



Belmont C of E Primary School

Autumn Newsletter



Tuesday 28th September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a fantastic couple of weeks back in school. Every day, the children continue to amaze us and make us smile. They are all doing extremely well and we continue to be proud of them. We have had a visit from our Diocesan School Improvement Partner and our Local Authority School Improvement Partner and on both of their visits, they commented on how happy, settled and well behaved our children are. They are extremely happy with our school and say that it is very warm and welcoming. Last week, we asked the children to complete a wellbeing survey because we wanted to know their views since they have returned to school. We also asked them if they would like us to do anything else to help them feel happy, safe and settled. The results have been very pleasing as over 92% of our children said they feel happy, safe and settled since returning to school in September. Other comments raised included getting up early on a morning and missing family and pets at home. I'm sure that when the children are fully embedded in their new school routines, this percentage will continue to rise.

We continue to have some positive cases across school in both children and staff, but thankfully, they do seem to have slowed down slightly this week. We will continue to implement our mitigation measures in school to minimise the spread in the whole school community.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs. K. Harrison-Brown

Head Teacher

Local Authority and Diocese Health Review

We look forward to welcoming our School Improvement Partners from the Local Authority and the Diocese on Thursday 30th September as they carry out a supportive health review. This will be our third review since our Ofsted inspection in December 2017. Our last two reviews in 2018 and 2019 were both very successful. Our partners will observe lessons, talk to senior and subject leaders, talk to pupils and our Governors. They will look at the children's work and will also listen

to them read. If you see any of our partners on Thursday, please do stop and say hello. I look forward to sharing the outcomes of the day with you.

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Miss Coutts to our office team. She started her apprenticeship with us on 1st September and I am sure many of you will have spoken to her already on the telephone or when you have been into school. I know that she will be a great addition to our whole staff team and I am sure you will all get to know her well over the next few weeks and months.

At the beginning of the term, we welcomed Mrs Sleeman back to school after her maternity leave. Not only has Mrs Sleeman helped our Nursery children settle into Nursery, she has also been busy with plans to extend our provision to welcome 2-year-old children to our Nursery from January 2022.

We would like to thank Mrs Stead for her help and support over the years as a Lunchtime Supervisor. We welcome Mrs Calder Davies to the team who will supporting Reception at lunch time.

This week, Governors will start the recruitment process for an Assistant Head Teacher to increase the leadership capacity in school as we work towards opening our new school. I will keep you updated on this process.

Staff Absences

Unfortunately, we have had a few staff members test positive for Covid since the start of the term. As a result, this has meant a change of teacher or Teaching Assistant for some classes. If a teacher is going to be absent from work for any length of time, I will always communicate with you to let you know who will be teaching your child. We will always try to ensure there is some consistency in the teacher, but this may not always be possible due to staff shortages. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Noah's Ark Nursery

2-year-old places

We are very excited to announce that we will open our Nursery in January 2022 for 2-year-olds. I know that we have many families who have 2-year-old children who have enquired about provision for them in our Belmont family. We will be able to offer full and part time places. We are also able to provide wrap-around care from 7:30a.m until the start of Nursery and after Nursery until 5:30p.m.

Nursery places for 3 and 4 year olds

We currently have places for Rising 3s, 3- and 4-year-olds.

If you would like to come and have a look around our Nursery, we are more than happy to show you around. Please speak with Mrs Sleeman, our Nursery manager, by contacting the school office or by emailing her.

l.sleeman300@belmontceprimary.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!

Meet the Teacher

On Wednesday 6th October, you will be invited to meet your child's/children's class teachers virtually. This will be an excellent opportunity for your class teacher to introduce themselves and

to talk about the curriculum for your child. Further information and invites will be sent home closer to the date.

Sports News

Our football team have represented our school with pride. Over the last two weeks, they have played 8 games at two different venues. Last week, we won every game. Well done team! Keep up this team spirit!

Healthy Snacks

Children in Early Years and KS1 receive a free piece of fruit/vegetable every day. If your child is in KS2, you may like to provide them with a healthy snack or piece of fruit on a morning. Please do not put it in your child's packed lunch box though - keep it separate so we know it is for the morning snack rather than at lunchtime. Please also remember that we are nut free school. Thank you.

Reception 2022 Admissions

For children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, you will need to complete an application, stating which primary school you would like your child to attend. You still need to apply even if you have an older child attending the same school, and even if you attend Noah's Ark Nursery at Belmont C of E Primary, you must still apply for a Reception place. The deadline for applications is midnight on Friday, 15 January 2022. The offer of school places will be made on 19th April 2022. Applications must be made via

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

Reception 2022 New Starters Open Evening

If your child is starting Reception in 2022, please come along to our open evening to meet teachers and look around our classrooms. This will be held on Thursday 21st October at 4pm.

Applying for a Secondary School Place 2022

For children born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011, you need to complete an application, stating which secondary school you would like your child to attend. The application process opened on September 14th and you will have received a letter regarding this (sent to Year 6 parents via Parentmail). The deadline for secondary school applications is midnight on Sunday 31 October 2021. Once again, it is very important to apply for a secondary school place by the deadline, as a late application greatly reduces your chances of getting a place at your preferred school. Applications must be made via

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

If you are unable to apply online, please download the form from the website address above. Please note, we have been advised by Durham County Council that we cannot send in forms on behalf of parents.

Governing Body

All the members of the governing body are listed below. Our governors play a really important part in the life of our school and they can be contacted through school if you ever need to speak with them.

Mr. Keith Mallard	Chairman Co-opted Governor
Mrs. Rachel Leonard	Vice Chair Co-opted Governor

Rev. Heather Murray	Foundation Governor
Rev. Liz Hollis	Foundation Governor
Mrs. Nicola Lee	Parent Governor
Mrs. Rebecca Clish	Parent Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor
Mrs. Louise Morton	Local Authority Governor
Mrs. Angela Carter	Co-opted Governor
Mrs. Christine Marshall	Co-opted Governor
Miss. Charlotte Watson	Staff Governor
Mrs. Kirsty Harrison-Brown	Head Teacher

Parents' Evenings

Our termly parents' evenings will be held at the beginning of November. We hope to meet with parents in person and give you the opportunity to see your child's work but this will have to be confirmed nearer the time as it is dependent upon what happens in the next few weeks with Covid.

Twitter

Our number of Twitter followers continues to grow and our pupils receive some amazing learning experiences via this platform as we have managed to interact with some authors. The response from parents and carers on our school Twitter account has also been very positive and we urge you to follow us: @BelmontCof

By positively using social media in school, pupils are learning how to post correctly and how not to share personal information online. With this in mind, can we please request that you DO NOT NAME CHILDREN when making comments on our school Twitter account. We would love to receive your comments and photographs online, but request that you use generic terms such as my child, my son, my daughter etc. when commenting about specific children.

I do think that our Twitter feed has really helped to keep our community together during a really tough 18 months when we have been forced to be physically apart.

Water Bottles

Please remember to send your child with their school water bottle every day. We do continue to send the water bottles home to be cleaned and filled every day however, it is essential that these are brought back to school daily. If your child forgets their water bottle, please do not worry - we always have cups we can give the children.

Blended Learning

Blended Learning is another new phrase which has now become part of our everyday vocabulary! As a school, we have to prepare for the possibility of children needing to self-isolate for up to 10 days if testing positive for Covid-19. In addition to this, we expect to have some children needing to isolate until they receive a test and their test results. So, to try to ensure your child's education is as fluid and consistent as possible, this is our pledge to you:

- For children who are isolating when waiting for a test. There are a number of activities and websites that your child can access. These can be completed during the first day of absence. Following this, please email the school office or your child's class teacher and they will email you with the work missed in school.

- For children needing to self-isolate for 10 days. Work will be sent via Parentmail. If your child is too poorly to complete their work, just let us know.
- If your child has to isolate but does not have access to technology during the day, please let us know. We do have some laptops we can loan out and we can also provide work packs and books if you prefer.
- If your child is absent from school as they are poorly and not well enough to attend school, then they are not well enough to complete work at home and work will not be set for them. If you have any questions at all about any of this, please do not hesitate to ask!

COVID-19 Information Advice to All Parents and Carers

We have a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. NHS test and trace have been in contact with individuals who have been identified as a close contact to let them know if they are legally required to self-isolate, and to provide further advice.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading:

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated - everyone aged 16 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments now
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people - particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Isolation

From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school until they get the test result, as long as they have no symptoms.

Communication with School

It continues to be important that if your child has to go for a PCR test, please inform the school office of this:

belmontceprimary@durhamlearning.net or k.harrison-brown100@belmontceprimary.co.uk and it is also essential that you let us know the result when you have this too. Although schools are no longer required to 'Track and Trace', we are still expected to have this information and may be contacted by Public Health to assist them. Thank you.

Harvest Festival

We are delighted to celebrate our Harvest Festival in church with Revd Heather Murray. This will take place on Monday 18th October during the morning and afternoon. This will be for children from Years Nursery-Year 6 this year. Many of our children have not been to church yet and the majority of our children didn't visit church with school last year. We are delighted to be able to return. The children will fill the church on their own, therefore, apologies but parents/carers will not be able to be present. This year, we are asking for donations of food which we will donate to the Food Bank through Durham Christian Partnership. It would be wonderful if the children can bring them into school from the week beginning 11th October.

Shopping list for the foodbank

- UHT milk
- Juice
- Sponge pudding
- Savoury treats
- Biscuits
- Jam
- Chocolate/sweets
- Tinned ham
- Tinned/packet custard
- Savoury crackers

Many thanks!

Important Dates for 2021 - 2022

- Year 2 Phonics Screening Check - November 2021
- KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2022
- KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 9th May 2022
- Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Screening Check - Week Beginning Monday 6th June 2022
- Year 4 Multiplication Test - Week Beginning Monday 6th & 13th June 2022

Diary Dates

Wednesday 6 th October	Meet the Teacher (virtual)
Monday 18 th October	Harvest Celebrations
Thursday 21 st - Friday 22 nd October	Behaviour treat- Circus show and workshops
Friday 22 nd October	Break up for half term
Tuesday 2 nd November	Children return to school
Monday 8 th November	Nursery Celebration Evening Parents Evenings
Tuesday 9 th November	Parents Evenings
Tuesday 9 th November	Individual and sibling photos
Thursday 11 th November	Remembrance Services
Friday 12 th November	Children In Need Day
15 th -19 th November	Anti-Bullying Week Odd Socks Day - Monday 15 th November
Monday 15 th November	Adam Bushnell Author- Storytelling and writing workshops
Tuesday 30 th November	Christingle services
Monday 6 th December	Flu vaccines for pupils

Tuesday 7 th - Friday 10 th December	Children's Nativities
Monday 13 th - Thursday 16 th December	Christmas parties
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas lunch/Christmas jumper/non-uniform day
Friday 17 th December	Behaviour treat and break up for the Christmas break
Wednesday 5 th January	Children return to school to start the Spring term

Christmas Fair, Autumn Disco, Movie nights dates to be confirmed.