

## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

In Monday's virtual assembly, pupils learnt about the history behind Bonfire Night and why we 'Remember, remember the Fifth of November'. This week also marks the beginning of another festival where light is at its heart: Diwali. Your children can find out more about Diwali in these [BBC](#) articles and videos. I particularly like this [CBeebies 'My First Festivals: Diwali video'](#) which is suitable for younger Belhamites. For all those celebrating the Festival of Lights, Happy Diwali.

For the past couple of weeks, the Belham has had 'amber' measures in place to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 as advised by Southwark's Public Health team. Unfortunately, this has meant that we have had to put certain events on hold. I would like to thank parents for their patience and for complying with certain requests that we have made, such as wearing masks on site – please continue to do so. With the measures that we have put in place and the break in transmission for half term, Southwark Public Health are happy that our 'cluster' of cases is over. We are once again able to host on-site events and go back to 'green' measures. We will still be keeping sensible precautions such as increased hygiene and cleaning, masks for visitors, and increased ventilation.

We will continue to work closely with Southwark's Public Health team and follow their recommendations.

It is possible, if we see a rise in cases, that we will need to go back to 'amber' measures. We will of course keep parents informed of any changes that we have been asked to make.

## Y5 - BIKEABILITY

We would like to remind **Corduroy** parents that Bikeability training will be happening next week - 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

## POETRY WEEK – VIDEOS ON INSTAGRAM

At the end of last term as part of poetry week, the children were exploring the work of Black poets – primarily the work of Joseph Coelho.

If you have not already done so, please make sure to check out the brilliant recordings on our Instagram account -@belhamprimary of each class reciting poems by Joseph Coelho. Joseph Coelho will be conducting an interactive session with our children in November. We can't wait!

## KEY DATES

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November

Y2 Swimming

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) **\*\*THIS HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL JAN 2022\*\***

**Final Deadline** for returning Christmas Cards

### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November

**TRIP** - Y3 & Y4 Tag Rugby Festival @ Dulwich Hamlet (Parents will be contacted by the school if their child is involved) **\*\*THIS HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL JAN 2022\*\***

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Y6 Swimming

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Y6 SATs and Residential Parent Meeting 6pm-7pm at school (this may need to be virtual)

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Y4 Swimming

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Open Classrooms Early Years/KS1 - **POSTPONED**

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November

Open Classrooms KS2 - **POSTPONED**

### Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Joseph Coelho online interactive session for Y1-Y6

### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November

**\*This is the last week of morning and after school clubs\***

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

The Sketchbook Project (to make up for cancelled club)

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Hands on Science (to make up for cancelled club)

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

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

Last day of term (finish at 1.15pm)

## WEAR RED DAY – THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers who donated to our Wear Red Day to support Anti-Racism charity 'Show Racism the **RED** card'. We raised an amazing £566! 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**

# THE BELHAM BUZZ

ISSUE 217 | 5 NOVEMBER 2021

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## CALL OUT - NEW FOB COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The FoB is looking for new committee members; if you are interested please contact them directly on - [friendsofbelham@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbelham@gmail.com)

The school hugely values what the Friends of Belham do; however, elected committee members are needed for the FoB to stay in existence so please consider joining – we would be ever so grateful!

## NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY

Each week we will attach a PDF from National Online Safety. This week's guide is on [Snapchat](#).

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

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

## 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 to announce 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.

## OPEN CLASSROOMS – 17<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

We were so excited to invite you all into the school again. However, we have decided that having just come out of 'amber' measures, it is not the right time. We will hold the open classrooms later in the year. Hopefully this is the last event that we need to postpone!

## 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	

## PAYMENTS FOR EARLY BIRDS & OWLS

Please can we remind you that all outstanding payments for early birds and owls need to be paid immediately? Many thanks!

## RECEPTION PLACES 2022/23

Applications for Reception places in September 2022 are done through the Southwark programme and are now open [here](#). **The deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January.**

## 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](mailto:info@thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk).

Creative Reflection Time next week will  
be about:  
**Remembrance**

# THE FRIENDS' FRIENDLY



ISSUE 123: 5 NOVEMBER 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](mailto:friendsofbelham@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 6 Nov – 9-4	Copleston gardening
Friday 12 Nov 2.45 - 5pm	Uniform sale!
Saturday 13 Nov 9-12	Gardening at school
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov, 6.15pm	Friends Drinks & AGM
Sunday 21 Nov, 11-1.30	Velodrome sessions
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Xmas Market & Trees
13 January	Terrarium workshop

## FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS CARDS

It's not too late – the deadline is **MONDAY!!** Place your orders and return your artwork school - Lizzy and Libby will in the playground on Monday to help.

## SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

**Friday 12th November!**

FOB will be hosting another second hand uniform sale next Friday the 12th November, from 2.45pm-5pm at the Copleston Centre on Copleston Road (less than 5 mins walk from school!). All proceeds to support the Maker's Room Upgrade! Contactless payments only, no cash!

Please leave items donated to the sale in the FOB Box in the main playground at morning drop off next week Mon-Thursday. All items must be cleaned and in wearable condition. We are happy to sell all Belham uniform (branded and plain) and any accompanying items (sports shoes, school shoes, coats, book bags etc.)

## BELHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET, 4 DECEMBER

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.

- pre-ordered Christmas trees to collect
- as well as: mulled drinks, music, face painting and maybe even an appearance by Father Christmas!

This is Covid-permitting, of course, but please save the date.

## HELP MAKE BELHAM BEAUTIFUL!

Over the next two Saturdays we'll be helping to spruce up the School's green spaces. All are welcome, whether experienced gardener or novice!

## LANDSCAPING AT COPLESTON GARDEN

**Saturday 6 Nov - tomorrow!**

Drop in any time, 9am-4pm.

50 Copleston Road, behind Latter Rain Church. This Saturday we are going to be digging up a section of the Copleston Garden and putting down bark chips to make it much less muddy and much better for learning and play.

We need help - there'll be lots of soil to dig out and sand and bark chips to move. If you have them please bring a wheelbarrow, a spade, a shovel, gloves.

Children may attend but you are responsible for their safety and please note the climbing frame will not be accessible and the gate will be left open.

Contact Adam on 07748 418552 or [adamscott5@gmail.com](mailto:adamscott5@gmail.com) with any questions.

## GARDENING MORNING AT SCHOOL

**Saturday 13th November, 9am to 12noon**

Come and join us to tidy up the school beds and planters ready for the winter. We'll be clearing leaves, cutting back and clearing for the quiet months so we're ready for some planting come the spring. Come for the whole morning or just an hour.

tea and coffee will be provided with biscuits to keep us all going! Bring gloves, trowel/little fork and secateurs if you have them please.

Contact Harriet on [harriet\\_bailey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:harriet_bailey@yahoo.co.uk) 07943216677 or for more info and to sign up.

## 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 few tickets left

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 – Sold out, join waitlist

A coached session on the inner track, for kids who can ride a pedal bike unassisted. This is sold out but you should **join the waiting list** if you are interested, as if there is sufficient demand it may be possible to hold an extra session.

Track bike session, Main track, 12-1.30pm, Year 4 upwards. £7.50 – Tickets left, please buy now if keen as we need to confirm numbers!

An introduction to track cycling on the main, banked track for 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](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham)

## 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. Trees must be collected from the school between 1.30-3.30 on Sat 4 December at the Belham Christmas Market. Order now (or before Weds 24 Nov) at: [www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham)

## TEA-TOWELS FOR YEAR 2 / RECEPTION

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER Year 2 and Reception tea towels – deadline is THIS SUNDAY NIGHT!!

Do order some of these fabulous mementos, showing every child, teacher, and TA in both classes.

[www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham)

## TERRARIUM WORKSHOP 13 JAN

Come and make your own self-watering terrarium! 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 workshop is being run by local company Jar and Fern, who are kindly offering a great discount to their normal prices. Full details and tickets:

[www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbelham)

## FRIENDS DRINKS & AGM – THURS 18<sup>th</sup> NOV

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. We hope to see you there to celebrate the last crazy year at school. The evening will incorporate the Friends of Belham Annual General Meeting, including election of the committee.

We will confirm next week if this will go ahead in person or a different format but please keep the date saved.

## NEW COMMITTEE – WE NEED YOU!

Be part of the next FOB committee! C'mon... you know you want to really! It's such a good way to engage with and contribute positively to the school community, and you won't be alone because the FOB is already a thriving environment with loads of lovely new class reps each contributing a part. Kathryn will stay on so there will be continuity for the new team.

The new committee will be voted in at the Friends Drinks on 18 November. We are looking for at least one Chair, a Treasurer and a Secretary, so that the FOB can carry on. Please drop us a line if you'd like to know more:

[friendsofbelham@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbelham@gmail.com)