

HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

It's the end of the first week at school and this year it has been especially lovely to see our Belhamites back together again. Children have settled in well to their school routine and from the conversations I have had with them and with their teachers, they seem delighted to be back. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members of staff, teachers Kirsty Doig, Brendan O'Brien, Naomi Robinson, Bridget Banton and James Hartley; teaching assistants Idahota Ebehiwalu, Lisa Sanders, Jake Roberts and Jack McCann; and School Direct student, Vicky Tee: I hope that your time at the Belham is a happy and enjoyable one.

You and your children will have noticed a few changes in school this week and I would like to ask parents and carers to read **all** communication sent from the school as we are still making tweaks to some systems, and it's important for parents to be aware of these changes. Thank you to everyone for working with us at this time. Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday!

PICK UP REMINDER

Please read the below if you are collecting your child from the Bellenden Road gate at the end of the school day. We've decided to let parents onto the school playground in order to ease congestion and ensure our pupils are picked up safely. However, we ask you to take note of the following:

- Wear a face mask, unless you have a medical condition which prevents you from doing so. This is to protect you, other parents, and our staff.
- Try to keep a sensible distance from other people in the queue.
- Don't call out for your child to come to you – this results in a number of children trying to get their teacher's attention at once. Either the class teacher will send them to you or another member of staff will ask who you're collecting.
- Move quickly through the playground using the one way system.
- Please wait until you're off the playground before giving your child a snack – this slows the process down.

Thank you!

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY EVENTS RUN BY EXTERNAL PROVIDERS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES AND CLUBS) ARE NOT ENDORSED BY THE SCHOOL AND THE SCHOOL CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE

KEY DATES

Monday 14 September

After school clubs start
Year 3 - PE
Year 5 - PE
Year 4 - Yoga

Tuesday 15 September

Year 2 - PE
Year 4 - PE

Wednesday 16 September

Reception – Dance Lesson
Year 1 – Dance Lesson
Year 6 – PE

Thursday 17 September

Year 2 - PE
Year 5 – Yoga

Friday 18 September

Year 5 - PE

Please bring PE kit at the beginning of the week and take home on Friday.

CLASS DOJO

You will be seeing your child's class teacher less frequently in person this year as drop off and pick up arrangements are different but parents can get in touch with teachers through Class Dojo and they will respond during their working hours.

REMOTE LEARNING

There is clearer guidance from the government now about what should be in place in terms of remote learning if a 'bubble' or individual pupil needs to self-isolate. We will soon be updating parents about our plans for remote learning. In the meantime, if your child is having to quarantine after coming back from holiday, or self-isolate for another reason, our teachers will be in contact via Class Dojo. I will still be posting assemblies on the whole school feed and you will be able to discuss the latest 'Creative Reflection Time' topic with your child. Anything else relevant to all year groups may also be posted on the whole school feed.

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

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Welcome to the start of a new year everyone, and a particularly big, shiny, happy WELCOME to all our new families!! I wonder if returning parents share your FOB secretary's sentiment that NEVER has school seemed a more precious thing, and NEVER AGAIN will she underestimate the value and brilliance of teachers and isn't it all just wonderful?

What is **Friends of Belham** (FoB)? We are a charity run by parent volunteers to organise social events in order to bring people together, build community and importantly, raise money to support the school with extra equipment, facilities or experiences for the children to enhance their education.

All parents and carers are members of Friends of Belham. It doesn't just happen, we need everyone to do a little bit to make it work, and we value everyone's input into what we do: your ideas and suggestions, and your time when it comes to putting on events. We have an elected **committee** of four trustees, and a wider group of class **representatives**. You can meet us on our page on the school website, and find out more about what our fundraising has paid for:
www.thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk/friends-of-belham.html

Our normal programme of events is on hold at the moment due to Covid, but we'll be working on new and different ways to bring the school community together and raise money – please share your ideas with us and watch this space!

Important dates

6 October 2020	EGM and FoB meeting
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Would you like to be a class representative?

We would like to recruit a couple of new class reps for each class in **Reception**. If you are in a higher year you are also very welcome to join us. Especially for **Year 2**, where two reps are standing down, and **Years 4, 5 and 6** where we'd love to have some extra reps on board.

Class reps join our FoB email group and help the elected committee to run events and make decisions on how funds are spent. Class reps often attend FoB meetings, held a couple of times each half term (these meetings are open to all). The role is not a big time burden and it is a great way to contribute to the school community, and get to know other parents. They are not elected positions, and there's no set duration for which you should hold the role. As one of our outgoing class reps said:

"I can vouch that FOB is a great way to feel more connected with the school and to meet some people from other year groups".

We'd like the makeup of the FoB committee and class reps to represent the whole school community. You'll notice that there's not many male members - so consider this a challenge to a few men out there to get involved...

If you would like to be a class representative, find out more, or just say hi, please drop us a line at friendsofbelham@gmail.com.

How we communicate

The Friends Friendly - we send this newsletter out every week attached to the school's Belham Buzz. It is essential weekly reading for news on forthcoming events! We *don't* send emails out to the whole school.

WhatsApp groups - every year group has a WhatsApp group of parents and carers, including the new Reception intake. We don't administer these, but we use them to send out updates and reminders in case you miss the newsletter! If you want to join then please ask another parent in your year if they can add you or email us at friendsofbelham@gmail.com and we'll help you get added to the group.

Facebook - we have a Friends of Belham Facebook page, private to parents/carers only. Search for the private Facebook page Friends of Belham (FoB) and once we get confirmation from the school that you are a parent / carer at the school, your member request will be accepted.

Upcoming EGM and committee meeting

Our next FOB meeting is on 6 October. This will be an Extraordinary General Meeting as we need to ask the members to appoint an independent examiner of the accounts. We will also discuss how to fundraise in the current climate. This will be a Zoom call and if you are interested at all in having your say or seeing what goes on in the FOB please dial in. Or if you have any brilliant answers to the following questions:

- What is the best way to organise an online second hand uniform sale?
- Whether the sell out Quiz Night will work as a zoom quiz?
- What can we do to replace the events that might just not be able to run any more, e.g. the school disco?

We will still hold our AGM in early November as usual.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Since FOB aren't fundraising at the moment we would be really grateful if you could make the trouble to use Easy Fundraising for any online shopping.

Just click the link below to register and remember to do your online shopping through the app and proportion of your spending will get **automatically donated to FOB**. Just a little effort on everyone's part here could mean a whole lot more money coming into the school, as some websites give up to 2% on purchases.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-belham/>