



Belmont C of E Primary School Newsletter



Dear parents/carers,

Last week, it was another challenging week, with a rising number of positive cases amongst children and staff. I would like to thank our great staff team for being so resilient, flexible and eager to do whatever they can to ensure school life remains as normal as possible for all of our children. I would also like to thank our parents and carers for their continued support and patience. This week, we have seen a reduction in positive cases and the majority of children have returned to school. I do hope that the children, who are currently isolating, do not have too many symptoms and will be back with us soon. Meanwhile, please remember that work is sent home via Parent Mail for the children if they feel well enough to work.

Staffing and Governors

Our Assistant Head Teacher, Mrs Patterson, is settling into our school and is thoroughly enjoying getting to know all of our children and families.

Mr Keith Mallard has sadly resigned as our Chair of Governors. Mr. Mallard had been a governor and Chair of Governors for eight years. Mr Mallard has played an integral role in our school improvement journey. We would like to thank Mr. Mallard for his dedicated and outstanding service to our Belmont family.

We would like to congratulate our Governor, Mrs Nicola Lee, on her appointment as Chair of Governors.

We welcome Mrs. Viki Knightley and Mr Justin Cobb as parent governors on our Governing Body.

Interfaith World Harmony Week

This week, we celebrated Interfaith World Harmony Week. This celebration focuses on how different religions come together to work in peace and promote world harmony. Through our work, the children have explored the traditions, beliefs and rituals of different religions through the use of artefacts. We have explored how our Belmont Family is multi-cultural and how the beliefs of our peers are similar to those of our own.

Chinese Lunar New Year Celebrations

We had a super day on Friday, celebrating Chinese New Year and the year of the tiger. The children enjoyed some delicious Chinese food and participated in craft making, such as origami, lantern and dragon making. The workshops led by our visitor, Jane Xian, were thoroughly enjoyed! I'm sure you will have heard all about it at home! We would like to thank the Lotus Garden for their kind donation of fortune cookies for every child in school.

Wellbeing Week- Children's Mental Health Week

This week, we will be celebrating 'Wellbeing Week' with a variety of mindfulness activities to recognise the importance of our wellbeing. The theme this year is 'Growing Together' and throughout the week, the children will reflect on their personal growth in terms of setting goals and how to achieve them. We will have a visit from 'Relax Kids' who will deliver a mindfulness session to each class and we will celebrate with a 'Dress to Express' non uniform day on Friday. For this, the children are invited to come into school in clothes which makes them feel comfortable/ expresses their mood/ shows their interests or reflects what they aspire to be in the future.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 8th February, we will be celebrating Safer Internet Day. We have games and activities planned for the children, to promote the safe use of the Internet.

Twitter

Our school Twitter page continues to be as popular as ever. Please follow us: @BelmontCof (You will also find our live feed on our website homepage).

You will find out all sorts of things that happen in your child's class as well as being well-informed about different events taking place across the whole school.

EYFS

Noah's Ark Nursery - Please see information below regarding our two-year-old provision, which we opened in January.

Two-Year-Old Provision

We offer paid and government funded sessions.

Funded Two-year-old places

We offer places for two-year olds to access the 'play and learn' sessions.

Funded two-year olds would be eligible for 15 hours per week - Term Time only

This would be:

- **Five mornings**
Mon to Fri 8:45am to 11:45am
- **Five afternoons**
Mon to Fri 12:30pm to 3:30pm
- **Two and a half days**
Mon & Tues 9am to 3pm and Wed 8:45am to 11:45am
Or
Wed 12:30pm to 3:30pm and Thurs & Fri 9am to 3pm

Paid sessions

The offer for these sessions is half days or full days - Term Time only.

This would be:

Morning session 8.45am-11.45am

Afternoon session 12.30pm-3.30pm

Full day 9am-3pm

Please enquire about cost of sessions.

Lunches are available for all sessions at an additional cost.

Oral Health

Part of the Revised EYFS framework is about promoting good oral health for the children in our care. Over the course of their time with us, your child will be learning about how to make tooth-friendly food choices and how brushing their teeth regularly and visiting the dentist are essential aspects of protecting their teeth.

Residentials

Year 3 and Year 4 Overnight Visit to Seahouses and Bamburgh

We are looking forward to our new residential this year. Year 3 and 4 children have the opportunity to go to Seahouses and Bamburgh. The children will stay in accommodation at Seahouses and enjoy a boat trip to see seals and puffins, a treasure trail around Historic Seahouses as well as a guided tour of Bamburgh Castle. Year 3 children will go on Tuesday 5th July to Wednesday 6th July and Year 4 children will go from Wednesday 6th July to Thursday 7th July 2022. A letter will go home this week with more details.

Year 5 residential to Moorhouse

Our Year 5 children have the opportunity to visit Moorhouse Adventure Centre in Durham. They will go on Monday 27th June to Tuesday 28th June 2022 for 2 fun filled days of outdoor adventure activities. This is a popular residential and I am sure the children will have a great experience during their time there. There will be a meeting on Tuesday 15th March to discuss arrangements for the visit (more details to follow).

Year 6 Residential to Dukes House Wood, Hexham

Our Year 6 children have the opportunity to visit Dukes House Wood in Hexham, where they will participate in many adventurous activities. Letter and meeting to follow.

Curriculum Information

A 'Curriculum Information Leaflet' has been emailed home last week. This information details what your child will be learning this term. This information is also on the school website.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 is 21st February - 6th March 2022 and to celebrate this annual event, we will have a few events in school on the first week back after half term. Our Fairtrade action group will be in touch soon about their activities.

Rainbow Values

Our Rainbow Values this term are love and forgiveness. Our Seedling Worship group are doing a fantastic job of planning the themes for our worship.

Get Ready For Green Hearts Everywhere- This year, our Rainbow Values action group, would like us to get involved with The Climate Collation campaign, 'Show The Love'. We are going to join together to show decision makers that we want to see real and rapid action to tackle the climate and nature crisis - for the love of our families, our homes, our livelihoods and our planet. We are going to do this by making green hearts and writing to our local MP.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

We are already thinking ahead and planning our Jubilee celebrations. We are on holiday the week of the long Bank Holiday Weekend, but we plan to celebrate the event the week prior to breaking up. We hope to hold a tea party after school for parents as well as children. It is just so long since we have been able to invite parents into school and it would be wonderful if we were all able to enjoy a big garden party together. Let's keep everything crossed in the hope it can happen!

Office News

We now have the majority of our pupils with an active ParentPay account which is fantastic. Please remember to look at your account regularly, to check your balance and clear any overdue items (including anything from last term). Thank you.

Parents' Evenings

Our parents' evenings for this term take place on Tuesday 29th March and Wednesday 30th March between 3.30pm and 6pm. We will make a decision nearer the time, to whether this will be online or in person.

Statutory Tests - Years 1, 2 & 6

It is really important that all children in these key year groups are in school during the weeks that their tests must take place. If they are absent at these crucial times, they cannot take their tests any other time. This can also have a detrimental impact on our school data. So I urge all parents to please keep a careful note of these dates.

- Year 1 & some Year 2 children - KS1 Phonics Screening takes place from Wednesday 8th June 2022.
- Year 2 children - KS1 Statutory Tests will take place during the month of May. These children will not even know they are taking tests as we keep them very low key for such young children. However, it is essential that they are in school during May so that they take them at the same time as their peers.
- Year 4 children - this is the first year of the Multiplication Tables Check. This will take place from Wednesday 8th June 2022 and all Year 4 children are required to sit this 'test'.

- Year 6 children - KS2 Statutory Tests take place during the week beginning Monday 9th May and again, it is essential that they are all in school during this week.

We really do appreciate you supporting us at these crucial times in school. Thank you. A meeting will be held next half term for parents of our Year 6 and Year 2 children, so that we can talk you through the tests and expectations.

Self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

This change came into effect in England on Monday 17th January and applies to all positive cases, regardless of vaccination status. People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with an LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. If the result of either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation. Please also be aware that day 1 is not the day that you receive the positive result - it is the day after that. If you are not sure when your child should be returning to school, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Diary Dates

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| w/b Monday 7 th February | Wellbeing week |
| Tuesday 8 th February | Safer Internet Day |
| Friday 18 th February | Behaviour Treat Break up for half term |
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| Tuesday 1 st March | Children return to school Fairtrade Fortnight Bikeability Y5 Shrove Tuesday |
| Wednesday 2 nd March | Ash Wednesday |
| Thursday 3 rd March | World Book Day |
| Friday 4 th March | Bedtime Story Day |
| w/b 14 th March | British Science Week Captain Chemistry workshops |
| Wednesday 16 th March Thursday 17 th March | Discos |
| Friday 18 th March | Red Nose Day- Comic Relief |
| Friday 25 th March | Earth hour |
| Tuesday 29 th Wednesday 30 th March | Parents Evenings |

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| Tuesday 5 th April | Egg decorating |
| Wednesday 6 th April | Behaviour Treat- Hoopstarz Easter services |
| Thursday 7 th April | Behaviour Treat- Hoopstarz Easter worship -Church Reception/Y1 Vision Screening |
| Friday 8th April | Easter worship -Church Easter Egg hunt Break up for Easter holiday |