



## HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

With only one week until the end of term, most people's thoughts have probably turned towards Christmas and what they will or won't be doing this year. Regardless of people's religious beliefs, the Christmas break is usually a time when families get together; however, for some, this simply will not be possible this year. We know that 2020 has been incredibly challenging and during the first lockdown, the Belham community supported families by putting together food boxes and buying vouchers, outside of the government scheme. Over the last few weeks, we've asked parents to donate towards our Christmas boxes and we have had an overwhelmingly generous response. Today I walked into the hall to find Ms Sprakes knee deep in toys, food and cardboard boxes! Throughout the morning, children, whose families are receiving the boxes, have been coming into the hall to choose their gifts. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed – it is so much appreciated. And a huge thank you to Ally Sprakes who organised the whole thing, as well as going on numerous shopping trips to buy the Christmas box items!

## YEAR 1 MUD KITCHEN

Do you have any old tyres, pots or pans just lying around the house, gathering dust? Year 1 are hoping to build their own mud kitchen and would be happy to take them off your hands and put them to good use.

## YORK EARLY MUSIC CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Our recorder teacher, Caoimhe dePaor, plays with a group called Palisander. There is an online concert on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> at 1pm (and on demand until Jan 6<sup>th</sup>). The concert is part of the York Early Music Christmas Festival – lots of shapes and sizes of recorder to be seen! Follow this link to book: <https://tickets.ncem.co.uk/en-GB/shows/palisander%20online/events>

## CONTACT TRACING OVER THE HOLIDAY

Look out for an email next week with more information on the role you and the school will have to play with regards to contact tracing over the Christmas holiday.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS SPRING TERM 2021

Fees will be raised for after school clubs on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Once fees have been raised you will be required to pay even if you decide to cancel. Please ensure fees are fully paid by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## KEY DATES

### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December

#### Last Day of Clubs

Earlybirds and Owls bookings open at **8pm**

'A Miracle in Town' (Reception & Year 1) Log in -6pm-9pm

### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

'It's Virtually Christmas' (Year 2 -6) Log in - 6pm-9pm

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

'A Miracle in Town' (Reception & Year 1) Log in -6pm-9pm

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

'It's Virtually Christmas' (Year 2 -6) Log in - 6pm-9pm

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Last day of term (please see below for pick up arrangements)

## CHRISTMAS PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

We will finish for the Christmas Break **after lunch on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**. Please take note of timings and pick-up locations.

Reception – Maxted Road – 1pm

Year 1 – Maxted Road – 1.15pm

Year 2 & 4 – Bellenden Road 1.15pm

Year 5 – Maxted Road – 1.30pm

Year 3 & 6 - Bellenden Road 1.30pm

## EARLYBIRDS AND OWLS SPRING TERM 2021

Earlybirds and Owls will be re-opening for booking on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm**. Please log into your SchoolsBuddy account at **8pm** to book.

Creative Reflection Time next week will be about:

Arabic Language Day

# 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](mailto:friendsofbelham@gmail.com)

## Important dates

Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> January	FOB meeting, all welcome
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Velodrome Y3/Y6
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Velodrome Y2/Y5

## Track cycling at Herne Hill Velodrome

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year 3 and Year 6**

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan – Year 2 and Year 5**

Get set for the Belham sessions at Herne Hill Velodrome! We can only have two year groups at the velodrome at once, so our first session is only for Years 3 & 6. Our second session is for Years 2 & 5. Other year groups watch this space for more dates...

Due to restrictions only one parent can accompany their child and no siblings can attend. If this would prevent your child from attending please contact [evepetcher@hotmail.com](mailto:evepetcher@hotmail.com) to discuss options

Bikes are provided but please bring your own helmet and gloves (any gloves will do). If your child does not have a helmet, please get in touch with [evepetcher@hotmail.com](mailto:evepetcher@hotmail.com) (at least 24hours before) and we can help sort one out.

### **Saturday January 16th 2021**

#### **Y3: 15:00-16:00 (inner track)**

Parent / carer to be on inner track with children. For all children but for those less competent on a bike, they will need parent / carer support. Tickets are £5.50 per child

#### **Y6: 16:00-17:00 (Main Track)**

Parent / carer to wait by the stands. Children must be competent on a bike. The lights will be on for the track. Tickets £7.50 per child.

### **Saturday January 23rd 2021**

#### **Y2 15:00-16:00 (inner track)**

Parent / carer to be on inner track with children. For all children but for those less competent on a bike, they will need parent / carer support. Tickets are £5.50 per child

#### **Y5 16:00-17:00 (Main Track)**

(outer track - parent / carer to wait by the stands). Children must be competent on a bike. Tickets are £7.50 per child. The lights will be on for the track.

**Tickets will be on sale soon, watch this space and also WhatsApp groups.**

## Fund-raising and spending update

Many thanks to everyone who joined the quiz, bought a tree, and those who gave their time to volunteer. The quiz raised nearly £400 and the Christmas trees raised over £950 for FOB.

At the AGM we agreed to the following new spending:

£2,100 on new musical instruments for the school  
£1,100 towards the new reading scheme, Rising Stars Reading Planet. It is a replacement scheme for the one that all children access in Reception to Year 2 (until they become free readers). For the cost, the school receives reading books, teaching tools and an e-book library.

## Belham Christmas Community Cards

Thank you to everyone who dropped off a festive card to go out into the local community. We will be distributing them to Jack Jones House sheltered housing for older people, Elim House Elderly Day Centre and Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers. They are definitely going to brighten up this time of year for many people in our local area.

## Three completely free ways you can help the school!

### 1. Send in your secondhand books

Do you have unwanted books at home? The school would love it if we could bring in good quality books that are no longer read at home. Books will be quarantined for a few days, and then distributed between the appropriate year groups. It would be great to build up the selection of books at school and I'm sure we all have a few nice books spare.

### 2. Donate unwanted musical instruments

Do you have an outgrown violin at home? An unwanted tuba lying around? Please [contact the school office](#) if you are able to donate musical instruments. Obviously they would need to assess whether they were actually suitable for the children to learn on. But I'm sure we would all like to see as much musical opportunity at the Belham as possible.

### 3. Online shopping? Support FoB

We love our local shops and feel very lucky to have such a brilliant range on our doorstep. We encourage you to support them at this tricky time.

If you are shopping online, there's two easy ways to raise funds for FoB:

#### EasyFundraising

This will generate donations for FoB at many online retailers. Create an account in support of FoB here: [https://bit.ly/FoB\\_EasyFundraising](https://bit.ly/FoB_EasyFundraising)

Start your shopping via the EasyFundraising site, use their 'donation reminder' widget in your browser, or use their mobile app. It will take you to retailer sites and apply the donation automatically. Loads of retailers are signed up, with varying levels of donation: John Lewis, Waterstones, Ethical Superstore, Majestic Wine, M&S, Argos, and Boden to name a few...

#### AmazonSmile

Friends of Belham is now also registered with AmazonSmile. 0.5% of the purchase price will go direct to FoB.

On a computer you must shop via [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) for this to work.

You can shop on the standard Amazon mobile apps but must set Friends of Belham as the beneficiary for AmazonSmile in the app settings.

## FOB Uniform & Xmas Jumper Exchange

The FOB uniform exchange is now LIVE!!! Click on the links below to buy or sell second hand uniform. Christmas jumpers are also free on here, and any unclaimed by 7 December will be donated to the school.

1. If you have clothes to sell, fill in the form below to populate the main stock spreadsheet. Clothes must be a) clean, b) name-tags removed if possible, c) truthfully described in terms of quality ("excellent", "good" or "well worn").  
[http://bit.ly/FoB\\_2ndHandUniform\\_SubmitForm](http://bit.ly/FoB_2ndHandUniform_SubmitForm)
2. If you want to buy clothes, review the form, "claim" the items you want by contacting the seller directly. Seller then updates the form to show the item is now sold.

[http://bit.ly/FoB\\_2ndHandUniform\\_Stock](http://bit.ly/FoB_2ndHandUniform_Stock)

3. Buyer makes a donation to FOB via Justgiving based on the prices in the spreadsheet

<https://www.justgiving.com/friendsofbelham>

4. Buyer collects from seller's home.
5. Seller updates quantities on the form once the item has been collected.

## Koru Kids offer code

Koru Kids is a London based childcare service which specialises in after-school nannies and helping families to find nanny shares.

They are offering £50 to FoB and £50 to Belham families when they match with a nanny through their service. Use the code SC1BELHAM in the "how did you hear about us?" section (this is really important otherwise it won't be logged).

<https://www.korukids.co.uk>