



29 September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parents visits to School

At this time of year, we receive many requests from prospective parents to come and look around school.

On 19th October at 9:15am and 1:15pm and on 22nd November at 9:15am and 1:15pm we are giving parents the opportunity to visit our Reception classrooms and meet the staff. This will also be an opportunity to have a look around the school, at both Key Stages as well – please book a place for these visits at the school office in the Dove building.

Apologies

In the last Newsletter, it stated that our Harvest Festivals were to be held on Thursday, 19th October. However, the Festivals will now be held on Tuesday 17th October, at:

KS2 – 9:15am
EYFS – 11:15am
KS1 – 2:30pm

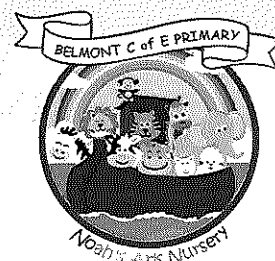
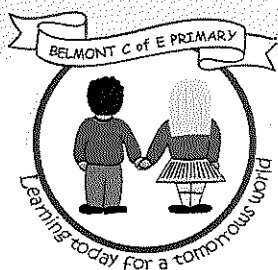
For all of the Harvest services, we are asking the children to bring in donations of food that we will donate to the People's Food Kitchen in Newcastle.
We will send a food list home soon.

Apologies for the wrong date and any inconvenience this may have caused.

School Uniform

The children are looking very smart in their school uniforms. Please ensure all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name. Thirty school jumpers all look the same after a P.E. lesson!

Thank you.



Reading Books

Reading is an essential, key ingredient to your child's academic success. Whilst we place great importance on this at school, it is statistically proven that the progress of those children who read regularly at home with parents/carers is accelerated. All children have reading books which are sent home regularly. Please encourage your child to read as often as possible, but please make sure all reading books are returned to school. All of the children should have a Reading Record, which should be signed after hearing your child read and discussing the text with them. I know staff have commented just how much they appreciate all of your comments and the time taken by yourselves to listen to your child's reading.

It really does make a difference!

Thank you.

Holidays during Term-Time

We are receiving an increasing number of requests to take family holidays in term-time. Government legislation states that these can only be authorised in 'exceptional circumstances'. Unfortunately, being unable to take time off from work during the school holidays is not classed as exceptional circumstances.

Thank you for your support.

PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

Our PTA had their first meeting last week and it was lovely to have some new parents join us. They have already made a great start to organising social events and occasions for us all to enjoy together. We have so many parents who are interested in and are supportive of the school. If you would like to offer your help, please contact Mrs. Mallard through the school office.

Attendance

Last year was a very good year in terms of attendance, with the whole school achieving 96.9% attendance, which is slightly improved on the previous year's attendance of 96.6%. This is something to be proud of, as research published by the Department of Education recognises the huge impact missing school can have on children's life chances. By promoting attendance at a young age, we can really make a difference to children's achievements and wellbeing later in life.

Attendance will continue to be a priority in school. If your child's attendance drops below 95% at any time during the school year, you may receive a letter bringing this to your attention. 95% attendance is only 10 days' absence over the whole year. New legislation was brought out recently which means that a child with 90% attendance or below is classed as a persistent absentee, which is something, I'm sure, we all want to avoid. This is the equivalent to 20 days' absence over the whole year.

Reminder: Schools starts at 8:55am. Your child will receive a late mark if they arrive after this time. The registers close at 9:05am. If your child arrives after this time, they will receive an unauthorised absence mark.

Jeans for Genes

Thank you for all of your donations. The school raised £187.46, which will be donated to the charity.

Ancient Greek Workshop

On Monday, outreach workers from Durham University visited the school, to work with Year 5 and Year 6 children to help them to become investigators of Ancient Greece.

The children took part in three workshops and this was followed by a performance of a Greek play. All of the children and staff, thoroughly enjoyed the day and are on the way to becoming Ancient Greek experts!

Football

The school football team has got off to a great start and we have had another week of fantastic results!

The team is working hard together, being supportive and showing real team spirit and this is reflected in their amazing results:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 21 September 2017 | - Belmont v East Rainton | 4 – 0 |
| | Belmont v St. Joseph's | 5 – 0 |
| | Belmont v Ravensworth | 5 – 2 |
| 28 September 2017 | - Belmont v Woodlea | 0 – 0 |
| | Belmont v St. Benets | 3 – 0 |
| | Belmont v Barley Mow | 5 – 1 |

Well Done!

Dates for your Diary

Monday 2nd October 2017

STEM Workshop

Year 1 and Year 2 children will have the opportunity to engage in a STEM community project with Esh Construction. The activities will focus on engineering and maths.

Thursday 5th October 2017

Phonics and Early Reading Information Session for Parents

In the past, many Reception parents have asked how they can help their child with their reading and sounds. At 4:30pm, on 5/10/17, Miss Warren and Miss Watson will lead an information session for parents to explain what we do. Please come to the Rainbow building main entrance, where Miss Warren will meet you.

Friday 6th October 2017

Year 6 Badminton Festival

Wednesday 11th October 2017

Whole school worship from Carville Methodist Church

Helen Hickson (Outreach Worker) will lead our worship.

Thursday 12th October 2017

Year 3 and Year 4 Trigolf Festival

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Mrs K Harrison-Brown
Head Teacher