

## HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

A Happy New Year to everyone and a warm welcome back to school, whether that be virtually or in-person. Towards the end of the Christmas holidays, we found out that London schools would be resuming remote education and it has been confirmed that this will continue until at least February half term. All of our pupils are following their class remote learning plan and teachers are doing a wonderful job planning and delivering lessons. You will notice that what the children are being asked to do is distinctly different to the first lockdown. In the most recent guidance, the government has stated that the remote education schools must provide should "include both recorded or live direct teaching time", with Key Stage 1 receiving 3 hours' worth of teaching per day and Key Stage 2, 4 hours a day. I appreciate that home schooling can be tricky to manage but it is statutory that we provide a full day's learning. We say this to the children but I will say it to you too: do the best you can and remember that our teachers are on hand to help where they can. We welcome all feedback from parents regarding home learning but also ask for your patience and understanding. Everyone is working very hard in challenging and unusual circumstances.

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We have had a very high take up of critical worker school places and this week saw an average of 80 children attending each day. We are currently able to accommodate those who have asked for a place; however, should demand increase or if staffing becomes an issue, we will have to prioritise certain groups. In updated school guidance, the government has talked about the need to "reduce all our social contacts wherever possible" and advised that "parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can". We must remember why schools have closed in the first place: to reduce community transmission of the virus. If we feel that the safety of our staff and pupils is being compromised because of high pupil numbers, we will have to review our current provision. We will continue to keep parents updated about this and any other related government policy changes.

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

## THANK YOU!

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all of our staff and families for making our home schooling work! We have been so impressed with how many of our Belhamites have engaged & committed to our online learning with a wonderful 88% attendance on Google meet! And to all of our staff who have offered face to face schooling, thank you!! We are here for you all and we will get through this together.



## ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

We are offering a full remote curriculum and to access it children require the technology to do so. We have identified as much school equipment as possible that can be loaned and will also be receiving some devices from the DfE. We do know, however, that we still will not have enough. We have put a call out around this on <http://www.letslocalise.co.uk>.

LetsLocalise links schools, communities and big businesses in an endeavour to support one another. Please follow the school on LetsLocalise if you can. With this in mind, we are asking for any second hand laptops or tablets that could be used. If you have one please do let the office know.

## RECEPTION ADMISSION APPLICATIONS 2021

The 2021-22 Reception admission applications deadline is fast approaching and remember, even if your child has a sibling already at the Belham, you still need to apply online on Southwark Council's website. Online applications are quick and easy to do and instructions can be found [here](#). The deadline is 15th January 2021.

# 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)

## Important dates

Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Velodrome Y3/Y6- Cancelled
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Velodrome Y2/Y5 - cancelled
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> January	FOB meeting

## Happy New Year!

Well, here we are in lockdown again, and we hope everyone is managing to keep their spirits up as we try our hands at home schooling and enormous amounts of juggling. A big shout out to everyone at the school for being agile enough to get remote learning up and running at such incredibly short notice. Thank you!

## FOB meeting 12 January

Do join us for our next FOB meeting on the 12 January, we'd love to see as many as can make it. We are going to discuss how we can fundraise during this time, run non-contact events that bring people together, and what we can do to support the school.

Here is the Zoom link for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81938353199?pwd=dUE1T05md29VZy9ZNUUpKZC9Ob0Rtdz09>

Meeting ID: 819 3835 3199  
Passcode: 178185

If you have any ideas for fun things we can do as a community and/or to raise money, please do join the call or email us on [friendsofbelham@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbelham@gmail.com)

## Velodrome tickets:

Sadly the Velodrome event has had to be cancelled, again, and we will be refunding tickets purchased via SchoolsBuddy until we have another date.

## Belham community corner:

Do you run a local business? Please email us if you would like to include a mention of your business here so that we can support our community in this time.

## Lockdown gallery

We would love to be able to share home creations and works of art that you have made, so if you have any images we can share please email them to [friendsofbelham@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbelham@gmail.com)