

THE BELHAM BUZZ



ISSUE 62 | 11 OCTOBER

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HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

October is Black History Month in the UK, and takes place to highlight the achievements and contributions of the black community in the UK. Your children will be doing activities in school to coincide with this month. I will also be setting a Black History Month themed research project for children to do over the half term so watch this space!

We want to make sure that each and every child is reading with an adult at school at least once a week. For this to happen, we would like to invite parents/carers to volunteer to come in and read with our Belhamites. A training workshop will then be organised before parents work with a specific class. Please email info@thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk if you are interested.

HOMEWORK

As you know, we believe that your involvement in your child's learning is essential. With this in mind we are trialing a new form of talk homework this year. Each week on a Friday your child's teacher will send home a discussion task. The aim is to allow the children to share ideas with their families and develop their vocabulary, imagination and debating skills. In addition to the talk homework, teachers will be sending spelling homework on a Friday. This homework will reinforce what has been taught in class and will provide further spelling practice. Thank you for your ongoing support.

We will be introducing Mathletics for Maths homework online in Y2 soon. Y3 are already using Mathletics and are enjoying it very much! Y1 will continue to receive Maths homework to be completed with a parent or carer. We will be offering a short training session on Mathletics for parents before Christmas - we'll keep you posted on the date.

KEY DATES

Friday 13 October

Denim football tournament (away) 9-3pm

Monday 16 October

Reception Road safety session

Tuesday 17 October

Y3 Road safety session

Wednesday 18 October

Y2 trip to London Philharmonic Orchestra (packed lunch needed)

Thursday 19 October

Y2 Road safety session

PARENTS' EVENINGS

This term we are holding parents' evenings on Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 November, between 3.30 and 7.00pm. Booking slips will be going home in bookbags this afternoon so you can let us know your preferred time slots. Slots will be allocated strictly on a first come, first served basis. In order that this system works fairly, please hand your completed form to a member of staff – please do not email your reply to the office. If you have not replied by Wednesday 18 October we will allocate you a slot. We will also aim to inform you of your allocated slot as soon as possible after this date.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH / PECKHAM PATCHWORK PROJECT

As part of Black History Month, Years 2 and 3 have been working together to create photographic portraits inspired by artist Lorraine O'Grady. We would love to print these to display on the hoarding inside the playground space, with a view to including in our future art show. Does anyone have access to printing that would be of a better quality than we can do at school? We will also be looking for volunteers to mount the prints and varnish. If you can help, please contact Ms Gorely of Calico class. Thank you!

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INTRODUCTION AND INVITATION FROM THE 'STEAM' TEAM

STEAM stands for *Science Technology Engineering Arts Maths*.

Last year a few of us parents/carers started looking at how we could use our collective enthusiasm to bolster the school's STEAM activities – very much in collaboration with the school. We have been aided in our mission by a grant of around £10,000 that Jack Kelly (dad) managed to re-allocate (totally legally) from unused funds from his PhD.

We ran some taster sessions in Owls to begin to understand what could work. These were great fun – which was the primary aim! We built a paper marble run, did some pneumatics and messed around with some basic circuits.

We now want to think about where to go from here i.e. this year / the new building / after school clubs. We also want to involve as many people as possible in the generation of ideas, deciding how to approach STEAM, and hopefully helping hands. Let me be quite clear - you need little more than enthusiasm to a) contribute ideas b) help out – we aren't setting up CERN here!

In short, without lots of people's help we are going to struggle to get things moving in a way that gives the broadest opportunities and greatest fun, so please get involved. We had 5 people last year which left a little to be desired, in quantity not quality I hasten to add. We were also lacking in our diversity of skills and background – 4/5 were programmers! Everybody can be involved whatever your skills. I've booked the back room of the Victoria Inn from 8pm on Monday 16 October for a meeting to answer questions, get thoughts and generally get things moving. Please please come along.

Many thanks, Chris Newman.

CAKE AND NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALE

The Friends of Belham are holding a fundraising cake, biscuit and bread sale on Friday 20 October, from 3.15pm at the main site school playground. We would really appreciate any contributions (nut free) to help make the sale a success. Please bring these in on the morning of the sale, to whichever site is most convenient for you – we will transfer them to the main site. As it's nearly Halloween, feel free to add a spooky theme if you like. And don't forget to bring cash to buy cakes on the day!

There will also be a nearly new uniform sale running alongside. Donations for this can be brought to any of the sites on 13 October or 19 October at morning drop-off.

Any volunteers who can set up or man stalls on the day please get in touch at FriendsofBelham@gmail.com

MORNING DROP OFF AT THOMAS CALTON

A gentle reminder to our parents that the Thomas Calton gates close at 8.50 so that the register can be taken promptly.