

# BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



8th October week 6, Term 1

Dear Parents,

It was really good to speak to parent reps today. Sadly, we were still on Teams but hope to meet in person in term 2. We covered many issues across the school including quality of lunches, reading books and current Covid guidance. Parent reps will be sent the minutes so they can pass the relevant points on to you.

One general theme that came up this morning was the gradual re opening of the school. I explained that we were still being cautious as staff sickness levels were high and we did not want an outbreak among pupils that would lead to the re-introduction of bubbles or class closure. So far we are doing relatively well regarding children's health but staff are struggling with illness. Our plan is to continue to open up gradually to parents for consultations, open classrooms and clubs etc. as the Autumn term progresses. Thank you to the reps for their time this morning.

Reminder to parents to book **ONLINE consultations** next week

Nursery & Years 1, 3, 4, 5, 6: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October & Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 3.30-6.30pm

Year 2: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 3.30-6.30, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 5.00-6.30 and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 3.30-5.00pm

These will be the last consultations to be fully online. For the next round we will provide a choice of online or in person.

## Open classrooms

This is an opportunity for you to see your child's classroom and talk to them about their learning in class. The year 1 open classroom today was a success. Please can we ask that only one parent attends and face masks are strongly advised. 30 parents and 30 children in a class will be a squeeze so staff may ask you to take turns looking at books outside with your child or may suggest that you visit some of the outside classroom space, if it is getting too cramped and warm in the classroom. Thank you for your understanding.

Year 2 Thursday 21st October at 3pm

Year 3 Friday 15th October at 3pm

Year 4 Monday 18th October 3pm

Year 5 Tuesday 19th October at 3pm

Year 6 to be announced once the cases of Covid reduce in the class.



## Times Tables Rock Stars

Miss Mackie has created a short 'How-to' guide for Times Tables Rock Stars (for year 2 and above), please watch here, <https://youtu.be/xsWPavU35F8>

If you have any further questions please contact your class teacher.



## Mayor's Toy Appeal

As Christmas approaches we understand the stress this can put on families who are struggling financially and the difficulties you may have in buying presents for your children. The Mayor's Toy Appeal is here to help in these situations and can supply gifts for children in order to ease the pressure on families.

If you feel you are in this situation and would like support please contact Ellen Stock, [estock@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk](mailto:estock@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk) our Family Support Worker and she will liaise with you in order to make a referral. Please be assured this is dealt with in a strictly confidential manner.

Please reply by Wednesday 10th November.



Nourish Warehouse

Dawn from Nourish Community Food Bank, Tunbridge Wells spoke to the children this week in our whole school assembly. She explained why food banks are necessary and how they worked.

Nourish are very low on stock at the moment. There is a wish list attached to this newsletter, however ignore the 'don't donate' list as they are current desperate for any supplies- pasta included! Please leave any donations you can make with the front office. Thank you

## Nourish school lunches

Our caterers, Nourish have recently written to us explaining that they are experiencing difficulties with supplies. This has been well documented in the press so I am sure you are aware of the reasons for this. I have asked Nourish to let us know when there is a menu change so, in turn, we can let you know, but sometimes it may be a last minute substitution on the morning.



The reps kindly pointed out that we hadn't explained that we were back to a full menu this term – apologies for that.

I am pleased to say that the help yourself salad bar and unlimited bread is now available to supplement the hot main meal. Lunches are back on plates and in the hall– no more take away boxes!

**Nourish**  
contract catering