



Belmont Primary School Newsletter July 15th 2021



Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the end of another year of challenges, it is always a time for reflection on what has been achieved. It seems an age ago since we began the year in September, with fresh hopes for a return to a more familiar way of working, albeit with some adjustments, to ensure that our community could learn and socialise in as best way as possible. The systems which were in place seemed to work and we optimistically looked forward to being able to perhaps relax these. However, as we are well aware, that is not how the story quite unfolded, with changes in November and the announcement made on 4th January that schools would be required to close to the majority of pupils.

From this point, we all had to readjust to yet another way of accessing the curriculum which of course created challenges for so many of us. We heard that our pupils would suffer greatly and the phrase 'lost learning' was widely shared throughout the media.

However, here we are at the end of the school year. We have a school full of vibrant, enthusiastic and highly motivated young people, eager to make the very best of their experiences in school both socially and academically. Having had the privilege of reading through the reports of all our children, it is abundantly clear that they are rising to the challenges set before them and enjoying considerable success.

This does not simply 'just happen'. As the past year or so has unfolded, I have grown increasingly proud of the community within which we work. Our families, staff, carers and children have worked tirelessly to support one another more so than ever during these times and it is this interdependence which has facilitated these outcomes. Of course, we know that there is still work to be done but I feel everybody is well placed to continue to develop yet further.

From a personal perspective, I would like to extend my genuine thanks and gratitude to all members of our community for the determination, fortitude and support (as well as a much needed sense of humour on occasions). Within this I include parents, carers, children, cleaning staff, office staff, teaching support staff and teaching staff, all of whom have contributed so much to ensure school has operated in the most appropriate and efficient manner.

Recently, the 'plans' for September were shared with you all. I am hopeful that these will be able to be brought into operation. However, I am under no illusions that circumstances are subject to change. With this in mind, there will be contingencies in place should they be required and, if so, these will be shared with you at the earliest possible point so do please continue to check communications through the holiday period! We very much hope these will not be needed!

Year Six

As we wish our Year Six children well as they embark on their next stage of their education, I always like to reflect on the time they have spent in school. Many of the group joined way back in 2012, a year after I joined the school, so I have had the pleasure of observing their 'journey' and development as they have progressed up through the school. Of course, many of the children joined later on but nonetheless, we have still enjoyed seeing how they have changed through the years as well as experiencing so many successes. These were wonderfully exemplified in their end of term production 'Pantastic' where their levels of confidence and self assurance really came to the fore. Like so many others, they have faced a number of challenges in the past year and a half particularly but their whole attitude to school has been unwavering in its positivity. As a staff, we are exceptionally proud of their accomplishments and we wish them every success as they move on to their secondary education.

Transition

This has been a real success and we are really pleased we managed to facilitate this. The children have seemed well settled in their 'new classes' and the teachers have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with the children.

Finally

That is pretty much it from me this term but of course, I do also want to wish our Year Two children and their families all well following the rather disappointing end to their term.

I do hope that you are all able to enjoy a pleasant summer break. You have all certainly thoroughly deserved it. Once again, many thanks for all of your support.

With very best wishes,
Yours Sincerely

Mr C Gibson and all of us at Belmont Primary School