

HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Before we break up for half term, I would like to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to the Belham school community. Teachers have delivered an exciting curriculum and embraced the opportunity to include trips in their planning again. It has been lovely welcoming parents back into the school for assemblies and other whole school events – an extra big thank you must go to the FoB, who planned an incredibly successful Autumn Fair and Fun Run, raising over £8000 in total for the school! Finally, thank you to our wonderful Belhamites, who have returned to school with such enthusiasm and worked so hard. Have a restful and safe half term break, everyone!

COVID-19 CASES IN SCHOOL

As you will be aware, Covid-19 cases in school are rising. It is still a small, contained number of cases. The school is working closely with Southwark Public Health and following the operational guidance issued by the Department for Education. Public Health continue to advise us and there will be some additional measures for at least the first week back after half term.

- There will be reduced mixing of year groups at lunchtimes.
- There will be no in-person assemblies.
- We **strongly request** for parents and carers to wear masks at pick up and drop off, unless they are unable to do so.

These measures will be reviewed on Friday 5th November.

DfE guidance currently states that children who are close contacts should continue to come to school as long as they do not have symptoms. If children display symptoms, they must take a PCR test and isolate until the result. Lateral flow tests are not adequate to comprehensively rule out Covid-19 and are not recommended for primary-aged pupils. If a child is a close contact, identified by Test & Trace, they must take a PCR test but do not have to stay away from school while waiting for the result. If Public Health advises the school that a particular class or group should take a PCR test, we will communicate this to parents. As always, please contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

Parents are also able to call the DfE coronavirus helpline with any queries regarding Covid-19 and educational settings. The number is 0800 046 8687 and lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm; Saturday and Sunday 10am to 6pm.

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 25th October - Friday 29th October

Half term

Sunday 31st October

DEADLINE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Monday 1st November

Morning and after school clubs resume

Y2 Swimming

Tweed Bikeability Training (ALL WEEK)

Wednesday 3rd November

Y6 Swimming

Thursday 4th November

Reception Vision Screening @ 09.30am

Friday 5th November

Y4 Swimming

Monday 8th November

Corduroy Bikeability Training (ALL WEEK)

TRIP - Y5 & Y6 Tag Rugby Festival @ Dulwich Hamlet

(Parents will be contacted by the school if their child is involved)

Tuesday 9th November

TRIP - Y3 & Y4 Tag Rugby Festival @ Dulwich Hamlet

(Parents will be contacted by the school if their child is involved)

Monday 29th November

This is the last week of morning and after school clubs

Thursday 9th December

Hands on Science (to make up for cancelled club)

Friday 17th December

Last day of term (finish at 1.15pm)

COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING – OCTOBER HALF TERM

If your child develops any symptoms related to coronavirus before Sunday 24th October at 3.30pm, **or** your child receives a positive test result during the break it is vital that you fill in this form below -

<https://forms.gle/su1YNApSus7zSqu7>

As ever your support is hugely appreciated!

Y5 - BIKEABILITY

We would like to remind our Y5 parents that bikeability training will be happening from the first week back after the half term.

Tweed class is 1st – 5th November and Corduroy is 8th-12th November.

Please make sure the children bring their bike to school and if you have not done so already, please complete this form – [Course Details & Booking](#)

ROAD SAFETY

Back in July, the Belham Air Quality Group circulated an 'active travel' questionnaire to parents and staff. There were 107 responses, and of these, 96% of respondents were already walking to and from school. Unfortunately, the majority of parents said they did not feel safe when dropping off and collecting their children.

The main concerns were broadly: the speed and volume of vehicles on the roads around school; failure of drivers to stop at crossings; congestion on narrow pavements. The majority of respondents wanted to see school crossing patrols, permanent pavement widening on Bellenden Road, and a 'school street' (temporary road closure).

The school is currently discussing the proposed design for pavement widening with Southwark Council. We are very pleased that it looks likely work will be carried out in January/February. We are also pursuing the possibility of having a school crossing patrol, and many of the infrastructure issues raised by the questionnaire, including traffic calming measures.

We encourage all of our families to travel to and from school by foot or other active means. Please leave your car at home – this will improve air quality, road safety and health. Please also be mindful of supervising children and not blocking pavements at drop-off and pick-up times.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

There will be a stall in the playground on 4th and 5th November selling items for Remembrance Day. [Cash only please.](#)

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This week the children have brought their Christmas artwork and QR codes home. The next step is to go online and start the order process using your QR code.

After half term, return the artwork and QR code on 1st or 2nd November. If you have lost the QR code, there will be people on hand in the playground on those days to give you another one.

The **final deadline** for returning artwork and QR codes is Monday 8th November. If you have any questions about this, please call the office.

LAMDA AT THE BELHAM

LAMDA is a little different to an average club as the pupils work towards a graded examination in the Summer term and receive a qualification at the end. Experienced LAMDA tutors deliver classes in little slots outside of curriculum time, i.e. break/lunch times and before/after school, a little bit like a peripatetic music teacher.

They would also offer the pupils lots of exciting opportunities to perform throughout the year – for example, a showcase and entrance to a Speech Festival in the Easter Term.

Families would need to commit for the year (with a term's cancellation notice). It would be around £9 per session. Sessions would probably happen after school (some might start later than the end of the school day meaning children would need either to go home and come back or be booked into Owls. Children would, when ready, be able to be entered for exams (at an additional cost).

If this is something you would be interested in for your child, express your interest by completing this form –

<https://forms.gle/poNkt7N49VX8DfM1A>

Creative Reflection Time after half term
will be about: Diwali

Headteacher: Ms Liz Cohen | Email: ecohen18.210@lgflmail.org | Tel: 020 8353 4290

FOOTBALL MATCH REPORT

Brixton Football League

On Friday 15th eight students from Year 4 went to a football tournament in Brixton (Arthur, Bailey, Benji, Archie, Diamond, Leo, Bertie and Gabriel).

The first game was against St. Anne's and The Belham won 9-0 (it was quite easy). The second game was against St. Bernadette's, we won 2-1. The last game was against Streatham Wells and ended in a draw—it was tough!

We made it into the semi-finals where we played St. Bernadette's again, but sadly we lost 2-0. We then had a friendly against St. Anne's while we waited for the award ceremony (we won).

When it came to the award ceremony St. Bernadette's (who knocked us out of the competition) won two trophies so they were clearly a really good team.

We all had a great day and headed back happily knowing that we had played our best.

Written by Benji (Year 4)

THIS GIRL CAN!

South London Girls Football Academy

Until the end of October, South London Girls Football Academy would like to offer all girls from Southwark schools a free training session and 20% off any fees this season at South London Girls football Academy.

They would like to continue to offer all young girls the opportunity to receive professional football coaching, no matter their level or experience, from a highly experienced, qualified and DBS checked coach.

The academy offers opportunities for players aged from 5-13 years old in separated age group sessions.
U8 - 9-10am (5, 6 & 7 years old)
U10 - 10-11am (8 & 9 years old)
U12 & U14 - 11am-12pm (10 & 11 - 12 & 13 years old)

To attend a free session, please refer the email southlondongirlsfa@gmail.com to register for a session.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL

Many of you have asked if we would set up a competitive football team for some of our Key Stage Two children (Years 3-6) that would compete in more formal leagues.

In order to do this, we would need to rely heavily on parent volunteers. If you are able to commit to the following, please get in touch:

- A morning practice session (08:00-08:45), at least five weeks out of ten in a term.
- A Saturday between 09:30-12:00, at least three over any given term.
- Helping out regardless of your child being selected for the team.
- Potentially undertaking some basic online training (1-2 hours).

OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS

Please can we remind you that if you have any outstanding payments for Early Birds and Owls, the balance needs to be paid by **5th November**.

All outstanding music and club fees should be paid immediately.

Many thanks!

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.

PE & SWIMMING AUTUMN TERM 2021

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Y1 PE	RE PE	Y2 DANCE	Y1 PE	Y4 SWIM
Y2 SWIM	Y5 PE	Y3 PE	Y1 YOGA	Y6 PE
Y3 YOGA		Y4 PE	Y3 PE	
		Y6 SWIM	Y5 PE	
			Y6 PE	

STAFFING

Currently we are experiencing unprecedented levels of staff absence. We work with some wonderful supply agencies but at times, they are also struggling to provide us with staff. The safety, care and education of your children are of course our highest priorities. This may mean that that your children work with different adults or messages from parents take a little longer to receive a reply. We are very much hoping to be back to full strength as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

The deadline for secondary school applications is 31st October. Please find more details and information on how to apply here -

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/secondary-admissions/applying-for-a-secondary-school-place>

Please remember to pick 6 schools so you can appeal if necessary.

RECEPTION PLACES 2022/23

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, they will be due to start school in September 2022. Applications are completed through the Southwark programme and are now open [here](#).

As we have now started our open days, it would be useful for us to understand how many siblings we may have applying.

If this applies to you, please contact Catherine Ross on info@thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk



KIDS SESSIONS

FOR CHILDREN AGED 2-8YRS



www.hernehillvelodrome.com/kids
info@hernehillvelodrome.com / 104 Burbage Rd, London SE24 9HE



Strider Balance Bike Club

- What:** A great first session for kids wishing to learn the balance and co-ordination skills required for safe and successful cycling. Riders who are learning with their own pedal bikes are welcome too.
- When:** Weekend lunchtimes and midweek mornings. Scan the QR code or visit hernehillvelodrome.com/book for the latest session times
- Who:** Kids aged 2-5yrs, accompanied by a parent or guardian
- Cost:** £5 per child including Strider bike hire + helmet



Frog Pedal Bike Club

- What:** A fun and friendly 1hr session for young riders wishing to improve their skills and technique through a variety of fun exercises and races. Rider limit: 30 per session.
- When:** Weekend mornings and after school on weekdays. Scan the QR code or visit hernehillvelodrome.com/book for the latest session times
- Who:** Kids under 8yrs who can ride unassisted. No stabilisers permitted
- Cost:** £5 per child including bike hire. Helmets available

THE FRIENDS' FRIENDLY



ISSUE 122: 22 OCTOBER 2021

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

SAVE THE DATE

during half term	Place Christmas card orders
Monday 1 Nov	Return Christmas Card artwork to school with sticker attached
Thurs 18 Nov, 6.15pm	Friends' Drinks and FoB AGM
Sunday 21 Nov, 11-1.30	Velodrome cycling and Learn to Ride sessions
Saturday 4 December	Belham Christmas Market and Xmas Tree collection

FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS CARDS

Hopefully you received your child's artwork and all-important sticker in their book bag this week. If you didn't, drop us an email.

Remember to place your order if you wish to, at the website shown on the sticker. And then return the artwork with sticker on the back to school, straight after half term.

BELHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET, 4th DEC

Come and start the festive season at the Belham Christmas Market where there will be...

- stalls selling great gifts (contact us if you'd like a stall or have something to sell)
- a festive bake sale: we'd love to see your seasonal or celebratory bakes from around the world and from all religions.
- mulled drinks
- music
- pre-ordered Christmas trees to collect
- face painting
- and maybe even an appearance by Father Christmas!

This is Covid-permitting, of course, but please save the date: Sat 4th December, 1:30-3:30pm

FUN RUN

What an amazing day we had with the 2021 Belham Fun Run! A big well done and thank you to all the runners who attended and raised sponsorship. It was a wonderful community event, with some amazing costumes this year!

A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up, marshal, spot runners, or tidy up; Elliot for taking wonderful photos, Katie the dance teacher for excellent warm ups; Ms Sprakes for helping on the day; Chloe for super costume judging; and Jessica for great posters and branding.

If there are any further sponsorship funds to come in, please use JustGiving:
www.justgiving.com/campaign/belhammakersroom

Attached to this email is a PDF of fun run photos. If you would like pics of your family at higher resolution please [email us](#) with the photo numbers.

With thanks from the core organising group (Kathryn, Marie-Anne, Natacha, Adam and Mr Turnham!)



VELODROME CYCLING SESSIONS (all years and abilities, Sun 21 Nov)

There will be three sessions at the Velodrome, spanning all abilities and ages. Please choose the session that is appropriate for your child:

Learn to Ride session, 11am-12pm, parental supervision required. £5.50

A session for children who haven't yet learnt to ride a pedal bike, teaching the balance and coordination skills required for safe and successful cycling. This session will use balance bikes or pedal bikes.

Pedal bike session, Inner track, 11am-12pm, all year groups. £5.50

A coached session on the inner track, for kids who can ride a pedal bike unassisted. We help them improve their skills, technique and confidence through a variety of fun exercises and races.

Track bike session, Main track, 12-1.30pm, Year 4 upwards. £7.50

An introduction to track cycling on the main, banked track for older kids who can confidently ride a bike, are able to hold a straight line and follow basic instructions. This session uses fixed wheel track bikes provided by the velodrome.

Helmet and gloves required. Bikes can be provided for all sessions, or you may bring your own (but not for the Track Bike session). No stabilisers permitted.

Please read the full details carefully and book tickets here: www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham

FRIENDS' DRINKS, THURS 18 NOV, from 6:15pm

Join us to celebrate a unique year in the life of our school. This is a social evening open to all in our school community: parents, carers, staff teachers, and governors are all welcome. Drinks will be on sale. The FoB AGM will be part of the evening, starting at 7pm.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES NOW OPEN

Take the stress out of Christmas Tree procurement by pre-ordering one of our fabulous fund-raising fir trees! They are really great trees, and every purchase includes £10 for the school. They must be collected from the school between 1.30-3.30 on Sat 4 December at the Belham Christmas Market.

www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham

TEA-TOWELS FOR YEAR 2 / RECEPTION

We have done our Reception tea towels early this year so that you can buy them as Christmas presents! And Year 2 have had the chance to do their tea towels at long last. So if you have a child in either year, do order some of these fabulous mementos, showing every child, teacher, and TA in both classes. www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham

TERRARIUM WORKSHOP, 13 JAN

Come and make your own self-watering terrarium: a garden in a glass jar!



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 'Bottle' Terrarium is made from recycled glass, and is 20cm high, diameter 10cm.

The workshop is being run by local company Jar and Fern, who are kindly offering a great discount to their normal prices. It will be in the main school hall, 6-7:30pm, Thurs 13 Jan. Full details and tickets: www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham

FoB NEEDS YOU...

The Friends Drinks in November will also be an opportunity for the AGM, and to vote in a new committee, as Adam (chair), Hannah (secretary) and Shaun (treasurer) will be standing down after two years. Kathryn will stay on so there will be continuity for the new team. We need new committee members for FoB to continue in existence: it's required by our charity constitution. Please get involved and be part of it while you have the opportunity. If you're teetering on the edge, then why not dip your toe in?! Please drop us a line if you'd like to know more: friendsofbelham@gmail.com