



Bishop Wood School

Newsletter October 2014

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Welcome back to the new school year at Bishop Wood School. We would especially like to warmly welcome all our new pupils and their families to the Bishop Wood School community. Our staff are looking forward to working with all your children to ensure they have a happy and successful time here.

Staff

We welcome two new midday supervisors to our team. Mrs Hennessey and Mrs Dancer and we wish them a long and happy association with our school. Mrs Dancer has great experience of this role having worked at Bishop Wood School as midday supervisor many years ago when her son was here.

School Building Work

As many of you will have noticed, we had some building work taking place over the summer holidays. We have had new efficient radiators fitted in all the classrooms. There have been outdoor canopies fitted to the year 6 and year 4 doors which will hopefully eventually lead to some outdoor storage for those classrooms.

School Clubs

An up to date list of all the clubs available at Bishop Wood can be viewed on the school website www.bishopwood.herts.sch.uk

Some clubs take place before school, some at lunchtime and after school. They include Cycling, Tae Kwon-do, Art, Street Dance, Gardening, Netball, Cookery, Football, Fencing, Archery, Recorders, Tennis, Gymnastics, Tag Rugby, Hockey, Choir and Dodge ball. We hope that there is something for everyone.

Bishop Wood Buddies—AGM 20th October 2014

The Bishop Wood Buddies work very hard to support the school in raising money for projects which the school budget alone would not be able to fund. The Buddies AGM is on 20th October at 8pm when the new committee will be elected. Should you wish to stand for election to one of the key roles please contact current Buddies Chair Sam Hodge, at bishopwoodbuddies@hotmail.co.uk Nomination Forms have been sent to all parents.

All parents are welcome to attend and find out how Buddies is run and to see how you can help; as well as enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles!



Open Door Policy

We very much welcome parents coming in to school to talk to class teachers at the end of the day. We would be most grateful, however if you could please try to avoid Monday after school as this is when our teachers and Mrs Hardman have their staff meeting. As part of our Safeguarding commitment we would be grateful if you could please also report to reception first so we are aware of who is in the building.

Celebrating Achievement

If your child has achieved something extra special outside of school, we would love to hear about it and share it with the whole school at our collective worship and via this newsletter. Please email Mrs Lloyd in the school office with details. admin@bishopwood.herts.sch.uk



Healthy Schools

We encourage children to bring in healthy snacks for break time to maintain their energy and attention levels until lunch. Please avoid chocolate based snacks, crisps and biscuits and remember the school is a Nut Free Zone! It is also a good idea to send your child in with a named water bottle which can be refilled during the day. Good levels of hydration aid children's concentration.



Absence from School—NEW

If your child is absent from school please call the school office on 01442 822024 before 10am. We have a new **absence line option** when you call the above number and it is working well.

There is a strong statistical link between attendance levels and children's attainment. Good attendance is vital for your child's education.

Fun Fit and Fruity Week

Week commencing 20th October is our Fun Fit and Fruity week where we will be promoting healthy living. There are lots of fun activities being organised with a Healthy Theme.

Thank you to Mrs Reeve who has worked very hard getting the week organised and a huge thank you to our parents who are coming in to school to help with various activities during the week.



School Uniform

It is lovely to see all our pupils looking so smart at the beginning of this school year. Thank you to all our parents for ensuring our pupils are so well turned out.



Please could you check that **all** items of uniform are **clearly named** so that if misplaced they can be returned to their owners quickly. There is a lost property basket in the room next to the kitchen and you are most welcome to check there at the end of the school day for missing items, although classrooms are often the best place to start! Could we remind our parents that school uniform is:

- **pale blue** polo shirt with the school logo
- **dark blue** sweatshirt/cardigan with the logo
- **grey** trousers or skirt
- socks: grey, black or white. Tights: grey
- PE shirts are **dark blue** with the logo and shorts should be **black**. School fleeces are also available.
- long hair should always be tied back. This not only prevents hair obstructing learning it also helps to prevent the spread of nits!
- hair adornments should be small and discrete
- nail varnish and jewellery are not permitted apart from small stud ear-rings, which should be removed for PE.

We endeavour to send a uniform order to our supplier once every half term. Uniform can also be ordered online from Mapac via www.mapac.com/bishopwood. or Tesco, follow the link on their website for school embroidery

Medicines/Illness

Unfortunately **medicines** can only be administered at school if prescribed by a doctor and the dose is **FOUR** times a day. Medicines must be in their original packaging and a permission form should be completed by a parent. Forms can be obtained from Mrs Sharman (First Aid) or the office. If your child is **Asthmatic** please ensure you fill in an Asthma Card for school records and ensure that your child has an asthma pump in school. Preferably named and kept in their school bag. Please also remember that if children have **sickness** or diarrhoea they must be kept off school for 48 hours after the last bout in order to help prevent the spread of infection.



Harvest Celebration 10th



Parents, friends and family are warmly invited to attend our Harvest Festival at St Peter and St Paul Church 9.15am on Friday 10th October. This year any donations will be shared between Dens and the Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Appeal. See separate letter for details. Children can bring in donations on the day and take them over to church for the Festival. Coffee / tea will be available in church after the assembly.

Registration Bags

If you have a permission slip, cheque or letter for the school office could we ask that you encourage your child to be independent and hand them in. Every morning at registration the teachers have a drawstring bag which they fill with any post for the office. Children put items in the bags and the class monitors bring them, together with the register, to the office each morning. It would be helpful if everything could be in an envelope (used/recycled ones are fine) and labelled clearly. Of course, if you have large amounts of cash you are still very welcome to pop in to the office.

Bishop Wood School—Travel Plan

We would like to outline our Travel Plan objectives:



- to encourage children to cycle or scoot to school safely
- to continue to encourage children to walk to school
- to provide road safety training in each year group
- to reduce congestion in the school vicinity.

Coffee and Communion

Parents are warmly invited to coffee and communion at St Peter and St Pauls church on the first Tuesday of the month at 9.15am



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Bishop Wood School Newsletter - continued

Bishop Wood School Grounds

We welcome parents and younger children to Bishop Wood School at the end of the school day. It is great to see our children rushing out to loved ones excited to tell them about their day at school. However, please could we ask that parents and child minders **actively supervise** younger children when waiting to collect Bishop Wood children so they do not disrupt the end of the school day for our pupils. We have stories and prayers at the end of the day and we would prefer our children to be in a calm and quiet environment. We would also like parents to ensure that younger children **do not play** on the outside equipment or enter the wildlife area. It is insured and intended for use by junior school age Bishop Wood children only.

Thank you all for your assistance.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

It was lovely to see so many parents at the recent Coffee Morning in aid of the Macmillan charity. Thank you all for your support with cakes and help on the day.

Speakers

Do you have a specialist knowledge that might be shared with our children? We would love to hear from any parents or grandparents who have a specialist knowledge or interest they might like to talk about which would enrich the curriculum for our children. Subjects such as science, local history, charity work or hobbies would be of particular relevance but we are open to other subjects. Please contact us if you might be able to offer your time, via your child's class teacher or the school email

admin@bishopwood.herts.sch.uk



Bishop Wood School Website

There is lots of useful information for parents on our school website. On the home page we keep our diary dates. There are links to school letters, photos and lots more! Do please take the time to have a look. www.bishopwood.herts.sch.uk



School Driveway

For those parents new to our school may we remind you that you must not use the school driveway at the start and end of school. Please support us in our effort to keep all our children safe and **DO NOT** use the school driveway to drop off and collect your child. We are fortunate that there is a free car park directly opposite the school and also a school crossing patrol man.



Moving on to Secondary School

The application process for secondary school places has opened and the deadline is 31st October.

Applications can be made online via www.hertsdirect.org/admissions.

Free School Meals

We would like to remind parents that if you are in receipt of certain benefits you may be eligible to claim for free school meals. The process is very easy and confidential. You can apply online at www.hertsdirect.org or via their customer service centre 030 123 4048.

You may be surprised to know that for every student who successfully claims for a free great tasting lunch, the school will also be awarded extra money from the government too.

School Choir

There are still places available to join our choir who will be performing at the Music Celebration on November 19th 2.30pm. Choir takes place this Friday at 1pm. If you have not already received your letter please pick one up from the office.





Bishop Wood School Newsletter - continued

Diary Dates This Term

8th October	Year 3 Warrior Day Trip	
10th October	Year 3/4 House Games	
	Harvest Festival 9.15am	
	Buddies Disco	
	Buddies Bags 2 School Collection	
20th October	FUN, FIT AND FRUITY WEEK	see separate letter
17th October	Year 5/6 House Games	
27th October	Half term	
3rd November	Remembrance Week	
11th November	Numeracy Evening—details to follow	
13th November	Egyptian Day Yr5	
14th November	Yr 3/4 House Games	
19th November	Music Celebration 2.30pm	
21st November	Year 5/6 House Games	
24th November	Yr 6 Work Shadowing Evening 7-9pm	
24th November	Parents Evening 4.30pm- 7pm	
26th November	Parents Evening 4.30pm—7pm	
27th November	Inset Day—school closed	
28th November	Occasional Day—school closed	
5th December	Buddies Disco	
12th December	Buddies Christmas Market	
16th December	School Christmas Lunch	
17th December	Christmas Performance—matinee and evening	
18th December	Christmas Golden Time	
19h December	End of Term	
6th January	Start of Spring Term	

Please note that the diary dates on the front page of the school website are being kept up-to-date



Term Dates 2014—2015

Autumn Half term	27th October—31st October
Inset Day	27th November
Occasional Day	28th November
End of Term	19th December
Spring 2015	
Inset Day	5th January
Term Starts	6th January
Half Term	16th February—20th February
End of Term	2nd April
Summer 2015	
Term Starts	20th April
Inset Day	7th May
Bank Holiday	4th May
Half Term	25th May—29th May
End of Term	21st July
Inset Day	22nd July

