

Dear parents,

### **Staffing News**

Congratulations go to Mrs. Kenway who gave birth to a baby boy, Max Michael Kenway, who was born on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Both mother and baby are doing well.

### **School Website**

Our new school website went live on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January. We very much hope that you have had the opportunity to view it by now and that you are impressed with it. We are very proud of the new site and feel that it gives us the capacity for far greater communication between school and home. We are now waiting for a Bishop Ridley App to be developed and will contact you as soon as it is available to download to your mobile phone. If you have not yet viewed the school website, the address is <http://bishopridleyschool.org.uk/>

### **Parent Mail**

During the recent snowfall, we contacted many of our parents by Parentmail to inform them that the school would still be open. However there are still a large number of parents who are not signed up to this service. Please contact the school office for the necessary forms.

### **Personal Property**

Please ensure that any personal items brought into school are clearly named, not just uniform. Items such as lunchboxes should also be clearly labelled to avoid getting lost. There is also a large sack containing lost items in the school. The PTA will be donating this to 'Phil the Bag' if the items are unclaimed. Please feel free to come and check the sack if your child is missing any items of clothing.

### **Driving into school**

We would also like to remind parents that you should not drive into the school unless you are actually helping out in school (eg. with reading, swimming, PTA matters), collecting a child who is sick or for a pre-arranged appointment with a member of staff. In the interest of safety, parents coming in for Friday assemblies, concerts and to collect children from after-school clubs should park outside in the road.

### **Bug Club**

Bug Club, the online home reading club, has now been extended to Reception and Year One, as well as Year Two. There are plans to extend it to the Juniors during the second half of the Spring term. Just a reminder that our school login is: **phgj**. You also need Adobe Flash Player to be able to access the site. Unfortunately you cannot access Bug Club from an i-pad. Please note that the ICT suite will be open to parents of children in Reception after school every Monday from 3.15pm until 4pm for Bug Club use if parents wish to read with their children in school. This will not however be supervised by a teacher.

## **Attendance**

These were the attendance figures for January 2012:

RC	95.7%	3/4S	96.4%
RT	94.5%	3/4HM	96.1%
1S	91.7%	3/4HK	94.6%
1KT	95.7%	5/6C	95.2%
2T	93.9%	5/6T	93.0%
2C	95.4%	5/6M	95.1%

Unfortunately despite our excellent attendance last term, we have been hit by a dose of winter bugs and our attendance has fallen to 94.9% which is below our target of 95%. We hope that our February attendance figures will show a marked improvement and trust you will do your best to help keep the germs at bay.

## **Reporting of Absence**

Please may we remind you that any absence must be reported to the office on the first day of absence and all absences must be explained in writing on the first day that your child returns to school.

We have also noticed an increase in the number of children arriving to school late recently. Please can you ensure that children arrive at school by 8.50am. Our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) is currently reviewing children who are persistently late and we may ask some parents to attend surgery meetings after half term.

## **Parent helpers**

If you help out in school and have not already done so, please go to the office for a CRB form to complete.

## **School dinners**

If your child takes school lunches please make cheques payable to 'Bexley Council' and use the pink envelopes, which are available from the class teacher or the school office. If you have more than one child please use separate envelopes. All dinner money should be sent in on Mondays via the class teacher and not the office.

## **Adverse weather**

In the event of the school having to close due to bad weather a notice will be put on the new Bishop Ridley website (<http://bishopridleyschool.org.uk/>) under the section 'Latest News.' A message will also be put on the Council's website ([www.bexley.gov.uk](http://www.bexley.gov.uk)). Parents without internet access can phone 020 8408 7508 and enter the school's DCSF number (3033510) to get the same information, or can phone the Contact Centre on 020 8303 7777. A voicemail message will also be left on the school answerphone advising parents of any school closure and those parents who have signed up to Parentmail will also receive a text message.

## **Spot the Mistake Competition**

As nobody spotted the deliberate mistake in the last newsletter this month's prize of an annual subscription to the News of the World will be carried over into March.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Hall and Mrs A Early  
Head Teachers