

Dear parents,

Staffing News

Mrs Gorin is expecting her second child in January and will be going on maternity leave at the start of next term through to July. In her absence 5G will be taught by Mr Dan Edwards, who did his teacher training here last academic year and who is known to the staff and children.

I am sorry to say that Miss Smalley is still poorly with her heart problem. She was hoping to start a phased return to work at the end of this week but this seems unlikely now. I will keep 4S parents up to date with developments.

We will be very sad to be saying 'goodbye' to Sheila Staples, who has worked as a Teaching Assistant in our Reception classes since 2009. She has decided to spend more time with her family and her last day will be Wednesday 30th November. I am sure you would like to join us in thanking her for her hard work and dedication over the past seven years and to wish her every happiness for the future.

Attendance for October 2016

These were the attendance figures for October:

Nursery	92.8%	2T	97%	4H	94.9%
Sapphire	97.2%	2C	95.3%	5G	97.7%
Emerald	97.7%	3T	96.6%	5N	95.1%
1MC	94.2%	3H	98%	6M	95.9%
1DT	98%	4S	99.1%	6C	95.9%

This gives a whole school attendance rate of 96.5%, which is a big improvement on October. Keep it up!

Paying Online

We are currently setting up a system through SIMS Agora whereby you can make payments online. This is for school lunches, trips and so forth. We would like parents of children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to sign up by 8th December and will be adding infant parents after Christmas. CGP English, Maths and Science revision books for Years 5 and 6 are now available and can be paid for using the system (or via the office).

Adverse Weather

In the event of the school having to close due to bad weather a notice will be put on the school's website and Facebook page and the Schools OpenCheck website which is linked to the Council's main website (www.bexley.gov.uk). Parents without internet access can phone 020 8408 7508 and enter the school's DfE number (303 3510) to get the same information, or can phone the Contact Centre on 020 8303 7777. A voicemail message will be left on the school answerphone advising parents of school closure and a Parentmail message will also be sent out.

And finally...

Christmas at Bishop Ridley School

Christmas Fair

The Friends of Bishop Ridley School will be holding their annual Christmas Fair this Saturday (26th November) from 12 noon to 3pm, with seasonal stalls, refreshments, raffles and Santa's Grotto. We look forward to seeing you there.

Infant Christmas Production - 'Super Star'

The school Celestial Choir all want the chance to shine in this year's nativity, but who will dazzle music teacher Mr Marrz enough to be given the title role of 'Superstar'? It quickly becomes clear that it's not all about being the musical's main focus, but about playing the role of the amazing star that showed the way to the stable where Jesus was born. As the special performance unfolds, the children shine a light on the traditional nativity story and show that Jesus is the true superstar of Christmas.

Our Infant children will be performing 'Super Star' on Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December at 9.45am. We would love to see you at one of the performances, which promise to be the usual exotic mix of seasonal music, high drama and very close-harmony singing.

Aladdin

We have booked West End In Schools, a theatre group, to come and perform a seasonal pantomime, 'Aladdin and His Wonderful Lump', to all the children on the morning of Thursday 15th December. The Friends have kindly agreed to contribute to keep the cost down but we still need to ask for a contribution of £2 per child towards the cost. Could you please send your donation in by Friday 9th December (Junior parents should be able to use SIMS Agora).

Christmas Parties

The children will be having their Christmas parties on the afternoon of Thursday 15th December. Children with severe allergies will need to bring in a party plate, otherwise the children will be asked by their teachers to bring in contributions to share (no nuts!).

Christmas Discos

The Friends are organising their usual end-of-term discos on Thursday 15th December. The Infant disco will be from 4pm to 5.30pm and the Junior disco from 6pm to 7.30pm. Please note that all children must be collected on time by someone known to them.

Carol Service

The children in our Junior classes (ie. years 3 to 6) will be going to Bishop Ridley Church for our annual Carol Service on Friday 16th December at 9.30am. You are invited to join us at the church for this seasonal celebration and we look forward to seeing you there. Because space is limited we ask that parents sit in the gallery for the service.

Christingle Service

We will also be holding a 'Christingle' service for our Infant classes (ie. years R to 2) in the school hall on Friday 16th December. The service will start at 2.40pm and parents are invited to come along and join us for the service.

'Thank You' Assembly for Helpers

We will be inviting parents, relatives and friends who have in some way helped out in school over the past term (eg. with the Friends, trips, reading, swimming) to a special 'Thank You' assembly at 10am on Tuesday 20th December, followed by seasonal refreshments.

We will be breaking up for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday 21st December, finishing at 1.15pm.

*Mr S Hall
Head Teacher*