



Belmont Primary School Newsletter April 16th 2021



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school and to the start of the Summer Term and for some of you, your final term at Belmont Primary School! We very much hope that you had an enjoyable break. It has to be said that the attendance this week has been fantastic across the school as has the attitude of the children. A terrific week!

'Relaxation' of Restrictions

During the break, we obviously entered a new phase in relation to societal restrictions and even more so at the beginning of this week. As a school we will not be relaxing any of the measures which we currently have in place at this time. We have a duty of care to all children, staff and families who attend our school and it is very much our view that we will continue to operate with the same vigilance which we have observed since March 2020. Only when we feel it is right and appropriate to do so will we look again at the measures we have in place and decide if they are ready to be relaxed. As always, we will keep you fully informed.

Because of this, we will not be looking to reinstate any of the original planned events for this term. I am sure that this may come as a disappointment to some (and by the same token, be a welcome decision by others) but, as already mentioned, we have a duty to many of you and as such do not feel it appropriate to hold larger gatherings.

Parent / Teacher Consultations (or 'Parents' Evenings!')

These will once again take the form of telephone discussions on the dates originally planned, those being Monday 5th and Wednesday 7th July. Given that this is still some way off, details will be shared nearer the time. We will also be providing end of year school reports the Friday prior to these dates.

Transition

We feel it important to introduce children to their new class teacher and, indeed, new classroom environment before the end of the term. Last year this was not possible and you may recall the staff filming a 'transition video' and sharing this on the website. This year we are planning to have some form of physical transition although there are factors beyond our own control which will affect exactly how this might look. However, we do have a couple of contingencies in place and are therefore confident that children will spend at least a day (and hopefully a full week) with their new teacher, in their new class, towards the end of the school year.

School Shoes

As is often the case at this time of the year, a number of you have sent in apologies about children unable to wear their school shoes due to them being damaged following extensive wearing or, more usually, they are outgrown. Given the current challenges being faced by so many people, could I suggest that at this time I break with precedent and request that you DO NOT go and buy new shoes at some expense and instead select footwear which you feel would be appropriate for use in school up until the end of the term ie July 18th. Of course, the Uniform Policy does still apply but with a degree of pragmatism added for these times.

Lost Property

A hearing aid found on the school site has been handed in at the reception. Please let us know if you think it might be yours!

Holiday Requests

Understandably, given the restrictions in place over the past year or more, people are wishing to make the most of opportunities to take time away. Unfortunately, there are caveats to this; we fully accept and appreciate the perceived need for a break but similarly, the vast majority of children have missed large amounts of in school learning time which we are keen to look to address. It is because of this that holiday requests are unlikely to be authorised by the school. Again, I have no doubt there will be mixed feelings on this.

Looking at the weather, it would appear we are in for a pleasant weekend! I very much hope you have the chance to enjoy it!

With very best wishes,

Yours Sincerely

Mr C Gibson