

Dear parents,

I would like to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break, hoping that you all had an enjoyable festive season and to wish you all a happy new year. I would particularly like to welcome new parents and children in the Nursery and hope that their time at Bishop Ridley is a happy and successful one.

### **Staffing News**

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that Mrs Taylor had a baby girl, Jessica Amelia, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Mother and daughter are both doing well. Mrs Kenway has now started her maternity leave and Class 1KT are being taught by Claire Broadfoot. We would like to welcome Ms Broadfoot to Bishop Ridley and hope that her time here is both successful and enjoyable.

### **Christmas Fair**

The Christmas Fair made a tremendous profit of around £4500!! This will help towards providing 'extras' at school, for example helping to pay for the new website and subsidising school trips. A very big 'thank you' to everyone who supported the event and especially to the Friends of the School for organising and running it.

### **Attendance**

These were the attendance figures for the Autumn Term 2012:

RC	97%	3/4S	96.8%
RT	95.1%	3/4HM	95.2%
1S	95.4%	3/4HK	96.8%
1KT	96.8%	5/6C	95.4%
2T	96.3%	5/6T	95.7%
2C	95.3%	5/6M	96.3%

This gives a whole school attendance rate of 95.9% which means that we are beating our target of 95%, so a big 'well done' and keep it up!!

### **Friday Achievements Assemblies**

Parents and relatives are invited to our special assemblies held every Friday at 10am when classes take turns to show good work and we celebrate achievements. This is the rota for this term:

13 <sup>th</sup> January	1S	24 <sup>th</sup> February	3/4HK
20 <sup>th</sup> January	2T	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Nursery & 3/4HM
27 <sup>th</sup> January	1KT	9 <sup>th</sup> March	3/4S
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	2C	16 <sup>th</sup> March	RC & 5/6M
10 <sup>th</sup> February	5/6C	23 <sup>rd</sup> March	RT & 5/6T

Please note that not all the children in each class will necessarily be showing work. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Dates for your diary**

Class photographs	<i>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January (am)</i>
Half term break	<i>week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> February</i>
Open evenings*	<i>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March</i>
Easter competitions*	<i>week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> March</i>
Break up for Easter Holiday	<i>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March</i>
Staff training day	<i>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April</i>
Summer term starts	<i>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April</i>

Year 6 SATs

week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> May

\*Letters giving further details about these events will come out nearer the time.

### **Church Visits**

Our children visit Bishop Ridley Church regularly to take part in a service. These are the dates for this term:

Year 2                                      23<sup>rd</sup> January at 2.15pm

Years 3 and 4                              6<sup>th</sup> February at 2.15pm

Years 5 and 6                              12<sup>th</sup> March at 2.15pm

Parents are welcome to join the children at the church for the services.

### **Parent Mail**

As you may remember we are setting up a new facility for communicating with parents by email and/or text messaging. Parents of around 140 children have still not sent in their details. If you have not yet returned your form please do so by Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January so that we can start to use it. If you have mislaid your form please ask for another at the office.

### **New School Website Coming Soon!**

The new school website is almost ready to 'go live'. Staff have been busy compiling all the information and we hope you will find it both useful and easy to access. We will let you know soon exactly when it will be launched. In the meantime the old website is defunct and any information on it should be ignored.

### **Adverse weather**

In the event of the school having to close due to bad weather a notice will 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 school closure. Once the new ParentMail system and the new school website are up and running then notices will be put on both of these.

### **Wet Weather**

Because of supervision issues we are unable to admit children into school before 8.45am except in very exceptional circumstances. The doors open at 8.45 and the children need to be in school by 8.50am. When the weather is wet I would advise parents and children to arrive between those two times so that they don't have to stand in the waiting area for too long. If you do need to wait outside then I would recommend wearing a hat or hood and/or using an umbrella.

### **Pupil Progress Reports**

Last year we sent out questionnaires to parents asking for your views on the school. The main issue raised was the frequency with which we report to you on the progress being made by your children. We will shortly be sending out interim progress reports to let you know how well your child is progressing and where improvements need to be made.

### **Spot the Mistake Competition**

And finally, well done again to everybody who spotted the deliberate mistake in the last newsletter. This month's prize is the perfect gift for a favourite uncle who's concerned about his wife's security – it's an auntie theft device.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Hall and Mrs A Early  
Head Teachers

