

## HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

Welcome to today's bumper edition of the Belham Buzz! It is the last Friday of the Spring term and we have so many lovely things to share before the holidays that we've decided to cram it all into today's edition. Firstly, I hope that all parents, staff and pupils are well and have not found the last couple of weeks too much of a challenge. Even though we're not at school, we still need this break to rest and recharge our batteries. I would like to remind parents that home learning tasks will not be set over the Easter holidays but they will resume on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Some of our community will be observing religious festivals, including Easter and Passover. If you and your children would like to explore the theme of Easter, this [BBC webpage](#) has a range of resources that can be used at home, including videos of the Easter story. This [link](#) explores the Passover story of Moses and the Exodus.

Finally from me, have a lovely Easter break and eat lots of chocolate eggs; I know I will be! See you all in a couple of weeks.

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES TO TRY AT HOME

Just because our home learning programme is on pause, it doesn't mean that you can't take part in fun, educational activities over the holidays!

Ms Gardner is challenging you to take part in an Easter Bake Off and to send us pictures of your creations. Ms Chan has shared an exciting Science experiment that you can do at home. Both have the potential to be very messy (sorry, parents)! Further details of both are on the attached posters. Have fun!

## ONLINE CLUBS

Many of our club providers are going online while we are closed. We have sent details of their websites this week. Please can we gently remind you that we take no responsibility for the content, quality or infrastructure of the sessions. These are run by external providers and not endorsed by the school and the school cannot be held responsible.

## 5 REASONS FOR HOPE

### Spring is here

The daffodils are in bloom and the blossom is blossoming! A sign that nature is happy and thriving in these challenging times

### China

No new cases of the virus have been reported and restrictions are being eased

### Science

Several vaccines for coronavirus are in development and being trialled.

### Appreciation

Healthcare workers worldwide are being celebrated and applauded like never before. The #clapforourcarers was so successful it is now to be a regular event each Thursday at 8pm!

### Community matters

Communities are flourishing with outpourings of kindness, whether with rainbows in windows or notes through doors to offer help or singing and clapping from windows. The human spirit is strong and kindness is infectious!

## YOGA/DANCE/MUSIC

We are delighted to announce that after the Easter break we will be able to continue offering our broad curriculum during these unprecedented times. We will be providing twice weekly yoga lessons recorded by our amazing in-house yoga teacher. We will also be providing a weekly pre-recorded dance lesson. Keep an eye on the school story on Class Dojo for more details.

And we are thrilled to have our music lessons for next term continue for the children via video conference. Links and info will be coming to parents just before the beginning of Summer term.

## BANNERS OF SUPPORT KEY WORKERS

Thank you for all your pictures showing your support for key workers on the front line; we are going to spread them out across the coming weeks. Keep them coming!



## CREATIVE REFLECTION TIME AT THE BELHAM

As you have probably noticed, each day, we have been posting a Creative Reflection Time on the Dojo School Story. This is something that has been a tradition at The Belham, covering a range of topics from Hockney to Hip Hop. This relaunch of CRT is an opportunity for children to explore the arts with their families, drawing on their curiosity, creativity and critical thinking.

During these times, we have all had to think about the changes our children are facing and consider their mental health. The arts have long played a part in promoting wellness.

*Art brings people together, initiates conversation, stirs feelings, conveys that which may not be expressed in words. It is no wonder that art plays an important part in many people's mental health experience, including my own...Creating is a very human thing. I suppose you could say art made me feel human again'*

Grace Jeremy, Young Minds

We hope you will take the time to share Creative Reflection Time each day. Feel free to post your thoughts. If you would like to put forward ideas or themes for future consideration, let Kate Gorely know via Tom Turnham or Ally Sprakes.

Ms Gorely

## FREE ONLINE ACTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT

Check out the following links for holiday (and beyond) entertainment:

[Harry Potter at Home](#) – a new website launched by J.K. Rowling

[National Theatre Home](#) – weekly NT performances throughout April for free

[RPO at Home](#) – play quizzes, listen to recordings and watch Royal Philharmonic Orchestra musicians perform at home

## POEM OF THE WEEK

Look out for our new feature 'Poem of the week' coming to you every week in the Belham Buzz. Each week, we will include a short poem for you and your family to read and enjoy. Our teachers would love to see Belhamites reading the poem aloud and performing it with their own special touches. If you would like to send your child's performance to their class teacher, you can upload it to their Class Dojo portfolio.

This week's poem of the week reflects the themes of celebrations and seasons and human behaviour. Read it aloud with the children and encourage them to recite part or all of it, using rhythm and expression to bring it to life. They could even change the names in the poem to add a personal touch!

Ms Gardner

### Easter Eggs

*Poem from Bookside Down by Joanne Limburg*

*Sadie opened her Easter egg  
and found three smaller Easter eggs.*

*Jaspar opened his Easter egg  
and found a hammer for breaking Easter eggs.*

*Monica opened her Easter egg  
and found a tiny doll she thought she'd lost.*

*Stephen opened his Easter egg  
and found last week's uneaten peas.*

*Naomi opened her Easter egg  
and found the answer to next week's Maths test.*

*Oscar opened his Easter egg,  
put one half to his ear and heard the peeping of newborn chicks.*

*Sonya opened her Easter egg,  
walked inside and no-one saw her till the following year  
when Anton opened his Easter egg  
and Sonya jumped out.*

## AND FINALLY...A POEM TO ENJOY

Pupils have got stuck into their home learning tasks this week and Ms Gorely told me that she was impressed with Year 4's poems, written as part of their 'Caribbean Poetry' week. Ms Gorely particularly enjoyed this lovely poem written by Alice:

*Who knew the forest could keep secrets under its  
shady leaves?*

*And who heard the whispers of the forest coming  
from the secret trees?*

*And what flower spoke the hour of every sunlit day?*

*And what secrets did the forest keep from every  
June to May?*

*What hides in every blossom of each Cherry Tree?*

*And what apple hits the earth faster than you can see?*

*And what winds blow the leaves without making a  
sound?*

*And what animal sits sleeping under the forest ground?*

*How many questions you ask*

*To find the answer is your task*

*Because the forest will never show*

*And you will never know*

Well done, Alice!

# 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)

## THANK YOU TO THE SCHOOL

Here's an ongoing message of thanks to our teachers and the staff at the school for supporting us and the community. Your FOB secretary is feeling more involved than ever in the experience of being in school... we love getting to watch the videos from the teachers and tackle everything from number stories to papier mache sea monsters.

## FOB COMMUNITY CORNER

We would like to make the Friends' Friendly as helpful as possible to you all in these difficult circumstances. If you run a business that offers something that may be useful to school families at this time, or you work with a charity that is helping people impacted by this crisis, we invite you to submit a short paragraph and a link telling everyone how we can support what you are doing. Please only submit if it's a business or charity you are personally part of, and we ask that your name appears in the text. Please send to [friendsofbelham@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbelham@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Southwark food bank** - although we haven't had a direct submission on this we have a long tradition of support for the food bank so we're giving them a special shout out. They are running an emergency appeal to continue support efforts during the outbreak.

<https://southwark.foodbank.org.uk>

According to the website, urgently needed food items include tinned fruit and meat, rice pudding, long life fruit juice and milk, and toiletries.

## Junior Creatives - Jewellery Competition (with prizes!)

Ed and Alice run a jewellery brand called [Alice Made This](#):

In light of the current kiddie mayhem and the Easter Holidays we are running a Creative Competition for the little ones. Colour or decorate our necklace templates and enter by sending your pictures to [alice@alicemadethis.com](mailto:alice@alicemadethis.com) to win a necklace for your parent, carer or a loved one! We have 3 necklaces to win, but we have a 4th extra necklace just for The Belham School entries. I hope this can entertain the kids for a little bit to give you all some time for a well earned cuppa or a little extra work. Happy Easter and we really look forward to seeing all of your entries. Please feel free to pass the details on to all of your friends too. Stay safe and healthy and thank you SO much to all the parents on the frontline. Lot of love Alice, Ed, Rocky (Year 3), Juno (Reception) and Eme (pocket rocket). x

[Competition details here :\)](#)



**Golden Toad Theatre Company** (Co-run by Felix in Wool's mum Jen Green) has a variety of online activities including a song-writing competition for under-11s available through their website:  
<https://goldentoadtheatre.com/busy-kids-corner>

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