

Dear parents,

St Mungo's Woolly Hat Day

We raised £335.20 for St Mungo's, the charity for the homeless, by having a woolly hat day on Friday 29th January. Thank you to everyone who took part. It was especially gratifying to see some children giving more than £1 and from their own pocket money. Well done.

Reading Resources

We have recently purchased a new reading scheme to replace the Ginn books, which had become out of date. We now have the Collins 'Big Cat' scheme, which has vibrant and stimulating books in a variety of genres, covering fiction and non-fiction and aimed at children in Key Stage 2 (ie. years 3 to 6). We would like to thank Bishop Ridley Church for generously donating £2145 towards the cost of the scheme.

Our New Year's resolution to eat fewer sweets and read more is proving very successful. We have a growing number of really interesting and stimulating books for the library generously donated by children who have had birthdays. I would like to thank everyone who has given a book and look forward to seeing more come in as the year goes on.

Attendance

These were the attendance figures for January 2016:

Nursery	93.8%		2T	97%		4H	98.2%
Gruffalo	98.1%		2C	96.9%		5G	98.1%
Elmer	95%		3T	95.2%		5N	94.2%
1MC	96.9%		3H	98.5%		6M	96.9%
1DT	95.7%		4S	98.2%		6C	96.8%

This gives a whole school attendance rate for the academic year so far of 96.6%, which is excellent.

Parent Support Adviser

I would like to remind parents and carers that our Parent Support Adviser, Jane Cook, is available on Wednesday afternoons should any parent or carer need advice or guidance on matters that, although they may be outside school (eg. re-housing, applying for benefits or grants, or accessing medical care), could have a detrimental effect on their children. She can be contacted directly on 07487 773569 or at jcook@bishop-ridley.bexley.sch.uk.

INSET Day

Please note that we have allocated our final Inset Day for this academic year to Monday 6th June, when the school will be closed to pupils.

400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's Death

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death in 1616 we will be reviving the three plays currently in our repertoire – 'Richard III', 'Julius Caesar' and 'Macbeth' – and performing them on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th April at Townley Grammar School (using their professional stage) starting at 7.30pm. Anyone who saw the original productions will know how incredible they were and, I'm sure, will be keen to see them again, especially now that the children

have greater maturity and breadth of experience. Those of you who didn't see them will not want to miss this unique opportunity to see primary-aged children performing Shakespeare (in abridged versions!) on stage to an incredibly high standard. We will be sending out more details shortly, as well as information about booking tickets, so watch this space.

The Wizard of Oz

We have booked a travelling theatre company to give performances of 'The Wizard of Oz' to the children on Friday 18th March. They came last term and were extremely good. We are asking for £2.50 per pupil towards the cost; please send your contribution in via your child by Friday 11th March.

Open Evenings

Open evening appointments will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis and a slip with your allotted time will be sent home with the children on Friday 4th March.

School Journey

A reminder to Year 5 parents that the second instalment of £60 is due in by Friday 4th March.

Young Art in Bexley

Several of our pupils submitted works of art to the 'Young Art in Bexley' exhibition and currently have their art work on display at Hall Place until 13th March. Do go along and have a look as there are some excellent pieces on show.

E-safety Workshops

We are planning to run a series of workshops for parents and children on e-safety during the last week of term and will be sending out details nearer the time.

Spot the Deliberate Mistake Competition

Well done to those of you who spotted the deliberate mistake in the last newsletter. This month's prize is the world's least appetizing ready meal - it's a packet of Toilet Duck à l'Orange.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Hall
Head Teacher