



HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

In the lead up to Christmas, the Belham community has been getting into the festive spirit and today the children and staff enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch, with all the trimmings, prepared by Chef Leo and his team. Thank you to Leo and the Harrisons team – you did a great job!

All year groups have taken part in a Christmas performance, starting with our lower school's traditional Christmas nativity play last week and Key Stage 2's retelling of the Christmas story this week. The teachers, support staff and children worked incredibly hard to make sure that they were ready to perform and I think that they did a fabulous job! An enormous thank you to everyone involved in the production of this year's performances and an additional thank you to Nancy Wayman: the children sang beautifully.

Finally, a big thank you to the Friends of Belham for organising the festive market last Saturday. It was a resounding success and you managed to raise a huge amount of money for the school!

Events wise, next week is looking a little quieter as we prepare for the break. We will also be exercising some caution within school and reducing the number of opportunities where a large number of children or staff mix.

CHRISTMAS TRAVEL

As of Tuesday 7th December, there are new UK Government rules in place for international travel. If you are going abroad during the Christmas period, everyone in your travel party aged over 5 must take a PCR test within two days of arrival back in the UK, and self-isolate whilst waiting for the result. Tests must be booked before you travel, and bought privately from [a government-approved list of providers](#). You can stop self-isolating if your test is negative.

Please let the school office know by next **Friday 17th December** if these rules will affect your child's return to school date in January. Remote learning will be available for your child to complete whilst they are isolating.

KEY DATES

Wednesday 15th December

Reception and Year 1 Theatre trip to The Albany (packed lunch required)

Friday 17th December

Last day of term (finish at 1.15pm)

Tuesday 4th January

STAFF INSET DAY

Wednesday 5th January

First day of Spring term 2022!

Monday 10th January

Morning and after school clubs begin

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to the FOB for a fantastic festive market and to all our parents and carers for coming along and supporting the event! With all your amazing efforts we managed to raise £3,300 which is INCREDIBLE!!

In other incredible fundraising news, we are thrilled to say the The Belham Fun Run so far has managed to raised **£9600** for the refit of our makers room!! Thank you SO much to everyone who took part, raised money and donated money, we are so grateful.

From our Autumn Fair £1387 went to support [Ignite Hubs](#) and from our Remembrance Day collection, we raised £190.36.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE COLLECTION

We have had such an incredible response to our Christmas collection! Thank you to everyone who has donated and if you would still like to donate here is the link -

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/the-belhamprimary-school3?newPage=True>

Every penny raised will go towards supporting families in need this Christmas.

Creative reflection time next week will be about:

International Mountain Day or Christmas

THE BELHAM BUZZ



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LAMDA AT THE BELHAM

We are delighted to announce that LAMDA classes will be available for pupils in Years 1-6 at The Belham Primary School from January. LAMDA is one of the UK's oldest and respected awarding bodies and its qualification is extremely beneficial to young children as it helps them develop confidence, overcome nerves and gain a range of life skills.

LAMDA classes at The Belham will be delivered by Armstrong Speech and Drama and will take place for 30 minutes at a set time on a weekly basis. Pupils will follow LAMDA's Speaking Verse and Prose syllabus and will get to explore a wide range of fun children's poetry throughout the year!

The cost is £10 per small group session and invoices will be sent at the start of each term. When you book, you will be committing to the whole term. If this sounds like something your child would like to do, then please email Armstrong Speech and Drama directly on - info@armstrongspeechanddrama.com

The classes will run either before or after school at these times: 8am-8.45am and 4.45pm-5.15pm.

Tuesday before school: Year 1 and 2
Tuesday after school: Year 3 and 4
Thursday before school: Year 5
Thursday after school: Year 6

NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY

Each week we will attach a PDF from National Online Safety. This week's guide is *Let's Connect this Christmas (Some Way) - Lyric Sheet (1)*

PARENT DROP IN SESSIONS

Ms Cohen will be holding virtual or in-person parent drop in sessions each Thursday from 2.30-3.30pm. If you would like to book a slot, please contact Catherine in the office info@thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk.

HOME LEARNING

All pupils have access to remote learning should they be required to self-isolate due to Covid-19. If your child is absent for any other reason, including sickness, home learning will **not** be provided. Please see the [Home Learning](#) section of our Covid-19 Information Hub for more details.

BELHAM COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW

Communication is a key part of how we all – parents, carers, and staff - experience The Belham. We aspire to have open and two-way communications that reflect our core values, are clear, consistent and contribute to a thriving school community.

Our communications and the systems and processes we use have grown organically as we have become an established school, and this has left us with challenges that, parents and colleagues tell us, can result in less than brilliant communications.

We are therefore undertaking a strategic review, to assess our current situation and develop the foundations for new parent communications programmes for the 2022/23 school year.

This will be a highly collaborative project and we are seeking and welcoming ideas and skills of people from across our school community.

If you would like to contribute to the success of the communications project, there will be several ways you could get involved. For instance, we will be running parent and carer focus groups in the new year. We are also likely to need systems and design skills. If you are interested in getting involved or have ideas you want to share, please email Catherine in the office info@thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk

THE FRIENDS' FRIENDLY



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Meet the FOB Committee and Class Reps on the Belham website
<http://www.thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk/friends-of-belham.html>

Contact us
friendsofbelham@gmail.com

FESTIVE MARKET THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who came to support our Festive Markets last Saturday. Including our tree sales, we managed to raise **an amazing £3,300!!!!** to support the Upgrade of the Maker's Room and the Belham bees. A huge thank you to all who contributed and helped on the day, baking cakes, donating cakes and vouchers, unloading trees, helping set up, decorating the playground and grotto, running the stalls and games, acting in our Santa's Grotto, sorting the music system, and helping with the tidy up. Especial thanks to Rob's Dad for donating his finest Somerset cider, and to Julie for donating some of her profits to the school. Louise, Doug, Adam, Ele and Kathryn

DECORATIONS FOR SALE

We have a few remaining sets of limited-edition fundraising Belham decorations available. These plastic-free decorations are raising money for the Maker's Room upgrade at the school. A great gift for friends and family, featuring Belham Bear, Belham Bee, Belham Bauble and Belham Tree! *£6 per set with free delivery,* within 1 mile of school. Hurry while stocks last: www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham



BELHAM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

Last year we delivered over 150 cards to the local community, spreading a bit of Belhamite cheer and goodwill after a difficult year all round. And we'd like to do the same again this year! We know that some people may not receive very many - or any - Christmas cards so we're reaching out to the Belham family and asking everyone to write a card (more if you like!) which will be given to someone in the local community including local care homes, community groups or even an elderly neighbour who you know doesn't have many visitors.

You could use your FoB Christmas cards that should be coming home in book bags very soon – or there are lots of ideas online if you want to get creative and design your own!

We would like to make the cards as inclusive as possible so along with the usual Christmas greetings you could include:

*Dear Local Resident or Dear Local Friend,
Warm wishes; Wishing you a peaceful holiday and New Year; Wishing you a peaceful and safe New Year; Happy holidays; Merriest wishes; Wishing you peace and joy;
From a local friend at The Belham School (you can add your name if you're personally happy to but can remain anonymous if you prefer)*

A collection box will be in the reception and main school playgrounds until Tuesday 14 December or please hand-in to form teachers. If you know of an organization or neighbour who would like to receive a card then contact Year 3 rep Lizzy (e.r.carpenter@gmail.com / 07879 402935)

SAVE THE DATE

14 December	Community Christmas cards deadline
15 December	Albrighton collection
13 Jan	Terrarium workshop

TERRARIUM WORKSHOP 13th JAN

Come and make your own self-watering terrarium! Or give this as a lovely present for a friend. You will make your own Bottle Terrarium to take home, and every ticket purchased will **help pay for a workshop for Belham pupils**, where they will create terrariums for the classrooms.

The workshop is being run by local company Jar and Fern, who are kindly offering a great discount to their normal prices. Full details and tickets: www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham



AmazonSmile – choose FOB as your charity on Amazon and we will receive a tiny percentage of your spending – it all adds up.

Company matched funding - FoB is registered with Benevity <https://benevity.com/>. If your employer does company matched funding you may be able to get them match any donations or fundraising you do for FoB.

Koru Kids – for £50 to FOB and £50 to the family, use the code SC1BELHAM in the "how did you hear about us?" section. <https://www.korukids.co.uk>

ALBRIGHTON COMMUNITY FRIDGE

The Albrighton Community Fridge have asked us to pass on a big thank you for all the food that was donated at the fair on Saturday (see photo!). This will all go towards helping them give their customers a larger food parcel to see them through the few days over Christmas when they, and other services, will be closed, and to include in that some treats like chocolates and biscuits (and hopefully a meat/vegetarian main dish for Christmas day, or just a nice meal for those who won't be celebrating).



To help them collect some of the fresher food, and boost their supplies of non-perishable items, we're organising another collection on Wednesday 15 December, at drop-off. Please again bring staples such as tins, pasta/rice, eggs, long life milk, as well as soap, loo roll and Christmas treats etc.. However, this time they would also be very grateful for any fresh fruit and veg, butter, cheese and meat.