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HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

It was lovely to see so many parents and pupils at the Winter Fair last Saturday. As always, it was incredibly well organised by the Friends of Belham who raised an impressive amount of money for the school. This will go towards supporting exciting projects such as the creation of our library. Thank you to the FoB and to the Belham community for your support!

This week saw our Key Stage 2 pupils perform their retelling of the Christmas story. Creativity was certainly the order of the day and the children did brilliantly! The teachers, support staff and children worked incredibly hard to make sure they were ready to perform and Nancy Wayman chose a lovely selection of songs. A huge thank you to all those involved in the production of the Christmas shows this year – it was a treat to watch!

TERM DATES 2023/2024

AUTUMN TERM

Thursday 31 August - Friday 20 October

Half Term: Monday 23 October - Friday 3 November

Monday 6 November – Thursday 21 December

INSET Days: Thursday 31 August and Friday 1 September

SPRING TERM

Thursday 4 January - Friday 9 February

Half Term: Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February

Monday 19 February - Thursday 28 March

INSET Days: 1 Date TBC

SUMMER TERM

Monday 15 April - Friday 24 May

Half Term: Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May

Monday 3 June – Tuesday 23 July

INSET Days: 1 Date TBC

KEY DATES

Monday 12th December

Last day of morning and after school clubs

Y2 - Travel Through the Ages workshop (at school)

Wednesday 14th December

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

Reception eye test

SEWING & CRAFT (MAKE UP CLUB)

Thursday 15th December

ART & CRAFT (MAKE UP CLUB)

HOCKEY (MAKE UP CLUB)

Friday 16 December

Last day of term (**finish at 1:15pm**)

Please find a link [here](#) to our full school events calendar.

Please find a link [here](#) to our PE & SWIM timetable.

Tuesday 3rd January

All children return to school

Monday 9th January

Morning and afterschool clubs begin

CHRISTMAS JUMPER AND CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday! Chef Leo has a delicious Christmas feast planned and we cannot wait! We will be supporting the [Save the Children](#) Christmas Jumper Day and all our Belhamites are welcome to wear their festive jumpers. We also have jumpers here for those who need them, so no one will go without!

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

Going forward, parents will no longer be able to bank childcare vouchers in their SchoolsBuddy accounts. If you pay by childcare vouchers, please can we ask you to check your balance on SchoolsBuddy and if it is in credit please **do not** add any more vouchers in until your current balance of vouchers has been used.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Claire in the office.

THE FRIENDS' FRIENDLY



9th December 2022

Meet the Friends of Belham (FoB) Committee & Class Reps

<http://www.thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk/friends-of-belham.html>

Contact us

friendsofbelham@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

10 th January	FoB Meeting and New Year's Drinks
4 th Feb	FoB Burns Night Ceilidh

WINTER FAIR - THANK YOU!

A BIG thank you to everyone who supported this year's Winter Fair. It was great to see so many people attend and there was real festive cheer in the air.



The fair was a fundraising success, bringing in an incredible **£3,850** for the school – some of which came from the sale of nearly 100 Christmas trees. The funds will provide much-needed support for the school, including the creation of a new library space, and free provision of theatre trips/musical instruments for all Belham students. At this year's fair, we were able to offer free visits to Santa's Grotto that included a present for each child on Santa's good list. And rest assured, we've been told by Santa that every child who saw him at the fair *was* on the list! There were also free activities for all to enjoy in the relative tranquillity of the smaller downstairs hall, with a Hanukah game and Christmas crafts co-existing side-by-side.



As with all FoB events, we couldn't have done it without the support of all those who contributed to the event – both in the run up to the fair and on the day itself. A HUGE thank you to everyone who volunteered, including those who baked cakes, built grottos, prepared food, popped corn, hauled trees, and entertained the kids. A special thank you to Jess for her fabulous design work, John for the exquisite tombola, Rob's dad for the tasty cider, Flock & Herd for donating the delicious sausages, Gareth James Property for their sponsorship, the wonderful Peckham Rye Sings choir, and the Santa(s) for the, "Ho ho ho"s in the grotto! Last but not least, thank you to the teachers and staff who helped enable the event and keep the school open on the day.

And as we endeavour to connect more and more with our local community, we would also like to thank everyone at the fair who kindly donated presents to the Bellenden Big Tree's collection for the Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers. All donations were very gratefully received.

BELHAM ART CALENDAR 2023

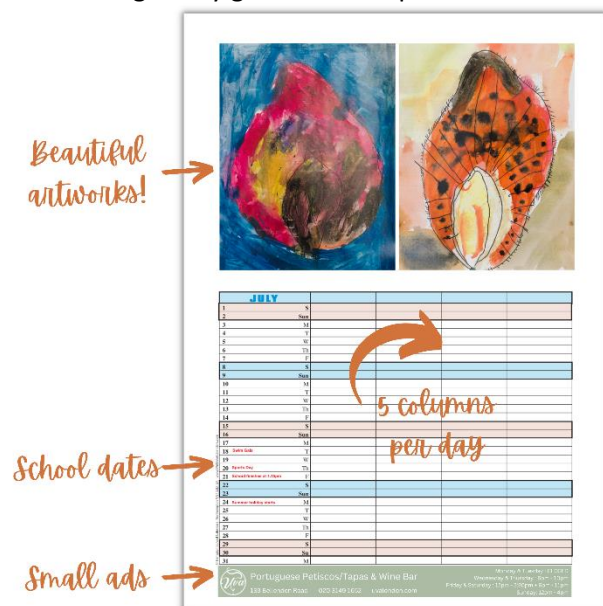


We have been thrilled by the response to the new FoB 2023 organiser style calendar – current orders are being printed and should be with you before the end of term. For those of you who missed the deadline for ordering and still want a calendar, do not fret – we have a limited number of extra ones as part of the school order. But it's first come, first served. So hurry and catch one before they sell out. Price £6.99. Use this link for ordering:

<https://buytickets.at/friendsofbelham/810618>

All net proceeds from sales and advertising will support the Belham Arts Fund, which is providing free theatre trips for the Belham children this Christmas.

And if you need a reminder about the calendars: they'll showcase the artistic talents of Belham pupils with each calendar month featuring a selection of artworks from past Belham Art Exhibitions. They won't just be beautiful on your wall; they'll also help keep life organised. School dates will be pre-printed within a large daily grid that has space to write in.



The calendar is A3, double-sided colour printed with a top-wire wall hanging. Some months will have a discrete advertising banner at the bottom.

FOB MEETING & DRINKS 12TH DEC (*Postponed – new date 10th Jan*)

With the end of term nearing, we are aware how busy everyone is in the lead up to Christmas. So, we have decided to postpone our planned FOB meeting/Christmas drinks next week, and do a New Year meeting/drinks event next term instead. Come along and join us on Tuesday 10th January at The Victoria Inn (corner of Bellenden/Choumert Road) from 8pm for a brief FoB meeting followed by New Year's drinks. Head to the private room in the back. We'd love to toast in 2023 with as many of you as possible – and note the change in venue (pub not school) and later meet-up time (8pm). See you there!