

THE BELHAM BUZZ



ISSUE 68 | 29 NOVEMBER

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HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

December is just around the corner (sorry for the reminder!) and many of us are getting ready to share the holidays with family and friends. It is also a time to think about people who are in need of some additional support at this time of year. After a very successful food and household items collection for the Copleston Church at Harvest, we are going to take part in Southwark Foodbank's 'Christmas Food Appeal'. It would be brilliant if you could donate any of the items on the attached list. As well as food, you will notice that Southwark Foodbank are also asking for new(ish) children's books - the idea being that it would be nice to give each child a book along with the Christmas hampers that they will be distributing to 100 families. Please could all donations be dropped off at either the Faith Chapel or Thomas Calton offices by 13 December.

A gentle reminder to parents/carers: the children break up for the Christmas holidays at **1:15pm** on **Friday 15 December** and they start the new term on **Monday 8 January** after a longer break than usual. The Belham staff, however, will be working hard to make sure that everything is moved over to the new school building and that classes are set up ready for the children's return. If you are planning a lovely, festive getaway this Christmas, please bear these dates in mind. Unfortunately, we cannot authorise any absences in the days leading up to the holidays or in those afterwards; we can only authorise absences if there are exceptional circumstances. Please see the attached letter for more details.

CHRISTMAS FUN AFTERNOONS

All parents are invited to book into a slot at their child's 'Christmas fun afternoon'. There are 2 slots per session – 1pm or 2pm – and a maximum of 15 adults per session (1 adult per child). All parents will be invited into to join their children in festive craft activities and a Christmas singalong to get into the festive mood! Please email the office to let us know whether you would like to come to the 1pm or 2pm session. Dates are as follows:

Monday 11 December : Year 2 and 3

Tuesday 12 December : Reception and Year 1

KEY DATES

Thursday 30 November

Year 1 trip to Horniman Museum

*packed lunch needed

Year 2 trip

Festival of Sport

*packed lunch and PE kit needed

Tuesday 5 December

Reception and Year 1 trip to see the 'Ugly Duckling'

Friday 8 December

Children's Christmas lunch

Volunteers are still needed for the Festival of Sport and Ugly Duckling – please email the office if you can help

FoB QUIZ NIGHT

We have two tables, each for a team of six, available at the quiz night next Wednesday 6 December; please email louiseisobelhine@gmail.com if you would like to claim one for your team. The cost is £6 per person.

SOUTHWARK TRAVEL CONSULTATION

The Belham Air Quality parents group has flagged up a Southwark consultation which provides for a crossing on Maxted Road. The consultation closes on Monday 4 December and we would encourage parents to respond. While there will be a range of views among parents, the crossing will help those families who travel on foot, bike or scooter do so more safely. The school supports and promotes healthy and active routes to school - not only for the immediate health benefits to the children, but also to reduce the traffic on local streets, improving the quality of the air around the school and road safety too.

The consultation takes 5 minutes to complete and can be found here: [Southwark Spine - East Dulwich to Peckham - Southwark London Borough Council Consultation Hub - Citizen Space](#)

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Advance notice that Friday 15 December (the last day of term) is Christmas Jumper Day! All donations will be shared between Save the Children and Crisis at Christmas, so children can wear their festive jumpers to support these worthy causes.

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FoB AUCTION

The Friends of Belham have received a very generous donation of two stall seats for Guy Barker's Big Band Christmas show at the Albert Hall on Sunday 10 December with a cover price of £130. Guy is an amazing jazz trumpeter, and last year's Christmas show at the Albert Hall had great reviews.

We're going to auction the tickets to raise money for the school - please email bids of £50 and upwards to patrickjamesmurray@gmail.com by Friday 1 December.

<https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2017/guy-barkers-big-band-christmas/>

FoB CHRISTMAS GROTTO

Come along to the Friends of Belham Christmas Grotto on Saturday 9 December, 10 – 1pm at the Copleston Gardens, across the road from the Copleston Centre. Keep warm with some delicious mulled wine and enjoy the beautiful sounds of the carol singers while your children negotiate with Santa in the Grotto. Don't forget to collect your pre-ordered Christmas tree on the way out while the children puzzle out the treasure hunt.

LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS TREE ORDERS

Thank you to all the parents/carers who have placed their Christmas Tree pre-orders, and sent pre-payment.

It's the last week to order your tree – please see the attached order form. The order deadline is Friday 1 December by 1pm.

Please make sure you get your order form in by this time, and make a bank transfer to the FoB account.

We currently have half the orders of 2017, despite the school growing, so please show your support and help raise funds for the school. Last year we raised over £400 from selling pre-ordered trees to parents and carers. The school receives £10 for each tree sold, so please invite friends, family and neighbours to place an order. The quality Norwegian Spruce trees come in over 4 sizes, and are cheaper than local retailers and pubs.

Trees will be collected at the Christmas Grotto event on Sat 9th December, from the school's Garden beside The Latter Rain Outpouring Revival Church, on Copleston Road from 10 till 12pm.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School photographs are due to be delivered to the office tomorrow, so should be going home in bookbags on Friday.