

## HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

And so we reach the end of another school year and what a strange year it has been! 'Normal' schooling was brought to an abrupt halt a couple of weeks before the Easter holidays and a nation of new teachers emerged, conducting lessons from their living rooms. I would like to say that you have all done brilliantly. It may be that not every lesson was taught; you may have struggled with the 'remote' part of learning; and there may have been tears on a daily basis (from the parents), but everyone managed in their own way. We are looking forward to September and we will be ready to support the Belham community when our pupils return to full-time, school-based education.

It has been lovely seeing nearly all children return to school this week to say a final 'goodbye' to their teachers. On behalf of the Belham's staff, I would like to say a big thank you to parents for all of the supportive comments and generous gifts that we received during the lockdown and at the end of the term. Working cohesively as a community has always been at the heart of the Belham's vision, and I think that the past few months have really highlighted how well we do this. Our staff will be taking a well-earned rest over the next few weeks and I hope that you are able to rest and recuperate too. Take care and we look forward to seeing you in September.

## COMMUNICATION AND AUTUMN ARRANGEMENTS

An email will be sent to parents in the week before the end of the summer holidays confirming arrangements for the autumn term. Over the summer holidays, Class Dojo will not be in operation so if there are any urgent messages that need to be communicated to the school, please email the info address.

## BOOK DRIVE

Over the last few weeks and months, several parents have kindly contacted us and asked if they can help with resources that promote diversity, both in authorship, character and setting. Since opening we have always regularly reviewed our selection as they get tattered and worn. Some are 5 years old now! It is clear that whilst we have many books that are representative of our local community, we could do with more. Friends of Belham do a wonderful job in regularly supporting us in providing books but we believe you can never have enough!

Below is a link to a list of some of our favourite books; we already have these but would love to have more copies.

If you are one of the parents who has asked about supporting us in this way please find the link below.

<https://amzn.eu/e8VrP4y>



## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The Summer Reading Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency, is delivered in partnership with public libraries and funded by Arts Council England. The Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure over the summer holidays, providing lots of fun as well as preventing the summer reading 'dip'.

With normal life disrupted and many children missing the company of their friends, this year's fun-filled Challenge will be all the more vital as a way of helping parents and carers find fun, family-friendly activities, maintain literacy levels and create a safe space for children to connect with their peers.

Find out more here:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

## OAK NATIONAL ACADEMY

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As well continuing to provide online lessons and learning over the Summer holiday, Oak National Academy have launched 'Activity Clubs.'

They have a range of activities on offer, run by various organisations and charities with activities like cook-alongs, art and debating clubs. Some activities are designed for certain year groups and some are for all.

To access the activities you can either browse all clubs at <https://classroom.thenational.academy/activity-clubs> or see what's on this week [here](#).

## READING TOGETHER DAY

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To support the very first Reading Together Day, the Department for Education (DfE) have published [tips for parents and carers of primary-aged children](#) to help them encourage and support their children to read. They contain ideas on how to plan reading opportunities at home and make reading enjoyable and engaging, including during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

## BLACK LIVES MATTER

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The brochure, [Breaking New Ground](#), features a guide to 100 BAME authors and illustrators, with information on genres, regions and publishers, as well as essays about children's and YA publishing. This was created in partnership with BookTrust, a well-known children's reading charity, which has found that less than 2% of books published in the UK over the past 11 years are by people of colour. *Speaking Volumes*, the organisation that launched the brochure, are trying to change the lack of inclusion in children's literature and are hoping to give children the chance to see themselves reflected in the books they read and among the people that make them.

# THE FRIENDS' FRIENDLY

Friends of  
Belham



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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)

## FOB's ACTIVITIES IN THE 2019/20 SCHOOL YEAR

### Fun and Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has attended, supported, organised and volunteered at an FoB event this year. It's been a strange one, with everything we'd hoped to do since March cancelled due to Covid-19. But we've been blessed that FoB worked so hard and the school community gave so generously in the past, meaning we had reserves to draw on to help the school with their short term needs and longer term plans.

The previous committee went out with a bang, pulling together a very successful autumn term and Christmas fair, with cycling at Herne Hill Velodrome, Halloween face painting, Christmas cards, Christmas trees and a cake sale too! The new committee took over in December, and we were delighted to welcome so many of you to the Disco and the Quiz in February before the world turned upside-down.

In the summer term, we made a decision not to pursue fundraising for general FoB funds while many of us are dealing with reduced incomes and increased demands on our time and attention. However we did manage to see the school year out with the Belham Window Hunt (see below).

When we are all back at school in September (touch wood...) we'll be working to welcome new families, bring the school community together in ways physical or virtual, pick-up fundraising again for new initiatives, and celebrate our first cohort of school leavers in a year's time!

## How the funds are being used

This year we have agreed to fund the following requests from school, though some will have to wait until coronavirus restrictions are relaxed:

**New library areas in every classroom** (c. £5000) - see below

**Workbooks and exercise books for every pupil at start of lockdown** (£2144)

**Food and stationery vouchers for a number of our pupils who needed the extra help at the start of lockdown** (£1340)

**Peckham Citizens membership** (£1000 pa) - see below

**An ongoing commitment to fund extra before-school sports practices** (c.£1500pa)

**Swimming caps in house colours** (£632)

**Plants to help indoor air quality** (£335)

**A theatre trip for the whole school** (£2000)

**Coaching for children in conflict management** (£2000)

**Extra reading passport books** (£1200)

**Props and licences for school performances** (£2000)

**Improvements to the Copleston growing garden** (£500)

We have agreed to fund **new library areas in every classroom**, to support the school in a big push on reading and literacy, and these facilities will undoubtedly be even more valuable as coronavirus affects how kids are able to move around the school.

We're delighted to be able to fund the school's membership of **Peckham Citizens** for the next academic year. Being a member will involve the school in community activism across Peckham and London, working together with other institutions to

make positive change, and develop Belhamites into (even more!) active citizens.

**The Lane garden** along the Bellenden Road pavement is now bursting with trees and plants. This project was made possible by the hard work and amazing fundraising of you all. Unfortunately the pupils haven't been able to use it this year due to scaffolding erected to protect everyone from a dodgy Victorian drainpipe, but on the plus-side the plants have all had a really good chance to grow undisturbed, and the Lane will be even more resilient once children are able to play in there. Labels for plant identification and other features will be completed once accessible is possible.

Please remember that you are all members of FoB, and your ideas, views and involvement are always extremely welcome. You can email us at [friendsofbelham@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbelham@gmail.com), speak to a class rep or committee member, or come to a meeting.

Thanks again to our school community, and to the amazing teachers and staff for all they have done during the Covid crisis. See you next year!

## FOB COMMUNITY CORNER

### Golden Toad Theatre – your chance to be in a music video!!

Jen (Felix in Wool's mum) is part of Golden Toad Theatre Company. They are offering kids aged 3-11 the chance to create an online music video with West End stars Courtney Stapleton (*Six*) and Joe Griffiths-Brown (*Hamilton*). Children are invited to record themselves singing along with Errol from the lovely book *Errol's Garden*, and send in their photos or drawings of what they have been growing at home, in the garden, or at the allotment. Find out more at [www.goldentoadtheatre.com](http://www.goldentoadtheatre.com)

## SOUND RECORDING AND AUDIO ADVICE

Petar Krlev is Dad of Savina in Wool class. He's a sound recordist in film and television, and with most filming suspended, he's offering his skills to the Belham community. He has his own equipment and can offer sound recording, editing, training and advice, help with events, and expert consultations on home audio equipment.

IMDBprofile:

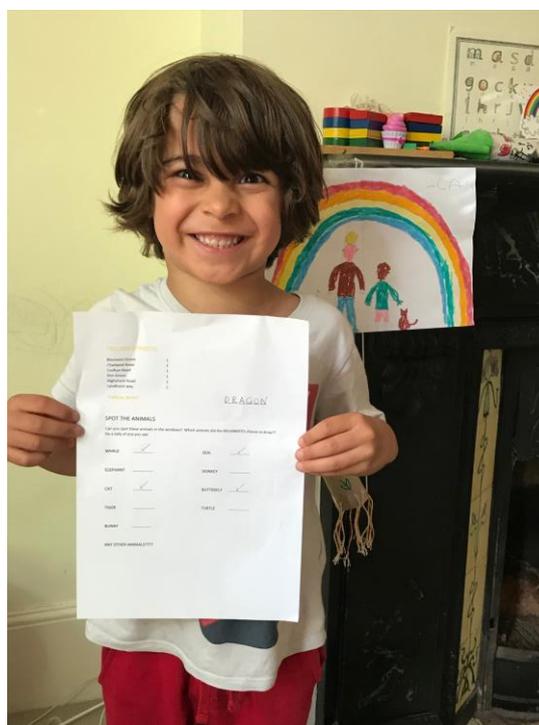
[https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2425751/?ref=fn\\_al\\_nm\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2425751/?ref=fn_al_nm_1)

<http://peterkingsound.co.uk/>, [krlevp@gmail.com](mailto:krlevp@gmail.com), 07516 321881

## BELHAM WINDOW HUNT

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the Belham Window Hunt!! We saw some fantastic colouring in, and some lovely letters and animals in the windows. For anyone who is interested, in addition to the gorgeous cats, bunnies, turtles, whales, etc in the windows, the mythical creatures we were hunting were DRAGON, UNICORN, MONSTER and MERMAID. Your FOB secretary braved the streets with Benjy (cotton) and got as far as ONSTER (insider info enabled us to add on the M), bumped into a few familiar faces and then had an icecream and a rest on Peckham Rye.

Here is a lovely photo of one of our Felt children with his completed form, well done!



## 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**.

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