

BISHOPS DOWN PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



BISHOPS DOWN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

December 3rd ,week 12, Term 2

Important Term Date news



This week we received official news that the DfE have laid regulations to reduce the minimum number of sessions schools are required to meet in the academic year 2021/2022 and enable everyone to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen on 3 June 2022.

Therefore the number of days that teachers need to be available to work reduces from 190 (+5 INSET days) to 189 (+5 INSET days). The total school year will therefore be 194 days.

Subsequently, following a consultation, the Cabinet Member for Education has taken the decision to end the Summer term 2022 a day early so that term finishes on Thursday 21 July 2022 instead of Friday 22 July 2022. This decision relates specifically to Kent community, voluntary-controlled, community special or maintained nursery schools and is now legal and can be implemented. If the school has already allocated the 22th July as an INSET day, the governing body at the school will need to rearrange the INSET day to an alternative day

At Bishops Down Nursery and Primary School the 21st and 22nd July 2022 are both INSET days so we need to move the 22nd July INSET day. The leadership and admin teams looked at the pattern of school holidays and current INSET days throughout the rest of the academic year and after careful consideration we have decided to move it to the end of the Christmas holiday, the 4th January, therefore extending the Christmas holiday for one day for children. Children will **return January 5th 2022** from the Christmas break. The **Summer term will end on the 20th July** (as previously planned) for children and the 21st July for staff (previously the 22nd July).



Mascalls Cross country

Well done to all that took part last week.

Lucy finished 5th,
Beth 12th and Will 12th.

Christmas performances

All being well, we will have parents in school to watch the performances.

We are not allowing live streaming as some children cannot be filmed or photographed for safeguarding purposes.

There are 2 tickets listed for each family, these will be named so we can trace audience members if need be.

ONLY two adults will be permitted, and no siblings thank you; we do need to keep our school community as safe as possible especially in the run up to Christmas.



Bishops Down is a Cash Free School

Please ensure that you have Gateway set up on your phone or tablet in order to make payments. The pandemic has given us the push we have needed to make the final change to our procedures for payments, leading to greater school efficiencies. If you have difficulty in setting up or using Gateway, please speak to the school office.

Remember you can view all Recent Letters Sent Home on the School Website
<https://www.bishopsdownprimary.org/recent-letters-sent-home>



Bishops Down PSA

Christmas Fair

The Christmas fair was held outside in the playground on Saturday, 27th November and was a huge success. It featured a variety of stalls, that were set out under gazebos decorated with twinkling fairy lights. From the famous bottle and chocolate tombolas to our fantastic new Wheel of Fortune, every stall was busy and very popular. The festivities started with an amazing performance from the school choir, who sang three beautiful songs in front of a real Christmas tree. And we even had a visit from Santa Claus, who felt right at home in our wonderful winter wonderland grotto.

We are currently working out how much money we raised on the day and will let you know the total as soon as we have it. In the meantime, thank you to everyone who ventured out, despite the cold. It was lovely to see so many families at the fair. Thank you also to everyone who donated or helped in any way. We could not have held the Christmas Fair without your support and we are truly grateful.

Christmas Raffle

The Christmas raffle was drawn at midnight on Wednesday, 1st December. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket and congratulations to our winners:

Becky won Nursery's Red Christmas Hamper.
Paulina won Reception's Gold Christmas Hamper.
Mrs Miller won Year 1's Silver Christmas Hamper.
Amy won Year 2's White Christmas Hamper.
Charlotte won Year 3's Green Christmas Hamper.
Mrs Stock won Year 4's Purple Christmas Hamper.
Ruth won Year 5's Pink Christmas Hamper.
Mrs Holliday won Year 6's Blue Christmas Hamper.
Fiona won the Barrow of Booze.



So much effort goes into producing these hampers every year. And this year they really were fabulous. Thank you to everyone who donated to a Class Christmas Hamper and the Barrow of Booze and thanks to the Class Representatives for decorating the hampers beautifully.

We are thrilled to announce that this year's Class Christmas Hamper Competition winner is Year 3, with their green hamper. Congratulations to Year 3; we believe it was the wonderful pompom Christmas tree that swayed our judge.

Thank you, again, for everything that you do to help the PSA. We are very grateful for your continued support. The money raised by the PSA will go towards the refurbishing of the mobile classroom into a library, that will benefit all children at the school. Work has now begun on transforming the classroom into a wonderful library and painting is due to take place over the Christmas break.

