 nd Oct	Parent Consultations for Y1-Y5 from 3.30-6pm
Wed 23 rd Oct	Parent Consultations for Y1-Y5 from 5-8pm

Parent Reps - We are looking for volunteers to come forward to be Parent Reps for all classes except Chestnut, Sycamore and Bonsai. Please give this some thought and let the office know if you would like to be involved. The Parent Reps meet approximately once a term and the purpose of the meetings is to give Parent Reps a direct line to me to raise queries which parents have. Also I can bounce ideas off the reps, get feedback from them, and discuss ideas. Parents should still raise specific queries they have directly with teachers.

ECO-VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!

- Care about the environment?
- Passion for eco – issues?
- Want to make a difference?

We are looking for someone who can spare some time each half term to help run an Eco Committee and support different activities at Bishops Down School starting in September 2013. The eco-committee would be made up from:

- Representatives from each from each class
- A parent/ guardian/school governor

Older pupils and members of Eco Warriors would take a lead in any issues or activities that we decided to launch throughout the school but we need YOUR help to organise and help chair the meetings and help put ideas into action as well as build links and awareness with parents and the community.

We would welcome any amount of time that you could give during school hours and we would make sure that any meetings and activities were able to fit around the time you could give to us.

So if you can spare 1 hour a term OR 1 hour a week, we'd LOVE to hear from you!

Also – if you think you can offer any other help with eco-related issues such as recycling, composting, gardening or would like to contribute to helping us become a better Eco-School, please contact us as soon as possible! We look forward to hearing from you! Mrs Sarah Pain & Mrs Tara Bell

spain@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk or tbell@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk

Lost Property – The Lost Property box is situated outside Year 6 classroom under the Parent waiting area. A vast amount of **unnamed** uniform was taken out of this box during the holidays and either given to the PSA for their second-hand stall, or the non-uniform items given to a charity shop. **Please ensure your child's uniform is clearly marked**, and keep checking throughout the year as biro fades with washing. If an item is found in school and is named it will be returned to the child's class if known, or placed in the lost property box for you to retrieve. Once you have looked in the box, please remember to replace the lid tightly so the rain does not get in and make everything inside wet!

PSA Cake sales

The PSA will be holding cake sales again throughout the school year. They ask that parents of children in the selected classes provide cakes on the morning of the sale please. The list of dates and classes is below.

Years 4, 5 & 6 (Sycamore, Redwood and Oak) - Friday 20th September 2013

Year 3 (Mulberry & Maple) - Friday 22nd November 2013

Year 2 (Apple & Olive) - Friday 24th January 2014

Year 1 (Bonsai and Beech) - Friday 14th March 2014

Reception (Chestnut and Willow) - Friday 9th May 2014

Nursery (Acorn) - Friday 21st June 2014

Clubs – The letter about after school activities will be out in the next week. This will be sent home in book bags. Please read it carefully as there will be lots of information in it.

Reminders about attendance

- What happens if my child is late?

Registration finishes at 9.05 in the morning and 1.35 in the afternoon. If your child arrives after 9.05am or 1.35pm he/she will be marked as absent. Pupils who arrive after 9.00am should report to the school office and parents should sign their child in the late book. Excessive unauthorised "lates" will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer (EWO).

- Does the School need letters explaining my child's absence or will a phone call do?

We would expect a parent to telephone the school on the first day of absence, and each day after that unless we have been told the child will be off for a prolonged period. If you do not phone us, we will contact you by mid-morning. This is because we believe it is our responsibility to ensure your child's safety as well as their regular school attendance.

Regards,

Daniel T Tunney

2013/2014 Year

INSET DAYS TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2013, MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2014, FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2014, TUESDAY 22ND APRIL 2014, MONDAY 2ND JUNE 2014

TERM 1

INSET DAY TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2013

Start: Wednesday 4th September 2013
Thursday 5th September 2013 for Nursery children
Finish: Friday 25th October 2013
Holiday Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November 2013

TERM 2

Start: Monday 4th November 2013
Finish: Friday 20th December 2013
Holiday Monday 23rd December 2013– Friday 3rd January 2014

TERM 3

INSET DAY MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2014 AND FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2014

Start: Tuesday 7th January 2014
Wednesday 8th January 2014 for Nursery children
Finish: Thursday 13th February 2014
Holiday Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2014

TERM 4

Start: Monday 24th February 2014
Finish: Friday 4th April 2014
Holiday Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April 2014

TERM 5

INSET DAY TUESDAY 22ND APRIL 2014

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 5TH MAY 2014

Start: Wednesday 23rd April 2014
Thursday 24th April 2014 for Nursery children
Finish: Friday 23rd May 2014
Holiday Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May 2014

TERM 6

INSET DAY MONDAY 2ND JUNE 2014

Start: Tuesday 3rd June 2014
Finish: Wednesday 23rd July 2014
Holiday Thursday 24th July – Wednesday 3rd September 2014