



Bishop Wood C of E Junior School

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Mr G Stanley, Headteacher

Friday 11th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to you all! We all hope that you had a fantastic break and an enjoyable festive period. Thank you to all those families who sent in cards and chocolates in the last couple of weeks of term – it was greatly appreciated by all staff.

Cross Country Race at Wendover Junior School – 19th January

Information was recently emailed home about a cross country event taking place at Wendover Junior School on 19th January. If you would like your child to enter, please sign them up using the parent gateway. We are looking to put a strong team out and to come back with some medals!

Wellies, Field and Football!

As mentioned before Christmas, we have introduced the option of wellington boots to school so that children can enjoy our amazing facilities all year round. Wellington boots are optional and once in school can be used by the children as and when they like. This week we have seen some real benefits to this approach. It has been lovely to see children spread out and enjoying a more varied type of play. We have also seen a considerable reduction in behaviour incidents at break and lunch.

A few parents have contacted school to raise a concern that football has been banned. For the avoidance of doubt, football has not been banned at Bishop Wood School. Mr Hall and I have been looking at options and have designated an area of the field for football. This actually means that there is a football option for all children twice a day and five days a week. The space provided is larger than the MUGA. The added benefit of this is to enable other ball games and physical activity (e.g. netball, basketball, throwing and catching, skipping) to take place on the hard areas.

No decisions regarding designated play areas are final. Mr Hall and I will continue to monitor the situation and make changes as appropriate. Changes which must benefit the majority of children at the school.

Online Safety Evening

We are hosting an online safety evening on 21st January at 6.30pm. This will be an invaluable evening for all our parents so please add it to your diary. Richard Maskrey (previously the Herts eSafety Adviser) will be leading the session and will cover:

- Getting to know about the latest online threats and how to manage them.
- Understand how to keep your children as safe as possible.
- How to help children to make the right decisions.
- Find out about the best ways to monitor and control the Internet in your home.

Online safety is becoming an increasingly important issue and we would like to hope that at least one representative from each of our families would attend this information evening. You will find it invaluable.

Homework

Following the survey conducted during the Autumn term, it became clear that the majority of parents felt that we were setting too much homework and that it was having a considerable impact on family life. Teachers have spent time looking at the provision and have reduced the amount of homework being set. All children will now be set the same amount of homework with the level of difficulty varying by year group so that it is appropriately pitched. This is based on the simple concept that working for longer doesn't offer a variety of challenge. This must be achieved by setting appropriately pitched tasks. The new system is focused on the core areas of English and Maths but has an element of flexibility for teachers to include homework from other areas of the curriculum.



All children will now be set the following homework each week:

Spellings (10 minutes)

Reading (30 minutes)

Maths (20 minutes)

At the discretion of the teacher, a homework task from another subject area may be set instead of part or all of the above. This should ensure that the children receive a wide breadth of subjects.

If you have any queries about homework, please contact your child's class teacher.

School Council

A new term means a new school council. Classes will be selecting their school council members over the next week. This is a fantastic part of school life and all are welcome to put themselves forward.

GDPR

The school has continued its work on compliance with the new data protection regulations. If you have any concerns or queries regarding data protection, please email the school Data Protection Officer via DPO@bishopwood.herts.sch.uk

Celebration

This week we celebrated the following pupils in school:

3I – Cedd C and Ollie W-J

5F – Harry H and Olivia G

3B – Tom H, Dom H and Gene M

5R – Sophia P and Noah W

4H – Megan S, Emilia S and Niamh C

6C – Amber W, Caris W and Milo O

4DR – Ava M and Joseph S

6M – Tom H

Golden Broom – 3B

Outside Honours

Matilda H - Football

Class Worship Dates

Class worship dates have been set for this term. They will all start at 9.15. We look forward to welcoming you.

25th January – 6M

1st February – 6C

8th February – 5R

15th February – 5F

1st March – 4DR

8th March – 4H

15th March – 3B

22nd March – 3I

Around School

Year 3 have been busy writers this week and have been using different versions of the famous story about Rapunzel as a stimulus. They are also beginning to prepare for the visit of a fossil expert in a couple of weeks. Year 4 have also been working hard in English. They have been using Alice in Wonderland to write their own play scripts. Year 5 have been learning the famous haka in their dance lessons. They were excited to watch some excellent versions as an example. 6C have been looking at electricity and carrying out investigations using circuits and switches. 6M have also been focused on science and have created timelines of evolution.

Getting to know...Mrs Spriggs

- What made you want to work with children?
"Ever since becoming a mum to two little toddlers I've loved nurturing children. I helped in school when my kids were at Goldfield and Bishop Wood and became very involved with the PTA so am delighted to be working here and continuing to support the school."
- What was your greatest achievement at school?
"I was the only student in my year to pass the additional subject of Geology at AO Level!"

- Where is your ultimate holiday destination?
"I'd love to go to Iceland."
- Which three of your possessions would you save from a burning building?
"My family, my two cats and a small art-deco blue glass vase that belonged to my Grandmother."
- What is your typical Nando's order?
"Having only ever been to a rather grotty one in North London I don't plan to go back again!"
- What are your hobbies?
"I studied fashion at college so love all needlecrafts. I'm also a keen gardener and enjoy DIY!"
- What wouldn't you do for 1 million pounds?
"Run a marathon."
- What is your main ambition?
"To remain fit and healthy for as long as possible so that I can look after my family."
- Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?
"I founded Yarn Bomb Tring back in 2013!"

Job Opportunity

Mrs Adams has recently resigned from her role as a Midday Supervisor and we have appointed one of our Teaching Assistants, Miss Malcolm, to the position. We are also looking for a Senior Midday Supervisor to lead the group during the lunch period. If you are interested or know of anybody who is, the job information can be found here:

https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view,senior-midday-supervisor_51452.htm

Important Dates

Mon 7th January 2019	Term Starts
Tue 15th January 2019, 9:00am - 12:00pm	Dacorum Family Services – Surgery with Sam Lindars
Fri 18th January 2019, 7:00pm - 8:30pm	Buddies Disco for children
Sat 19th January 2019, 9:00am - 12:00pm	Cross Country – Wendover Junior School
Mon 21st January 2019, 6:30pm - 7:30pm	Online Safety Evening
Fri 25th January 2019, 9:15am - 9:45am	6M – Class Worship
Fri 1st February 2019, 9:15am - 9:45am	6C – Class Worship
Fri 8th February 2019, 9:15am - 9:45am	5R – Class Worship
Fri 8th February 2019	Buddies Quiz Night (adults only)
Fri 15th February 2019, 9:15am - 9:45am	5F – Class Worship
Fri 15th February 2019	End of Half Term – School closes at 3.30pm
Mon 18th February 2019 - Fri 22nd February 2019	Half Term Holiday
Mon 25th February 2019	INSET Day
Tue 26th February 2019	Back to School
Fri 1st March 2019, 9:15am - 9:45am	4DR – Class Worship
Fri 8th March 2019, 9:15am - 9:45am	4H – Class Worship
Fri 8th March 2019, 7:00pm - 8:30pm	Buddies Disco for children
Fri 15th March 2019, 9:15am - 9:45am	3B – Class Worship
Fri 22nd March 2019, 9:15am - 9:45am	3I – Class Worship
Fri 5th April 2019	End of Term – School closes at 1.30pm

For more information and to view letters about upcoming events please visit the school website

www.bishopwood.herts.sch.uk

Mr Gary Stanley