

THE BELHAM BUZZ

The Belham
Primary School



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HEAD TEACHER'S NOTE

On Monday I spent over two hours touring the main school site and I want to share with you my impressions and thoughts. I hope that you have all viewed the new extension which can be seen from Maxted Road - works have been progressing speedily and we were able to enter the ground floor and upper floors from the new staircase that has been built within it.

But let's start within the 'old' building. I toured the space with Kieli Bibbings who is designing the new school signage and Karen Smith, our latest employee who will be taking on much of the school administration following an intense period of learning about school life. For them this was their first visit, and it was great to see it through new eyes. The classrooms and the specialist rooms are in various states of completion but what they all have in common is a 'wow'. The high ceilings, the views over London from the first and second floors, the overall spaciousness combine to make the spaces a delight to inhabit. The music room at the end of the building on Maxted Road is truly grand in size and below it sits the cookery and design technology space - both retain original ceiling features which give the rooms their character.

What I hadn't appreciated was the sheer generosity of space for the circulation areas: we have always said that we wanted learning to be unrestricted by classroom walls and here we saw the real expression of that, with areas which are much more than connecting corridors and pathways, areas in which the children can talk, work, research, film....

The first floor and second floors also house the CRAZE (Creative Resource Artefact Zone for Education), and the STEAM Lab (Science Technology Engineering Art and Maths) – again large spaces which will be filled with technological stimulus to inspire young minds. These two spaces will be at the forefront of our innovative approach to education, and we hope that the STEAM parent group, working closely with Alison Sprakes who heads up science, will develop the STEAM Lab in the next academic year.

Standing in the main hall downstairs, I could really visualise it in use by the children for assemblies and lunchtimes, but also by you, the parents and community for the many events that I'm sure will be organised within this fantastic space. It's important to remember that the school was always designed as a multi-use building - one which would be busy year round, celebrating arts, and music, and food and much more. Seeing it yesterday, along with the green upper deck, the wonderful wide external staircase, the generous ground floor outdoor areas reinforced what a tremendous community 'heart' the Belham will be.

So I am hugely excited, even more impatient than I am normally, and delighted that we'll be soon in the final stages of the beginning of our journey. In late June/early July, I will provide further updates in regard to the arrangements for the autumn term. Meanwhile, I'm not quite sure where this year has gone; as we approach the final half term before the end of this academic year, it is a little scary to think that we are heading for the end of our second year. Have a great half term break.

GARDEN – HALF TERM HELP NEEDED

With some lovely weather forecast for this half term, our Copleston Road garden will need some care and attention over the holiday. We are looking for one or more parents who could help to water the garden and the plants in the greenhouse for ten minutes each morning and evening. If you can help please contact the school office.

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALE

Friends of Belham will be running a 'nearly new' uniform stall at our summer fayre on Saturday 8 July. This is a chance for parents to raise funds for the school whilst recycling uniform items that are still in good condition but too small for your child. Please drop your donations off at either school site by **Friday 23 June**.

COLLECTING FROM OWLS

Unfortunately late collection of children from Afternoon Owls is still an issue. Please ensure that you have collected your child by 5.55pm at the very latest. The terms of our Licence with Faith Chapel do not permit us to be on site after this time and it is unfair to expect staff to work later than their contracted hours. If you are running late in exceptional circumstances you must call the Owls mobile number, 07444 474 004 – please store this number in your phone.

THEATRE PECKHAM

Sonia spent some time today at Theatre Peckham and was extremely impressed with the facilities and range of activities and workshops for children and young people. Please have a look at www.theatrepeckham.co.uk for details of after school and weekend classes.

KEY DATES

Thursday 25 May

Reception visit the Cutty Sark and National Maritime Museum, Greenwich ***packed lunch needed***

Friday 26 May

Last day of term – pick up at normal time
Cotton visit Peckham Library
Southwark Fair Funding Day of Action picnic after school in Peckham Rye Park

Tuesday 6 June

Back to school (Monday 5 June is an Inset day)

Friday 9 June

Class photos for all year groups

HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

A reminder to book for Southwark Adult Learning Service's free family learning days at the Thomas Calton Centre during half term. We are giving over use of our playground spaces for some of the activities, which run on **Tuesday 30** and **Wednesday 31 May**. For further information and to book please contact margaret.taribo@southwark.gov.uk. Also on **Tuesday 30 May**, Morley College creative writing tutor Julie Garten will be running an intergenerational family storytelling workshop; again please contact Margaret to book your place.