

THE BELHAM BUZZ

The Belham
Primary School



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Head Teacher: Mrs Sonia Case | Email: info@thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk | Tel: 020 8353 4290

HEAD TEACHER'S NOTE

We are experiencing some issues with congestion during drop off at the Thomas Calton site and would ask that to help us, parents leave the playground as quickly as possible after saying goodbye to their children in the mornings. I am pressing Southwark Council to confirm their plans for school and road signage, and await confirmation of a meeting with the Highways department.

FRIDAY FOOTBALL MAGIC

[Football Magic Coaching](#) has offered to provide a Friday football coaching session for children on Peckham Rye. Any interested parents and carers should email Josh Ellis at josh@footballmagiccoaching.co.uk and once there is enough interest (approx. 20 children), he will provide further details including timings and costs. The sessions are likely to take place between 4 and 5pm with an approximate cost of £5-7, depending on numbers.

METROPOLITAN POLICE XMAS TREES

Each year the Metropolitan Police Christmas Tree Appeal collects Christmas gifts for children in care. A tree in every London borough is decorated with tags giving information on how to buy a gift for a child in care. Gifts are then collected and distributed to children by police officers. To promote the appeal, primary school children are invited to design a poster. Whilst we won't be working on this during school time, any parent who would like their child to enter can download the template attached to this issue of the Buzz. All entries must be given to your child's class teacher by Friday 7 October.

PHONICS WORKSHOPS

We will run phonics workshops for Reception and new KS1 parents after school on Thursday 13 October. Timings tbc.

KEY DATES

Tuesday 27 September

Year 2 road safety walk, 9am

Thursday 29 September

Cotton class Bring Me Sunshine visit to Elim House
FoB parents and carers social – venue tbc

Friday 30 September

Individual pupil photographs (siblings from 3.20pm)
FoB Y1 & 2 coffee morning at Anderson & Co, 9am

Wednesday 5 October

Year 2 to BFI London Film Festival

Thursday 6 October

Year 1 road safety training, 9am

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We are extremely grateful to all our parents and carers who help accompany us on class trips. This half term we are looking for volunteers for the following visits:

Wednesday 5 October Year 2 BFI Film Festival visit

Monday 10 October Year 1 visit London Wildlife Trust

Friday 14 October Reception visit London Wildlife Trust

Please email the school office if you can help, with the title of the visit in the subject field.

In addition, Year 2 will be taking part in a road safety walk on Tuesday 27 September and Year 1 will complete road safety training at 9am on Thursday 6 October. Parents are very welcome to attend; please email the school office if you'd like to take part.

RECEPTION PARENTS' EVENING

Advance notice of teacher/parent meetings for Reception pupils, 3.40-7.40pm on Thursday 20 October.

MUSIC LESSONS

Last week Claire Purcell, Head of Music and Head of School at Dulwich Hamlet, and I met up with Rachael Down, a local teacher of the recorder. We immediately took to each other, sharing a common belief that taught in the right way – developing an ear through careful listening, singing and fun activities - a solid foundation will be set for children’s ability to learn a musical instrument. And now that we have the additional space at Thomas Calton we have decided to introduce our peripatetic music teaching earlier than planned.

We will follow the same tried and tested model that we operate at Dulwich Hamlet and much more detail will be provided at a later date; key points to note at this stage is that irrespective of the instrument being learnt, tuition fees are £80.00 per term. We feel that this is very good value for money, particularly in comparison to other local schools and private tuition. It also includes the loan of an instrument (and of course these will all be brand new for the Belham), a Parent’s Guide to Supporting your Child, a Contact Book and a written record of progress at the end of each year. Music will need to be bought separately.

We guarantee at least 30 group lessons over the course of the school year, but in reality this tends to be more, as well as the loan of a school instrument. We would not want any child to not be able to access music tuition due to financial implications so we will always be open to a confidential conversation about how we might help. In addition, children eligible for Pupil Premium would automatically receive half fees unless parents felt otherwise.

We also provide additional opportunities for a recorder performance as the year progresses, and for Belham pupils learning the recorder to participate in the Dulwich Hamlet Recorder Festival.

As we and the pupils continue to grow we will extend the musical instrument provision with the aim in the future of providing the same extensive range of instruments as we do at the Hamlet.

Your child will learn to play in a group of three, with

lessons lasting between 20-25 minutes during the core day. As at the Hamlet, lessons will be provided on a rotation so no child misses the same lesson each week. With 390 children aged 7-11 at the Hamlet we know this works!

If you are interested in your child learning the recorder, please email me at scase2.210@lgflmail.org with your child’s name and class in the subject line. Lessons will hopefully commence w/c 10 October. Please understand that all payments would be required in advance via ParentPay and a written contract would be signed covering the parents’ responsibilities as well as the school’s offering. Rachael and Claire have also agreed to meet interested parents straight after the end of school in Linen classroom, once we can find a suitable date. This is not essential but simply a fun way of finding out more – just turn up.

I do hope you are as excited as I am – and that many of you will want to be founding members of the Belham Music Department.

- Sonia Case

P.S. Gennie Joy, our new class music teacher, was a joy last week. Cotton, Linen and Poplin have started their weekly music lessons and I have heard that the activities that the children took part in were spot on – and behaviour was impeccable!

Rachael Down

Rachael Down is a dedicated teacher, performer and academic, specialising in Recorder and Flute. She is a graduate from both Trinity College of Music and The Royal Academy of Music, winning numerous awards for her performing. She also holds a Masters degree in Organology – the scientific and academic study of musical instruments – from the Sir John Cass Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design.

As an Early Years specialist, she combines elements of Dalcroze, Kodaly and Suzuki Method within her teaching, which she has found provides an effective, wholesome and positive introduction to instrumental music education – helping children to develop in many areas, including: self-confidence; co-ordination; concentration; musical appreciation; reading and writing music. As a local mum of two boys and with a friendly and encouraging manner, Rachael sees tremendous achievements from her students from the first lesson.