

THE BELHAM BUZZ



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HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

Is it the end of the summer already? That came around incredibly quickly. I hope that everyone is feeling refreshed and energised for the year ahead. As the new term begins, I am very excited to welcome pupils and staff alike back to school.

This year brings with it much change to the Belham; it will be the last term that the school will be dispersed across more than one site. We are very excited that our Year 2 & 3 children will be the first classes to be taught in our new building, and we can't wait for January when the entire school will be united under one roof.

As a new face in the school myself, I would also like to welcome several teachers to the team: Lauren Hogg, who will be teaching Velvet; Christina Saullo, Cotton's new teacher; and Thomas Turnham & Kate Gorely, who will be coming over from the Hamlet and teaching the two Year 3 classes. Anna Cagney will be joining us as a trainee teacher in Year 1 and Nancy Wayman will be developing our Music department. In addition, I would like to welcome all the support staff who are joining the fold this year. I hope that their time at the Belham is a happy and rewarding one.

Over the course of the next few weeks, I look forward to meeting our existing Belhamites, and all of our new Reception and Year 3 pupils and their families. From what I've experienced so far, it's a very welcoming community to be a part of.

Starting school for the first time can be a potentially daunting experience for children, and I'm sure (like me!) they will be feeling a mixture of nervousness and excitement. For that, I can recommend several great storybooks based on going to school for the first time... I will be reading 'Chu's First Day at School', by one of my favourite authors, Neil Gaiman, with the younger pupils, during my first assembly with them. I encourage you to talk with them about times when you have felt apprehensive, or a situation where you were nervous. I certainly feel a bit wobbly about my first day as a headteacher! These common experiences are what connect us and sharing stories is how we bond as a community.

KEY DATES

Monday 11 September

Year 2 recorder lessons begin (timetable available on the website tomorrow)

Tuesday 12 September

Year 2 swimming lessons begin

Thursday 14 September

Year 3 recorder lessons begin

Thursday 21 September

Jeans for Genes day

SWIMMING LESSONS

Our new Year 2 children are very lucky to be starting swimming lessons next week at the Peckham Pulse Leisure Centre. At the Belham we believe that water safety is a vital skill, so our Year 2 and Year 4 children will benefit from swimming lessons. The aims are simple: to ensure they know how to be safe around water and that they are able to swim to safety if required. Lessons will last for 30 minutes, and will be run by qualified swimming coaches. They will continue for the whole academic year. During the lessons the class will be split into 2 groups and given suitable tasks for their ability. Please ensure your child has a swimming costume, goggles, towel and swimming hat – if they want one. It would be very helpful if they have practised changing into and out of their swimming costume before lessons begin.

ATTENTION NEW RECEPTION PARENTS!

In the Early Years we use an online system called Tapestry to record all the fantastic learning going on. Here we will post photographs, videos and written observations of your child on a regular basis. Each child has their own profile which can only be accessed via your login. Over the next week you will receive and email with information about your login details. Please check your Junk folder as it can often be found there! We look forward to seeing you all over the next few days. The Reception Team