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Headteacher: Mr. C. Gibson

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Dear Parents / Carers,

It would appear that we have pretty much made it to the end of term (not quite though as my watch is saying 6.55am!). And we have got everything done which we had planned so let's begin with that....

...Sports Day

It didn't rain. It wasn't too hot. We did it!! Many thanks to so many who came to support yesterday and it was certainly one of the best attended ones we have ever had. The children were fully immersed in the activities and I have to say a massive thanks to our ear Six pupils who helped and supported through the morning session, something many of you commented on to me. Many of them also arrived on site at 8am to get everything all set up and without this, it would have been a struggle, for sure. Thanks also have to go to Mrs Hugill and Mrs Simpson for getting the whole day planned and everybody organised!

Year Six

While we are on the subject, these guys deserve a mention in the final newsletter. I did share some words following the two performances, but I think the whole school community needs to be aware of what a fabulous group of young people they are and having known the vast majority of them since they were in Nursery, I feel suitably qualified to do so! Throughout primary school years, there are many challenges whether they are social, emotional or academic. However, what we have seen is a group who, over the years, have developed both confidence and resilience in abundance, giving their all in their quest to be the best that they can. As a staff, we are exceptionally proud of their achievements through the years and we wish them all the very best as they embark on the next leg of their journey. Where, again, there will be challenges. But, again, they will prove that they have the armoury to cope with whatever life throws their way, both in the good times and those perhaps less so. And to quote Rudyard Kipling, if you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters just the same, yours is the world and everything that is in it.

Staff Leavers

Today we will say goodbye to three remarkable people who have worked tirelessly to support the school community. Firstly, Miss Duncan who has been with us in Nursery during Mrs Gee's maternity leave had to hit the ground running and that she certainly did! Being one of the first to arrive in school each day, she has contributed massively to the development of the children she has worked with, working to provide the best opportunities she can supported by Mrs Lofthouse and Miss Randall.

Mrs Fox, our co-founder of The Nest will also be leaving us to pursue a slightly different avenue. She has not only supported with our youngsters in The Nest but has also provided 'Thrive' support, lunchtime drop-ins and has covered classes when teaching staff have been absent or it is their planning and preparation time. Mrs Fox has worked hard, building up relationships with so many of our children and I know she will be greatly missed.

Talking of The Nest, Miss Blackett is also leaving to pastures new and, as mentioned previously, she has been a qualified teacher for many years and Lockwood Primary have managed to bag themselves a good 'un with Miss B joining the teaching staff in September. During her years at Belmont, Miss Blackett has worked in all areas as a teaching assistant, teacher, lunchtime supervisor... pretty much everything! She is much loved by us all, not least due to her kind, patient and empathetic nature. I will not say that she will be a brilliant teacher as she already IS a brilliant teacher! There is no doubt that her commitment to the school (including the work she undertakes to support FoB) is going to be greatly missed but I know that her ongoing career is going to be filled with success.

And then there is Mrs Allen. Linda to you guys who is pretty much the captain of this ship, being the first point of contact for all queries to the school and, of course, for admissions. She has managed the finances of the school ridiculously well (and is it a coincidence that she leaves just as a new Chancellor is being announced...hmmmm?!)) and steered through the choppiest of waters. For me personally, Mrs A has been totally my 'right hand person', a terrific sounding board and calming voice of reason among the occasional madness which can sometimes unfold. Her pragmatism, sense of humour, collegiality and friendship will be greatly missed by, dare I say, many hundreds of people. But after the length of time spent at Belmont (and having to work in an office right next to me!), she certainly deserves a break!

We wish these three fabulous people all the very best and, moreover, thank them for the enormous contribution they have made to the school and the wider community.

Parents and Carers

Well, we can't do this without you lot, can we? There are so many great things about our parents and carers at Belmont. Let's start with generosity. The amount of money you have raised for various causes through the year is crazy! You support all of the charitable causes which we seek to raise funds for and also make enormous contributions to such things as Harvest, something I know The Bridge are truly grateful for. And the gifts, cards and kind words which have been presented over the past few days is something we are all truly grateful for and, indeed, humbled by.

I think supportive is the next key word to use. We are well aware that as a school which serves a large community, we will never get it right for everybody. But we try. But when things do go awry, you contact us. You share your views, your thoughts and your concerns and, as unbelievable as it might seem, I truly appreciate this. It is good to know that people feel comfortable sharing their views with us as we do, genuinely, like to act where practicable and necessary on many of the issues raised. It makes the school a better place and that is in the interests of us all. As well as this, we also get some lovely messages of positivity from many of you which to you guys may seem almost nothing. But to us, it means the world. Thanks to one and all.

Our Main Clients!!

It has noted by many that Belmont children are among the most polite they have ever encountered and if you saw and heard what we did each day, there would be no argument. It is these guys that keep us coming back each day, week, month and year because we love working with them. Of course, little 'words of encouragement' are needed from time to time along with the 'odd reminder' but these are young people finding their way in life. Boundaries are there to be tested and adults are there to explain why they exist. But I have had the pleasure of reading and commenting on 392 reports over the past couple of months and each one painted a picture of a terrific young person who is achieving many great things. Not just in school but also out of it too. I get to hear about the successes people have had as swimmers, gymnasts, horse riders, boxers. The list goes on and I love to share in these successes and see certificates, rosettes, medals and trophies.

Last But Not Least...

....our staff! We work in a team of just under fifty staff. We have our site manager, our cleaning team, lunchtime supervisors, admin team, teaching assistants and teachers. We also have the kitchen staff who, although not employed by the school, are, as you can imagine, another vital 'cog in the wheel'. I am personally grateful to every one of these people who commit fully to the school and its community, working tirelessly through the day and then continuing in many cases at home and through the weekend. Because they also strive to support the children in being the best they can be. A massive thanks to them all and I wish them a fabulously well-earned break. Although poor Mr Magor, our site manager, will be here over the summer overseeing capital projects and getting tons of stuff done himself too.

And Finally....

I'm going to stop as I could go on for ever. But, in case I have not made myself clear, I am enormously grateful for every single one of you who make me remember, even on the most challenging of days, that I have the most privileged job in the world and work with and alongside the most magnificent people. Which includes everybody identified in this letter.

No weather forecast today but we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 2nd September as the merry-go-round starts again. Have the best break ever.

Yours Sincerely

C. Gibson

Mr C Gibson