

Belmont School Newsletter



A message from the Headteacher

BELMONT'S WINTER WONDERLAND!

It's been a very long term and the weather has added to the challenges faced by our families and school. In difficult times at Belmont it's very pleasing and often humbling to see the staff and families going the extra mile for our children and I want to thank everyone for their support this term. When I arrived at school on Sunday to assess the site, I was greeted by deep snow and initially felt our school could be closed for many days, but on Monday a small team armed with shovels and wellies moved tons of snow to enable Belmont to re-open. Many thanks to Mr Langton, Mr Powell, Mrs Daniels, Mr Freeman and never forgetting the man the children call Mr Mike, who was onsite from 6am to ensure the site was safe and ready.

Well done Team Belmont!



Despite the challenges there have been so many great experiences for the children since October half term. Examples include a wonderful Christmas fayre organised by the brilliant F@B, which had everything from Santa's Grotto to food and drink to Star Wars characters! The event was a massive success, great fun and raised over £2,000.

Children in Need was also bigger and better than ever this year. Our efforts were co-ordinated by Mrs Godwin and, in addition to raising £240 for the charity, also ensured Belmont made it onto BBC Points West! Well done to all involved!

In addition to the fun, it's been a wonderful term for learning progress. Our whole school phonics programme, 'Read Write Inc', is working really well. I am grateful for the efforts of the leaders and staff team as this area of our work unlocks the learning potential of so many of our students. The senior leaders have been observing lessons and monitoring the progress of children in their books, providing us with further reassurance of the quality of teaching and learning at Belmont.



We are always looking to improve and develop the facilities here and I am delighted to confirm we are now about to apply for planning permission for our BCS (Belmont Community Sport) project. Our plans are for a 200m running and cycling track, a multi sports area and a small 5-a-side football pitch in addition to small and accessible BMX tracks for both scooters and bikes. We would welcome the views of parents and carers on these plans and would like to invite any interested parties to a drop-in consultation evening at school on 10th January 2023 between 5pm and 7pm.

At the end of this term we bid farewell to our wonderful Elephants' tutor, Danielle Price, who is leaving Belmont after four years as a teacher. In that time, Danielle has created amazing learning opportunities for all the children, and made a world of difference to the young people she has taught in her classroom, and in primary as a whole. We will miss you Danielle, and send you every best wish for your future adventures.

Finally, I'd like to say a huge thank you to the whole staff team here at Belmont who go the extra mile every single day for all our children. I know I write on behalf of all our families to wish you all a relaxing and well-deserved break.



Kevin & Team Belmont

TEAM TEACH

A number of parents have asked for more information about Team Teach, which is one part of our behavioural approach at Belmont. If you would like to know more, please visit the school website, and take a look under Teaching & Learning / Specialist Provision.

Children in Need

Children in Need 2022

Thank you again from the Citizenship Enrichment group for all your help and support to make our Children in Need an amazing event.

We would like to inform you of the total amount raised... £240.15! WOW! Thank you for all your efforts helping us to achieve this.

The winner of Guess the Teddy was Brogan from Hippos who guessed Hudson. Guess how many sweets in the jar was James in Foxes and Mr Farrer-Grover was lucky enough to win the awesome Pudsey cake made by Mrs Cartwright!

The Citizenship Group



Belmont on TV!

Team Belmont was thrilled to discover that our amazing efforts for Children In Need made the headlines on BBC Points West!



Snow White Production

HAPPY DAYS BRING SNOW WHITE TO BELMONT

On 16th November we were extremely lucky to be entertained by the incredible actors from M&M Theatre productions.

They performed the most brilliant version

of Snow White which kept us on the edge of our seats and wanting to jump up and dance throughout the show.

We were fascinated by the magic mirror and we also loved signing along to songs we know. One of the best parts was seeing Ms Jones, Mrs McCarthy and Mr Farrer-Grover join the actors on stage to sing Baby Shark!

Without charities such as Happy Days Charity, who fully funded this incredible experience for us, we would not be able to have these opportunities. Having our school hall turned into a theatre was so exciting for us and it reduced the anxiety and stress of travelling to a theatre to see a performance like this.

Thank you to Happy Days Charity for this brilliant experience, we look forward to our next show that has been booked for 2023!





**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

Christmas at St. Christopher's

Saturday 10th December

10-12pm, Christmas Fair

With carols in the church at 11am

Christmas Eve

4pm, Nativity Service

*Children are invited to come dressed
as their favourite Christmas character*

Christmas Day

10am, Family Communion

Follow The Star
**THE GREAT
INVITATION**

HELPING BEES WITH TREES

BELMONT JOINS CAMPAIGN WITH ORCHARD PLANTING

It was all hands on deck when Belmont took delivery of an orchard of fruit trees to plant in the school grounds in November. Night Owls staff and pupils helped to dig holes and plant five mixed fruit trees at the front of the school as part of an 'Orchards in the Community' environmental campaign.

The trees were provided by MOY Materials, who are rolling out the orchard planting project in communities across the UK. 'Orchards play a key role in providing an early food source for our struggling bees as they emerge from winter,' they explained.

'This work will help protect the bees (as well as all the other pollinators) and increase pollination, which we need for the food we eat and to help our local environment.'

The orchard planting not only makes a positive impact on climate change, but will also provide a supply of delicious and natural fruit, probably within the first year of planting.

Each tree has its own 'white tag' passport so that the orchard project can be mapped by the National Biodiversity Plan.

Belmont would like to express a huge thank you to MOY Materials for the orchard, and especially for coming along and helping us with the planting!

GROWING HOPE

Our garden may be a bit bare and soggy but our group has been hard at work with some exciting plans. We have been helped with a brilliant donation of a brand new wheelbarrow from Harvey P's family – which has made light work of some heavy tasks! Thank you to our Belmont families for helping us to make our garden bloom by sponsoring a daffodil bulb! We are still counting up the money you sent in. Any last donations still welcome!

This will be used to develop our garden and we will donate some to "Winston's Wish" who help children who are missing someone who has died.



NEW ARRIVAL IN PRIMARY!

Belmont now has a swing room! This room has been developed in consultation with the Occupational Therapist (OT). This space is an area where the children can meet their sensory needs, working with Mrs Daniels or Anthea to help them regulate and be ready to access their learning.

We have a few different types of swings and other OT resources that we use within this room to support the children's individualised programs.

As a school we are currently working with Anthea on assessing the children's needs in relation to OT. If you have any questions relating to this, please contact Mrs Hanna.

All children are really enjoying this new space within school. Hopefully your class teams will send you some pictures of your child enjoying the swing room.



MR DAY'S CHRISTMAS CHEER

Mr Day and some Year 11 helpers have been popping up around the school offering hot chocolate and treats to staff and classes in the run up to Christmas to thank them for all the hard work.

This week Alligators and Miss Murphy were the class selected at random for a visit and Mr Day was helped by David, Sapphire and Arthur. It was a trip down memory lane for Arthur has been with us now for 11 years!

It was lovely to see them helping and talking to our youngest class who are at the start of their time with Belmont 😊



MP's support for cycling at Belmont

SIGN UP NOW – FOR FREE SPORT AND EXERCISE SESSIONS!

Many Belmont families will have heard of, or worked with AllSorts, who help deliver activities and support for families who have children with additional needs.

Well, AllSorts has now set up YuGo to offer sport and exercise classes for adults and young people with additional needs – and their special January promotion is offering FREE Personal Training sessions.

Find out more below, and visit the YuGo website for further information!

At YuGo we provide sport and exercise classes for adults with additional needs. We've got amazing staff, great clubs and lots of new friends.

We'd like you to join in with a FREE SESSION before the end of January!

You might fancy a free Personal Training session, great for flexibility, strength or a personal goal. All of our sessions are crafted with you at the core.

Or maybe our friendly Clubs are your sort of thing.

Monday: Enjoy fresh air and new friends with our Walking Club.

Tuesday: You may fancy keeping cosy at home with YuGo Yoga (via Zoom).

Wednesday: Exercise Club can help with general fitness and flexibility.

Friday: Check out our Sports Club with lots of new games.

Saturday: If Sport and Gym is your thing then come along and join the fun at Sport and Gym Club.

Click the link below and email us your interest.

[YUGO.ORG.UK](https://yugo.org.uk) - **hello@yugo.org.uk**



It's been a busy and festive half term for Friends at Belmont!

It's been a busy and festive half term for Friends at Belmont!

Our big event was the Christmas Craft Fayre that we held on Saturday 26th November. A massive thank you to all our F@B parents, teachers and Friends volunteers and to everyone who donated items, bought raffle tickets and came along on the day! We raised a total of £1221!

We have also been busy purchasing new Christmas trees and decorations and were kindly donated a tree by B and Q. We thoroughly enjoyed putting up the trees with some of the pupils.

A quick reminder – we are currently in 1st place in the ASDA green token scheme – please keep voting every week as we stand to win £500 for the school! <https://www.asda.com/green-tokens/store?store=4415> We have until New Years Eve!



Thanks to a very generous donation from Lanes Health, Santa is coming to deliver some presents to all pupils at the end of term and we are very excited to have him return to the grotto! We are also giving out our own Friends at Belmont Christmas presents of £500 to each Key Stage at school and are looking forward to hearing what they will spend their money on!

As ever if you wish to get involved with Friends at Belmont please do email us thefabpta@gmail.com or find us on Facebook Friends at Belmont – Warden Hill.

We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and are looking forward to what 2023 has in store!



ALLIGATORS CLASS

Cool crafts in Alligators

It's been a jam-packed term in Alligators class! We have engaged in some lovely activities linking to our Snowman topic. The children have used their fine motor and art skills to create a magnificent snowman that has taken pride of place on our display board, well done Alligators!

In maths we have begun to deepen our understanding of number. We have been focusing on self-care in PSHE and the children have WOWED us with their knowledge and understanding. THRIVE has allowed us to have some really lovely interactions and build amazing relationships. The children have been thoroughly immersed in using Bee-Bots in our IT sessions.

In religious education we have been looking at the Christmas story and we have enjoyed making Christmas crafts. In Our World we have been exploring our senses using sensory stories, sensory play and talking tins.

It has been fantastic to see the children really settle into school this term. We are so proud of their achievements and are looking forward to finding out what the next term brings!



BUSY BEES CLASS

Busy buzzing through an amazing term

In maths we have begun to deepen our understanding of number. We have been focusing on self-care in PSHE and the children have WOWED us with their knowledge

This term in Busy Bees we have been learning through our topic of 'The Stickman'. The children have designed, collected materials for, and created their own stickman. They have also loved taking part in our stickman thrive and attention autism activities; we have made and smashed sandcastles; explored the cold scenes with ice and fake snow; and we have built nests out of sticks for the swan in the story.

The children have also enjoyed having a yoga session each week with Georgia. They have stretched, danced, and meditated through some fantastic stories. We are also very pleased that these sessions will continue next term!

Another highlight of our term was learning about the weather. We have explored how different weather feels and looks in the sensory room, learned how to identify and describe different weathers, and finally, we have all made our own weather reports.

Busy Bees have also worked very hard on our show "The Jolly Christmas Postman". The children made props, rehearsed in small groups, and as a class we have talked about the characters. We practiced and practiced and have got a wonderful show to share with you all. The Busy Bees team wishes you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!



CHEETAHS CLASS

Red noses and muddy puddles

What a fun-filled term we have had in Cheetah Class! In Maths we have explored 2D and 3D shapes in a range of ways. We continue to practice our letter formation and writing skills in English - a highlight has definitely been writing our own letters to Santa!

Our Topic this term has been 'Seasons and Weather' and we have had a great time exploring this. Everyone has loved getting kitted out in waterproofs to splash about in the mud, create mud pies and mud painting. The children have particularly enjoyed our trip down to forest school for an explore and a story - finished with hot chocolate and marshmallows!



Cheetah Class have also been busy in their Art lessons, preparing festive props for the Christmas performance and are excited to finish this term performing their song 'Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer' to parents and carers. Wishing everyone a great Christmas!



DOLPHINS CLASS

Christmas all wrapped-up

We have had a fantastic term in Dolphins. We really enjoyed learning about recipes, how to write one and then follow it – we wrote our own recipe for a jam sandwich. We talked about how important it is to make sure your recipe is really clear, otherwise you end up with jam and butter on the table and two plain pieces of bread together!

We have also grown our own cress recently; we checked it every day and when it was ready we made, and tried, a cress and cheese or ham sandwich!

Our story this term has been “The Gingerbread Man” and we have had great fun turning it into a Christmas play and practising it whenever we get the chance. Our most favourite activity has been designing and making our own wrapping paper and using it to wrap up a present to take home. We can’t wait to see what fun Term 3 brings!



ELEPHANTS CLASS

Setting the scene for a Christmas Story

This term, Elephants have been busy learning all about The Great Fire of London! The children made their own replica model of Pudding Lane. We have also learned all about fire safety and keeping safe in different situations.

In English, we have explored the features of a diary and have applied this knowledge to help us write our own diary entries. In Maths, we have developed our knowledge of subtraction and multiplication.

The children have also been busy preparing for the Christmas performance including decorating props and artwork as well as acting out the different scenes for their own take on a Christmas Story.

Elephants Class wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



FOXES CLASS

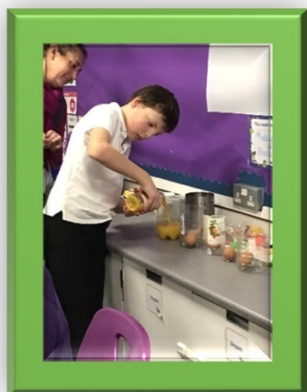
A term-full of magical adventures

Well what a busy term we have had! Finding out all about our bodies inside and out. What the different parts are called and how they work. The children really enjoyed the egg experiment we did to find out what effect different liquids have on your teeth.

We have also been practising our writing skills and written our own magical adventure and a story about a magical train ride to a very special location.

In maths we have been practising using our 2, 5 and 10 times tables to problem-solve, and learning about fractions.

Our prop making and performance rehearsals have kept us very busy, learning songs, tree building, making cups and masks ready for our Polar Express Show.



The background is a vibrant blue. At the top, there are several strings of lights: one with red and white triangular flags, and others with white and red round bulbs. On the right side, a large, stylized Christmas tree is depicted with green branches, yellow and red star ornaments, and a bright white star at the top that radiates light. The text is arranged in a vertical column on the left side of the image.

COLEBRIDGE AVENUE

LIGHT FEST

**THIS YEAR RAISING
MONEY FOR**

BELMONT SCHOOL

PTA

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE
PLEASE SCAN THE
QR CODE BELOW**

SCAN ME



GIRAFFES CLASS

Historical hieroglyphs

Giraffes Class has had another great term. In Our World, we have had a history focus. We talked about periods of history which the children knew about and as a class decided to learn more about Ancient Egypt. They have particularly enjoyed decoding and writing their own message in hieroglyphs.

We have spent Monday afternoons in the cookery room, making pitta pizza and fork biscuits. The children followed their recipe successfully and were proud of what they had made. We can't wait to cook again!

We have also enjoyed using tools in outdoor learning to whittle sticks, playing tag together in the soft play, spending time in the school library and participating in Children in Need fun.



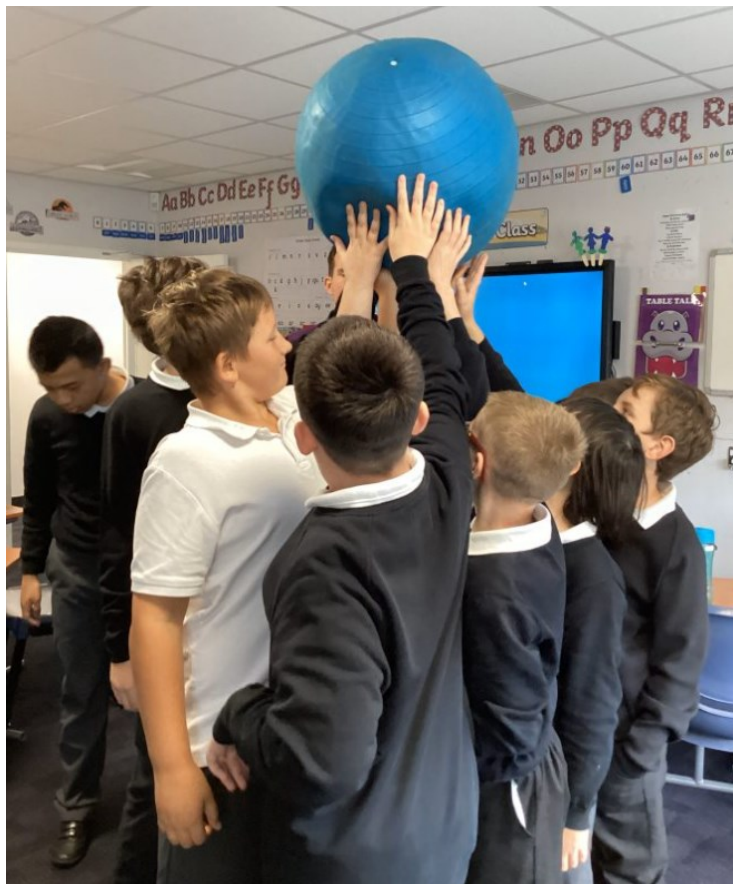
HIPPOS CLASS

World War Wonders

The Hippos have had a creative term. They have had relaxing Yoga sessions with Mrs Marshall and have been exploring their health and well-being in our PSHE lessons. Healthy eating has been a good topic for discussion and we have been talking about changing our habits.

In Our World we have been focusing on World War One which the whole class has been really interested in. We have made amazing PowerPoints with a great amount of information and understanding.

In the run up to Christmas we have been decorating our room with stained glass windows and a door decoration for a school competition.



Great term Hippos!



IBEXES CLASS

Great fire sparks great learning

Ibexes have been learning about the Great Fire of London this term and have really enjoyed listening to a sensory story about what happened during the fire. In Maths, we have been learning about money and have been setting up a toy shop using our knowledge of money. In PSHE, we have been developing our independent skills and practising using cutlery. We have also been practising our performance for the Christmas Service and have loved the singing and dancing that comes with it.



We have loved all of the different Christmas activities and look forward to the new year!

Merry Christmas from the Ibexes!



JAGUARS CLASS

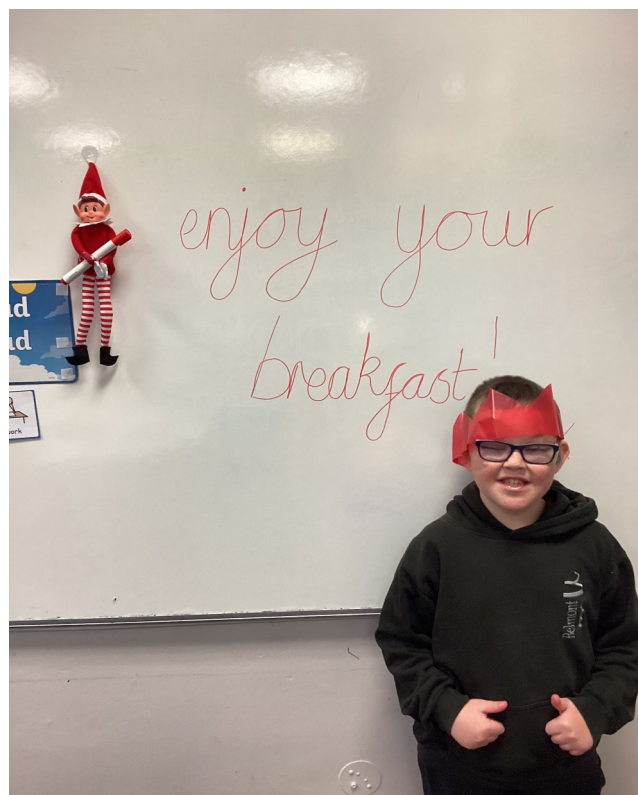
Advent Buddy brings Christmas fun

Term 2 in Jaguars Class has been very busy. The children's favourite lesson this term was cooking. We have made lots of edible treats, from gingerbread reindeers to Christmas biscuits. The children have been learning how to stay safe in the kitchen and how to follow a simple recipe. There were a few disasters, but on the whole we made and decorated some delicious food.

Our topic in Our World was Plants and Trees. We have learned about the parts of a tree and plant and about what they need to grow and survive. We particularly enjoyed planting some bulbs and are looking forward to watching them grow in the spring term.

Since December 1st we have had Buddy the elf visiting us. He has brought us lots of fun and laughs and the children have all enjoyed trying to find him every morning. We shared a North Pole breakfast with him and had a snowball fight.

This term we have been busy practising our Christmas song and short nativity. The children have practised really hard to learn the signs and words to the song. Jaguars Class would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



KOALAS CLASS

Kindness and Christmas

This term, Koalas have been getting into the Christmas spirit by spreading kindness wherever they go. We participated in 'Kindness Week' to support anti-bullying and enjoyed activities such as a 'types of bullying' scavenger hunt, creating kindness hands, taking part in a BBC live lesson and walking the kindness daily mile. To show the world how excited we are about Christmas, we have been working together to create Christmas decorations for our classroom Christmas tree and have created a giant advent calendar door display for all to join us in our Christmas countdown!



LLAMAS CLASS

In the business of badges

Llama's have had another exciting term and have been working on a variety of topics across their curriculum. One of their biggest successes has been their product design project. Llamas set up their own small business which they named the 'Llama Badge Company' After purchasing all the badge making equipment and resources Llamas created a variety of different badge designs including ones for Christmas, Children in Need and personalised hand drawn creations.

They sold their badges at both the Belmont Christmas fayre and individually and made a grand total of £40 which they are extremely proud of.

Merry Christmas from Llama Class



MONKEYS CLASS

Multi-skills for winter

Monkeys aren't just cooking on gas, they're also cooking on open fire! This term has seen them boiling water for hot chocolate whilst burning paper logs they made from recycled paper as well as becoming master bakers in the more conventional cookery room. Throw in some super-safe whittling skills and their amazing instrument building knowledge from the Our World topic and they should have all the skills required to keep you warm, fed and entertained through the winter months ahead!

It really has been a fabulous term both in and out of the classroom with so many new experiences and so much excitement. (The pupil-planned trip to Cadbury World only gets a brief mention!) Well done Monkeys!



NIGHTOWLS CLASS

Night Owls took part in a scheme to help our environment by planting trees at school. The plum, apple and pear trees were kindly donated by MOY and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the teamwork.



OTTERS CLASS

Monster achievements by Otters

It's been another action-packed term for the Otters class. All of the Otters have produced some excellent class-work and have made a great start to their coursework. We have all enjoyed 'Our World' this term, where we have been looking back at WW1. In English we have looked at myths and legends, the Otters then produced fab magazine articles based on the Loch Ness Monster, and they all make a great read!

To end the term, we had our trip to laser tag and the High Lord Constable for lunch. Everyone had a great time and all staff were incredibly proud of the behaviour and attitude displayed by the students. We hope all the Otters have a wonderful Christmas break; we can't wait to hear all about it in January.



PANDAS

Pandas trip to Gloucester Cathedral

Class Pandas visited Gloucester Cathedral last month as part of their ASDAN course. It was a great experience looking at the history, architecture and religious artefacts from this magnificent building. The added bonus of doing some Harry Potter sight-seeing was also greatly appreciated by students and indeed staff!

Additionally, rounding the trip off with a lunch at Nandos made it a lovely day with outstanding behaviour shown throughout. Well done Pandas for showing great respect at the Cathedral and for not eating Nandos out of chicken despite our best efforts!



QUAILS

Dracula takes to the stage

The Quails Class has been working really hard throughout this busy Autumn term.

In Step-up to English, the Quails have been focusing on 'Gothic Horror' literature and in particular the book 'Dracula' based on the original book published by the author Bram Stoker. It has provided the pupils the opportunity to understand a classic novel from Victorian times and to practice their expressive reading. All of our pupils have been working really hard on their comprehension skills and creative writing.

In addition, Mr Freeman has kindly written a play script based on our Dracula book that will be performed to some of our younger secondary pupils. All pupils will be involved in our production either taking part in an acting role or preparing our props and scenery. Our English has rather conveniently linked to one of our ASDAN modules that will be credited towards our pupils' qualifications.

Finally, it remains to say, 'We wish you all a very happy Christmas full of joy and happiness'.

