

Dear parents,

In this first newsletter of the new school year I would like to welcome everyone back to school after the summer break, and in particular to extend a warm welcome to new parents and children.

### Staffing

I would also like to welcome our new Nursery Nurse, Jacqui Hale, who will be working in the Nursery Monday to Wednesday: We hope that her time at Bishop Ridley will be very happy and successful. Jane Cook, one of our Teaching Assistants, is undertaking school-based teacher training to become a qualified teacher. She will be based in year 2 during the course of the year.

### Year 6 Secondary Transfer Tests

This year's secondary selection tests will take place on the morning of Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September for those Year 6 pupils who have opted to take them. The tests will be administered in their classrooms as part of a normal school day. Before the tests we will go through the familiarisation booklet given out before the summer break, so the children will need to have them in school from this Friday.

### Fundraising for Greenwich and Bexley Hospice

As you may recall we have been raising money for our local hospice. From donations made last term and on Superheroes Day we have so far raised £520.30. We will continue this fundraising this term and try to reach our target of £1000.

### Dates for your diary

<i>Meet and Greet afternoon for KS2</i>	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September at 3pm ( <i>see below</i> )
<i>AGM of the Friends of Bishop Ridley</i>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September at 8pm ( <i>see below</i> )
<i>Dahlicious Day</i>	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> September ( <i>see below</i> )
<i>Early Years Meeting</i>	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September at 2.15pm ( <i>see below</i> )
<i>School Journey to France</i>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September
<i>Harvest Festival*</i>	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October
<i>Open Evening*</i>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October (3.30 – 6.30pm)
<i>Tudor Day</i>	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October ( <i>see below</i> )
<i>Half Term break</i>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October
<i>Individual &amp; family photos</i>	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November
<i>Flu vaccinations for Years 1, 2 &amp; 3*</i>	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November
<i>Infant Christmas production*</i>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.45am
<i>Junior Carol Service*</i>	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am ( <i>to be confirmed</i> )
<i>Christingle Service for Years R, 1 and 2*</i>	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December at 2.45pm
<i>Break up for Christmas</i>	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December at 1.15pm
<i>Staff Training Days</i>	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
<i>Spring Term starts</i>	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017

\*Further details of these events will follow in later letters.

### **Meet and Greet Afternoon**

Next Tuesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> September, parents of the junior children (Years 3 to 6) will be able to collect their children from their classrooms from 3pm. This is to give you an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, to see where they sit in class, where they hang up their coat and to collect information about things such as which days they have PE, when they get their spellings and homework, when they have their spelling and tables tests, and so on. If you are unable to come in don't worry - your child will bring home the necessary information. Come in via the junior playground and make your way along to your child's classroom. Staff will be on hand to direct you, but please note that this is not an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with the teacher or to look at their work. You will then be able to take your child out through the junior playground and, if necessary, collect younger children from the front waiting area as usual.

### **Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bishop Ridley**

We are holding the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Bishop Ridley on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September** to which all parents, carers, relatives and staff are invited. It will be held in the school hall at **8pm** and light refreshments will be available. Please do try to come along to the AGM; it is always lovely to see new faces (as well as old!) and to welcome new members onto the committee. At this meeting the Committee for the past year stands down and a new one is elected.

### **Dahlicious Day**

To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the author Roald Dahl we spend next Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, focusing on his life and work through a variety of activities in school. The children may, if they wish, dress up as a character from one of Roald Dahl's stories (otherwise they should wear their usual uniform). Please do not feel that you have to go out and buy a costume – if they want to dress up encourage them to improvise with what you've got (eg. as one of the Twits)

### **Friday Achievement Assemblies**

Every Friday at 10am we hold an assembly at which classes show a selection of good work and when children receive certificates and other awards. Parents and relatives are invited to these assemblies. The rota for this term is as follows:

23 <sup>rd</sup> September	1DT & 4H	4 <sup>th</sup> November	Sapphire (RK) & 4S
30 <sup>th</sup> September	2C & 5N	11 <sup>th</sup> November	Emerald (RS) & 5G
7 <sup>th</sup> October	3T & 6C	18 <sup>th</sup> November	1MC
14 <sup>th</sup> October	2T	25 <sup>th</sup> November	Nursery (am & pm)
		2 <sup>nd</sup> December	3H & 6M

Please also note that although it may be the turn of your child's class to show work not every child in the class may have something to show. If any changes are made to the rota a notice will be put in the window at the front of the school and on the school website. We look forward to seeing you.

### **Early Years Meeting**

Parents of pupils starting in the Reception classes (Sapphire and Emerald) this term are invited to a meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 2.15pm, at which Ms Chapman and our Early Years staff will talk about the Foundation Stage Curriculum and how you can support your child at home with reading and other learning activities. These meetings have proved very beneficial and I would encourage parents to come along, even if your child previously attended our nursery.

### **Schools Shakespeare Project**

After last year's gripping production of *'Richard III'* I am very pleased to say that we are again participating in the Schools Shakespeare Festival. Children from Year 4 are working on *'Hamlet'* (no less) with Ms Chapman, Mrs Donegan and Mrs West, with a gala performance at The Greenwich Theatre on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Tudor Day**

We re-introduced the Tudors into the history curriculum last year, where the whole school studies various aspects of the Tudor period over a fortnight in October (eg. Year 1 look at the kings and queens, Year 2 homes and costumes, Year 3 Henry VIII and his wives, Year 4 Shakespeare and Elizabethan England, Year 5 the Reformation and Year 6 Mary, Queen of Scots and the Spanish Armada). This year we are inviting the children to dress up in Tudor costume on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, the final day of the fortnight – again, please don't feel that you have to buy a costume; YouTube has some good suggestions on how to improvise a ruff and codpiece, apparently.

## **Medical Matters**

One of our pupils is currently undergoing a long-term course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, making her very vulnerable to infection. I would ask parents to notify the office **immediately** if your child contracts **chicken pox, measles, shingles or any other contagious disease** so that appropriate measures can be taken. I would also like to remind parents that if your child is physically sick (eg. vomits) he/she should be kept off school for the next 24 hours to reduce risk of passing it on to others. It is also the responsibility of parents of children with medication kept in school to ensure that the medication is up to date.

## **Absences and late arrivals**

If your child is absent then you need to ring the school on the first day of absence so we know where he/she is. We then need a written explanation for the absence when your child returns to school. This should come in within a week of his/her return otherwise their absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'. If your child will be in late because of a medical appointment and requires a hot lunch please ring the office to let them know before 10am as the lunches need to be ordered.

## **School Uniform**

Could I remind parents that all children (except the Nursery) should come to school in the correct school uniform, labelled with their name. Jewellery is not allowed (except for stud earrings), neither are make-up, nail varnish and inappropriate hair styles and cuts (including bleached/dyed hair and shaved logos and designs). Children should wear sensible black shoes (not boots above the ankle or trainers) and need to have waterproof coats for rainy days; they must also have something to keep their heads dry when it rains.

## **School lunches**

Lunches are now £2.18 per day. The payment envelopes should be handed in to class teachers or posted in the box at reception. It is also extremely helpful if children's lunchboxes can be clearly labelled with their name and class.

Thank you for taking time to read this long letter. The staff and I look forward to working with parents, pupils and governors in what should be another successful and exciting school year (weather permitting).

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Hall  
Head Teacher