



Bishops Down Primary School

Spring Term 3 Newsletter No 8
www.bishopsdownprimary.org/
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Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back! We have new staff joining us this term: Nia Lucas, Finance Officer, Lisa Selley-West & Naomi Wood-Lynch as TAs and Karen Owen as Redwood class teacher. Congratulations to Rebecca Hepden who has now taken up the post of Deputy Head.

We are always keen to improve communication with parents and address any parental concerns swiftly and effectively. Please be reminded that the most effective way is for parents to call or email the school office and an appointment with your class teacher will be made. Very urgent messages may be passed to the teacher on the gate in the morning. Parents are not permitted in the school building at the beginning of the day as lessons start promptly at 9.00. At the end of the day we have the allotted class drop in times, please only enter the school building on these days so we are aware of who should be on site. The playground must be vacated by parents and children by 3.25 as Wrap Around Care and various sports clubs need to use the playground. Thank you.

Reception Places for September 2018 closes on 15th January with Kent County Council. You must apply for your child direct with Kent, including if your child is a sibling. Website is: www.kent.gov.uk then follow the education and children page.

If you have any old shin pads that are still in reasonable condition please donate them to the school. We would like to keep a bag of shin pads here for the children to use when they do not have their own.

Clara

Winter Shelter Visit

On Tuesday 12th December 2017, Maureen and Julie came from the Winter Shelter to talk to us about what they do at the Shelter. Maureen is the manager of the Winter Shelter.

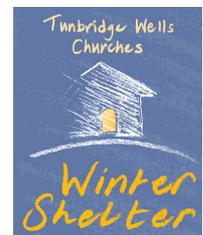
The most volunteers they've ever had is 238 over the time they open (twelve weeks from January to the middle of March) and the guests have to be out by 8am.

They let in twelve guests, they have one team leader, they have one co-ordinator, three people in the kitchen, they have three people on the evening team, three people on the morning team and one Chaplin. Some guests aren't allowed in because they have drugs or if they have been to jail for a very bad reason. Churches help out, there are eleven churches that help out. If they are ill, the shelter might take them to the doctors, dentists, hospital or a therapist.

The shelter provides their guests with dinner, a bed for the night and breakfast. They get a sandwich to take away for lunch. If they are from a different country, they will either talk to them in sign language or get someone in the team to talk to them in their own language.

The company was invented around six years ago. Around one thousand people participated. They decided to support homeless people because Jesus said to be equal to one another.

Report by Carlo, Sophie and Archie



On Wednesday 10th January the school held a **Visual Impairment Awareness Day**, to celebrate the life and work of Louis Braille. The children around the school took part in a number of different activities, including a VI PE lesson, solving braille riddles and writing their names in braille. We were also visited by some of the staff and students from the VI Centre of Oxted Secondary School. The students spoke brilliantly about what it is like to have a visual impairment and shared real-life examples of former pupil's excellent achievements such as playing for the UK VI Cricket Team and going on to read Physics at University. Anna and Charlie from Year 6 also experienced what it might be like to have a visual impairment when they were asked to copy a Lego model whilst being blindfolded. They both did so well! More photographs showing some of our VI Awareness Day activities will be coming up on the school website soon.



Sign2sing 2018

Is back at BD!

Wednesday 7th February will see Bishops Down join in with hundreds of other schools across the UK in raising signing awareness and fundraising for the charity SignHealth and the fantastic work they do.

More details to come as our Makaton Masters from Oak and Larch classes are putting together a day of signing fun!

Year 4 launched their topic - **Varjak Paw** with a great art session and the teachers had fun too!

FROM THE PSA:

Happy New Year! We would like to kick off the year with some fantastic news - the 2017 Christmas Fair made an enormous profit of £2,995.03 and our Movie Night made a profit of £221! Big thanks to the parents and staff who helped with these events; it wouldn't have been a success without your time and effort.

This year, PSA funds will be raised to provide new secure fencing around the playground.

Dates for the Diary:

Coming up in a few weeks is our annual Quiz Night, on **Saturday 27 January**. A parentmail and form will shortly go out with all the information, and as tickets always sell out early, we would ask that you get your tables together early and return the form to us as soon as possible.

The annual PSA Dinner Dance is on **Saturday 17 March** this year - venue tbc. Please put the date in your diary and information will be sent out over the next few weeks.

Thank you to everyone for your support over the academic year so far - keep it coming!

**Please note:
No KS2 Choir on the 23rd January**

