



Belmont Primary School Newsletter March 12th 2021



Dear Parents / Carers,

What a fantastic week this has been. Like you I am sure, we have absolutely loved being fully operational once again, seeing all the children, parents and carers.

It is wonderful to report that attendance has been incredibly high but, moreover, the children are well engaged in their learning and incredibly enthusiastic in all they do, both in and out of the classroom.

PD Day

You may recall that we cancelled one of our PD Days back in November. ***I can now tell you that this has been rescheduled for Friday 25th June. The school will be fully closed on this day.***

Elections

You will be aware that the school serves as a polling station each year. This is something we have no control over but we do liaise with electoral services to try to find effective solutions. In recent years, the whole school has had to close due to the main building being used. Of course, given the amount of time many children have been out of school over the past twelve months, we did not feel this appropriate. Following positive discussions and site visits, it has been decided that on ***Thursday May 6th, Nursery will, unfortunately, need to close*** as it will host the polling station. However, this does mean that the remainder of the school will remain fully operational. Although not a perfect scenario, this is absolutely the best we could have hoped for and we are grateful to our electoral services and our health and safety team at the local authority for their work with us to achieve this compromise.

Calendar Updates

I have attached a list of updates for the remainder of the school year. Again, there is a degree of uncertainty around these dates as some are wholly dependent on the easing of restrictions. However, should everything go according to plan, the identified activities should take place. You will note that there is no longer any mention of Phonics Screening, end of Key Stage One (Year Two) or end of Key Stage Two (Year 6) statutory assessments. These have been cancelled for this year but we are awaiting further direction in relation to the Year Four multiplication table screening which is likely to be optional for schools to facilitate.

Lauderdale Drive

With the increase in numbers of children in school comes the increase in traffic and illegal parking on Lauderdale Drive and, at the risk of sounding repetitive, I would like to issue a plea. As mentioned, I am aware of the difficulties in parking around the school but we do have an agreement with The Highcliffe where their car park can be used and it is only a short walk around to the main gates. Parking opposite the school has very nearly caused collisions with children on more than one occasion that I have personally witnessed. ***This school belongs to all of us and, as such, we have a collective responsibility for the health and well being of those who attend it.*** I am also concerned at the speed at which people drive along the road, certainly up to 30mph (the limit at drop off and pick up times is 20mph). I am sure all who drive will be aware of stopping distances at different speeds. We do not want any of our school community, children or adults, to become road traffic collision statistics.

I am sure that you will have rather tired children this week! I wish you all a pleasant, enjoyable and restful weekend!

With very best wishes,

Yours Sincerely

Mr C Gibson