

Belmont School Newsletter

Belmont
A special school
Spring Term



A message from the Headteacher

Dear Belmont families,

This may have been a short term, but Belmont certainly knows how to make the most of the time we have! In just five weeks, we have celebrated our love of reading with World Book Day, raised the fund-raising roof with Red Nose Day, learned how to travel safely with our action-packed Road Safety Week, and seen inspirational teaching and learning every single day.



Some of our stand-out highlights have featured trips and visits – and one of the most memorable was from the visiting theatre company M&M who brought with them a wonderful production of The Railway Children. Our students were also out and about on trips to support their learning – in Cirencester for art and Roman history; to Crickley Hill for Stone Age discoveries; and to the local park to test navigation and road safety skills. These are innovative, relevant and exciting visits for the students, and thanks are due to all our staff who go the extra mile to make them happen.

Belmont also continues to enjoy wonderful support from our community: the Reverend Gary Grady was with us once again for our uplifting Easter services, while Stagecoach and Bennetts both gave time and resources to support our Road Safety Week and make our role play come to life. Employers and agencies gave generously of their time to visit us for Careers Week, and help the students look to the future. Meanwhile, we are already looking forward to a visit to the funfair on Friday, courtesy of DanTERS who have invited us along as their guests. Such community partnerships are incredibly important to Belmont, and we are very thankful to have such great friends who do so much to enhance our school life.

Continued...

Any mention of partnerships must include our amazing Friends at Belmont (F@B) who are working tirelessly to raise funds and create opportunities for our young people. They inspired Brize Norton-based Atlantic Aviation Group to choose Belmont as their charity, and we were privileged to travel to the base to collect a cheque for £2,800. F@B continue to pour their energies into supporting all our school initiatives, such as our Saturday Drop-Ins, and are starting to arrange information sessions for our families. Add to that F@B's delivery of nearly 200 Easter eggs to school, Neil's fundraising pilgrimage in Spain, and early preparations for the summer fayre... the list just goes on, and we are very thankful! Please help to support F@B in all they do – all staff and families are automatically members of this wonderful group, and by working together we can achieve so much. The F@B AGM is on 19th April at school – please come along if you can to show your support and get involved.

On the subject of tireless energy, we have no less than three staff members running the London Marathon this year – Tom Langton, Emma Hall and Rachael Daniel – for causes very close to their hearts. We wish them all the very best!

Finally, on behalf of Belmont and with my own personal tribute, I'd like to wish Anna Brown a wonderful and very well-deserved retirement from her post as Learning Partner. Anna has been with Belmont since 2015 and has brought enthusiasm, creativity, laughter, and a very special brand of intuitive care to our students. She will be missed, and we wish her all the luck and happiness in the world as she embarks on her new adventure.

I hope you all have a very happy and peaceful Easter break, and look forward to seeing all the students back in school on Monday, 17th April.



Kevin Day, Headteacher

Diary dates – terms 5 & 6

Monday 17th April

Term 5 starts

7pm: F@B evening meeting in Cheltenham – venue to be confirmed. All welcome!

Wednesday 19th April

9.30am: F@B Annual General Meeting, Belmont School

Thursday 20th April

1.30pm: Choir Spring Concert.

Tickets £2 on ParentPay

Saturday 22nd April

12noon – 4pm: Belmont Saturday Drop-In at school. Refreshments by F@B!

Tuesday 25th April

7pm: F@B evening meeting in Gloucester – venue to be confirmed. All welcome!

Monday 1st May

May Day Bank Holiday – school closed

Friday 5th May

Coronation Celebrations! Non-uniform day – wear red, white and blue! The children are currently voting for either a picnic or street party – watch this space!

Monday 8th May

Coronation Bank Holiday – school closed

Friday 26th May

Pied Piper PJ Day

End Term 5

Monday 5th June

Term 6 starts

Saturday 17th June

F@B Summer Fayre, Belmont School

Road Safety Week at Belmont!

Road Safety Week at Belmont was a huge success this year thanks to our fantastic children, our amazing staff and the incredibly kind bus drivers Dawn from Stagecoach and Paul from Bennetts. The week started with two fantastic assemblies and a road safety themed Daily Mile. In the daily mile, pupils practised using a zebra crossing and pedestrian crossing, and participated in a quiz, survey and a car mechanics workshop.

Mid-week our incredible staff showed off their acting skills and performed an outdoor road safety play. The children were very interactive, ensuring that our staff had top tips about how to stay safe on the roads. This was followed by a road safety sign scavenger hunt.

The fabulous finale was our bus practice. Stagecoach and Bennetts gifted us some of their time so that pupils could practice reading a bus timetable, boarding a bus, buying a ticket and having a safe journey on the bus. The children loved it, but also learnt some very valuable life skills that will help them build their independence in the future. A massive thank you to both coach companies for such a valuable opportunity for our children!



Belmont Choir

Choir Spring Concert

The children in choir have recently asked if they could have a choir uniform which we thought was a fantastic idea. To fund this, we will be holding a small concert in school which we would love for you all to attend.

Please invite lots of people so that the children have an audience to perform to, and we can raise lots of money which will go towards paying for the t-shirts.

The concert will take place on **Thursday 20th April @ 1:30pm** in the secondary school hall. Tickets will be priced at £2 per ticket and can be purchased through ParentPay. We look forward to sharing our love of music with you.

World Book Day Celebrations!

Earlier this month we celebrated World Book Day with the school bringing the world of books to life through amazing costumes, story sharing and creative competitions. The knowledge that the students had about children's literature was so impressive and their enthusiasm for the day was a joy to watch. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting the day!

As we continue to celebrate the pleasure of reading, look out on Class Dojo in Term 5 for some great books being read by our staff that can be shared with your child at home. The benefits of being read to are huge so we really hope you find the time to tune in!

Finally, whether it be fiction or non-fiction, please do get in touch with your Class Tutor if you need any recommendations for your child. Our library has a great selection of books for our students to get lost in!

Mr Farrer-Grover, Head of English



The Railway Children

M&M productions deliver yet another special performance!

On 14th March, Upper Primary and Secondary students were treated to a theatre production of 'The Railway Children'. This company has now delivered three amazing events for our students, having previously performed Scrooge and Snow White.

The actors made the experience fun and uplifting with plenty of singing, dancing and joking to keep the audience engaged and entertained. A running time of just over an hour meant that the story was fast paced and exciting – the students loved it and certainly learnt something from the story too.

Year 9 and Key Stage 4 students were also given the opportunity to quiz the actors following the show. They learnt how the sound system worked, how the set was made and even got to try on some costumes!

Thank you again to M&M productions for the wonderful performance.



**Calling all
tea makers,
tidy-uppers,
activity
planners
and helpers
for as little
or as much time
as you can
spare.**

Ellie.pontin@scouts.org.uk
#SkillsForLife

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skills and ages!

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NEWS FROM F@B

Hi everyone!

Another busy but fun half term for Friends at Belmont!

We continue to attend the Saturday drop-ins run by the school – offering drinks and cakes! The next one is 22nd April so hope to see some of you there. We also had our first evening meeting and have planned two more, one on Monday 17th April at 7pm in Cheltenham (venue TBC) and another on Tuesday 25th April at 7pm in Gloucester (venue TBC)!

There have been some great responses to our survey on F@B PIES (Parent/carer Information Exchange Sessions) and we will be liaising with the interventions team to progress this further in the next few weeks.

We took a trip with Mr Day and four pupils to Brize Norton to collect our cheque for £2800 from Atlantic Aviation Group and got to look inside a massive plane while it was being fixed! Enormous thanks to AAG for their amazing donation – there are more photos to share, coming soon.

Our Christmas donation of £2,000 to be split between key stages has started to be put to good use including new scooters in primary, outdoor games for secondary school and money for a trip to Weston for KS3!

Our Annual General Meeting is being held on Wednesday 19th April 9.30am at school – please do all come along if you can. The Chair's and Treasurer's reports will be available to view on the school website too.

We have already started to plan our fantastic Summer fayre this year – and as always are looking for volunteers so if you want to help in any way please do contact us on thefabpta@gmail.com Neil Rushen, our co-chair is preparing for his sponsored pilgrimage, the Camino de Santiago in May – please do feel free to share his JustGiving page (found on Friends at Belmont – Warden Hill Facebook page) so we can raise more money for Friends at Belmont!

Lastly - F@B have been working with the Easter Bunny to ensure children come home with a little Easter gift before the holidays. We hope they enjoy them and everybody has a good Easter break.

Link to Neil's JustGiving page via the link below:

[Neil Rushen is fundraising for Belmont Special School \(justgiving.com\)](#)

Or search for Neil Rushen on the JustGiving platform. Thank you!



All parents/carers/family members/staff are
welcome to attend

FRIENDS AT BELMONT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL

9.30AM

BELMONT SCHOOL

AGENDA

- The chairs report
- F@B accounts
- Elect committee members/trustees
- Plans for the coming year



Free online training for parents

Many parents at school approach us for support when struggling to manage behaviour at home. This might take the form of violence, control, or self-destructive behaviour, and parents can be assured that they are not alone. To try to help, Belmont has commissioned some training in Non-Violent Resistance (NVR).

NVR has been implemented in a wide range of family situations including violence, verbal abuse, self-harm and when children are distressed and dysregulated. NVR can be used with children from around 5 years old, right up to adulthood. It has proved effective with neuro-atypical children/young people and with all kinds of family make-up, including foster and adoptive families.

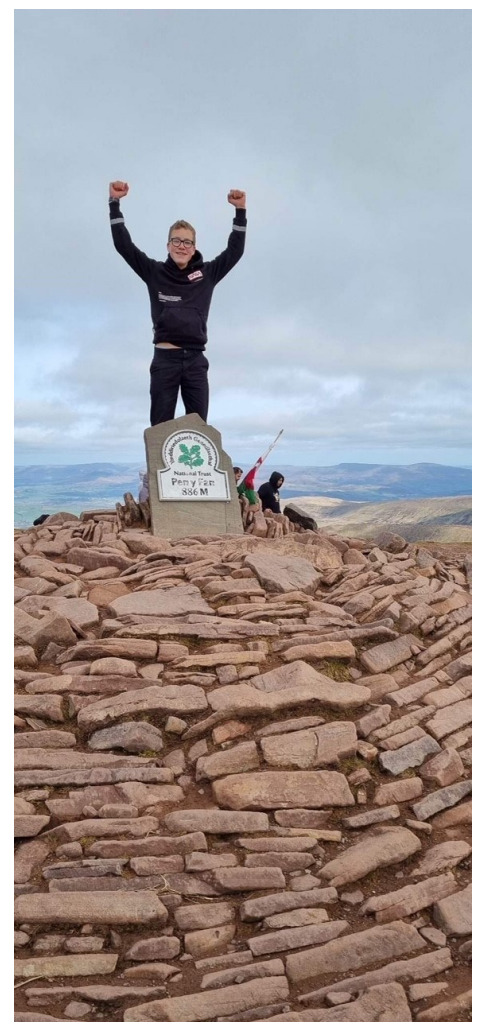
The session will be run online, and it is looking like the most popular session is going to be Tuesday 25th April in the afternoon. Usually there is a cost involved for participants but we are pleased that this will be completely free for our families

. Thank you to those who have already replied or emailed; there is still time to join this training - simply email kirstin.eccles@belmont.sandmat.uk or our family support worker amy.keen@belmont.sandmat.uk.

Arthur conquers climb

On Sunday 19th March I climbed up Pen Y Fan (the highest peak in South Wales) with an organisation called the Aston Project. It took me one and a half hours to climb up there but once I got to the top the view was amazing and worth the climb! Once I accomplished it, I felt over the moon and proud of myself.

By Arthur Doxsey, Pandas



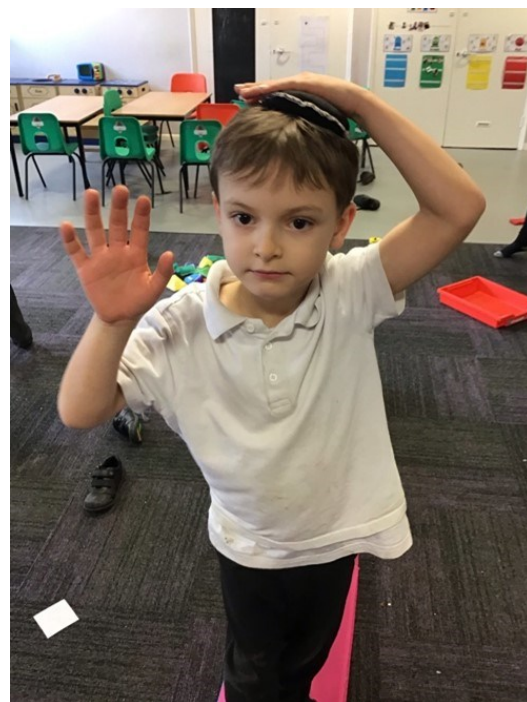
ALLIGATORS CLASS

Exploring the extraordinary world of toys

We have been busy as ever in Alligators and the children have all had a lovely term. Focusing on our topic The Magic Toy Box has allowed the children to engage really well in imaginative and exploratory play. In English we have themed fine motor, prewriting, emergent writing around this topic and have begun to explore colourful semantics. Our maths sessions have allowed us to explore both size, ordering, and positional language. Active Skills has focused on gymnastics allowing us to develop our balancing, stretching and movement.

We have also enjoyed some amazing THRIVE sessions, such as rain-bow potions, desert tray, sea creatures and jelly baths. Our World has linked strongly to our topic - focusing on how different toys work, we have had fun looking at wheels, pulleys and more. In Religious Education we have learnt about the Easter Story and participated in some lovely Easter-themed activities. Art has allowed us to continue our exploration of a variety of media which has led to some great individual pieces of expressive work. We have been able to observe the changing seasons in outdoor education and investigate how things grow.

Looking forward to another jam-packed term! Have a lovely holiday!



BUSY BEES CLASS

Bees go wild!

Over the past term Busy Bees have been learning through the topic of 'run wild' which is a lovely story by David Covell about a young boy who leaves his iPad at home, takes off his shoes and runs wild in nature. The children have been exploring the story through sensory experiences, by running wild themselves and interacting with different natural materials to make art. The children have also created their own dances based on our story 'Run Wild'. This term the children also enjoyed joining in with the Road Safety Week activities and had lots of fun on Red Nose Day.



CHEETAHS CLASS

Taking time to think healthy

What a busy term Cheetah Class has had! At the start of term in Maths we explored time through ordering our routines and looking at analogue clocks, and have finished the term with fractions. In English we have enjoyed a range of stories and have practiced labelling different characters and objects and even planted our own beanstalks.

Our topic this term has been all about being healthy, we have tried different foods and looked at ways to keep ourselves healthy. We have explored our emotions in PHSE and took part in Road Safety Week where we got to ride on a bus.

In RE we have learnt all about Easter. Cheetahs have enjoyed creating different Easter crafts for our end of term assembly, and loved going on their very own Easter egg hunt!

Happy Easter everyone!



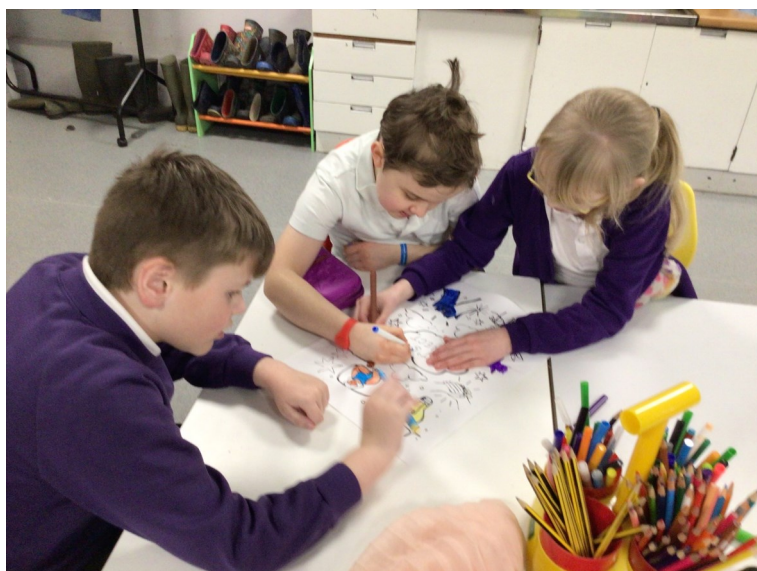
DOLPHINS CLASS

Scavenging, sowing and swimming!

This term Dolphins Class has been very busy celebrating World Book Day, Red Nose Day, and Road Safety Week. All of the Dolphins dressed up for World Book Day and enjoyed reading the book *Oliver's Vegetables*. We have even grown our own carrots in class.

Dolphins also took part in lots of Red Nose Day activities such as a special daily mile and designing some red noses. For Road Safety Week the Dolphins got to ride on a real bus around the car park, took part in a scavenger hunt, and watched a whole-school road safety play.

Dolphins have also very much enjoyed swimming this term, and there was even more fun with a whole-school egg throwing competition by staff at the end of term. What a busy term for Dolphins!



ELEPHANTS CLASS

We're going on a dragon hunt...

We have had a busy and exciting term, starting our topic of Myths and Legends with an unexpected visit from a dragon! We first spotted clues after finding an empty box and footprints on the playground. A trail of clues also led us to evidence that the dragon had been enjoying a meal close to our classroom! We have been writing to inform and have made 'Wanted' posters to help find the dragon. We have also been learning how to look after dragons and dragon eggs through reading our book 'Pet dragon' and 'The egg' and writing instructions, including how to teach a dragon to fly!

We have been very creative and used our outdoor learning to make our own mythical creatures in lots of different ways - drawing in response to music, chalk drawings on the playground, making a 3D Loch Ness monster using tyres, painting, and making models using playdough!

We have been busy in maths learning about money and were lucky to use our money to buy a ticket for a real life bus journey at school during road safety week. We have also had fun celebrating World Book Day, Red Nose Day, Mental Health Week and performing our springtime poem in our Easter assembly.



FOXES CLASS

Discovering the facts behind the 'unsinkable' ship

The end of the fourth term already! It's been busy and full of fun.

We have been finding out about the Titanic, and discovering lots of interesting facts about what happened to the ship that should have been unsinkable.

The children have been exploring different types of poetry and writing some of their own. In the Easter assembly they shared some of the poems they wrote about the Titanic using the structure of the book Polar Bear, Polar Bear to present their work in a similar way.



In Maths we have been learning about capacity and weight, looking at whether a container is full, half full, or empty and looking at whether something is heavy or light or the same weight. We have explored different weights from 1g to 1kg and compared which would be best to weigh different things.



We also had great fun dressing up and sharing our favourite stories for World Book Day, and even had a visit from a huge dinosaur!



GIRAFFES CLASS

A celebration of stories, careers and cheese scones

Although it has been a short term we have packed a lot into our time. We enjoyed celebrating the wonderful world of stories by dressing up as a character, using origami to make a book mark and spending time telling and reading stories to each other.

It was Careers Week! Throughout the week, the children were thinking about their future and what they would like to do when they leave school. The children were reflecting on the skills they already have and also thinking about ways to develop other skills that they might need for the future. As part of Careers Week, we attended a Careers Fair. It was very exciting to see all the different stands and the children got to speak to lots of different people about different opportunities for when they leave Belmont.

We've been baking again! Cheese scones were great fun to make and we also made vanilla cupcakes. Both recipes required the children to cream the ingredients together... by week two the children were impressing us with their smooth mixtures. It was particularly great to see classmates helping each other and giving tips on the technique.

We have also been having fun during morning Sensory Circuits, getting on a bus as part of Road Safety Week, and measuring giant foot prints in maths.



HIPPOS CLASS

An eruption of creativity

This term the Hippo Class has been getting creative! We have been making moving pictures including a fire truck and train that fly across paper scenes.

We have also been making and decorating volcanos for our explosive science experiment.

If that wasn't creative enough, the class has also been hard at work putting together the Easter story in Lego form. Using iPads and Lego, they have created a stop motion video which was shown in the Easter assembly.

Have a great Easter Hippo team!



IBEXES CLASS

Snail and Whale spark learning inspiration

This term in Ibexes, we have explored the Snail and the Whale story. We have looked at different environments and described what we would find there. In maths, we have explored position and direction using Beebots and represented fractions in different ways. In art, we have explored snail and the whale paper plate art and have made our own using an environment from around the world. Finally, in PSHE we have explored mental health and discussed how we can support ourselves and others. Ibexes have also loved the Road Safety Week! We can't wait for more fun after Easter!



JAGUARS CLASS

Off to the Tower!

Even though it has been a short term, Jaguars Class has been very busy. Our highlight of the term has to be coming in the top 50 in a recent competition out of over 1500 entries! The class worked together to design a bench which incorporated the King's coronation as well as the Queen and our school. We were all so excited to find out that we have won an all-expenses paid trip to the Tower of London.

This term we have learnt about significant explorers. The children have learnt about Ibn Batutta, Matthew Henson and Neil Armstrong. In maths we have developed our knowledge of money by recognising both coins and notes and learning to add up small quantities of money.

The children thoroughly enjoyed Road Safety Week, particularly buying a ticket and getting to ride on the bus.



KOALAS CLASS

Springing into Spring

This term has been a short but busy one. We have been learning about Ancient Egypt and making our own Egyptian jewellery and masks. Mrs Smith brought in some real examples of Egyptian art on papyrus and some amazing photos of the pyramids. We have also participated in lots of special activities for Road Safety Week, Red Nose Day and World Book Day. Most recently we have been getting ready for Easter and making some yummy treats.

I (Mrs Fenton-Musty) will be leaving for maternity leave at the end of Term 4. I want to take this opportunity to give a massive shout out to my class! They are simply awesome. I have been lucky enough to teach this amazing class for a year and 4 terms and I have loved every moment. They are kind, caring, hard-working and a lot of fun to be around. I will be sad to hand them over, but I am happy I will be handing them over to the wonderful Mrs Gardner. I know they will continue to grow and make every day a brighter day. Thank you Koalas, you are simply the best!



LLAMAS CLASS

Mapping a safe route

It's been another busy term for Llamas Class, and we are all enjoying the lighter days and the hint of spring in the air! To get a real feel for the changing seasons, the group enjoyed an afternoon walking to Hatherley Park as part of their 'local area' topic in Our World. Pupils used Google maps to navigate their way, and used their learning around road safety to ensure that they were aware of any dangers during the short journey. After exploring the park, the class had some time on the play equipment before we made our way back to school.

Have a lovely Easter from Llamas Class!



MONKEYS CLASS

Local learning through the ages

We have had a very busy Term 4 in Monkeys Class. Our topic has been 'The Great Outdoors' and we have certainly been exploring the great outdoors and linking this to our Stone Age learning in Our World. We have visited Neolithic and Iron Age sites and settlements that we are very lucky to have so close in our local area. We have visited Crickley Hill, Belas Knap and also Leckhampton Hill. We have been spoiled by breath taking views and learnt some interesting historical facts along the way, too.

In Maths we have been learning about time, money and measurement. We have been very creative in Art and made lots of props ready for our St George and the Dragon play that will be performed after the Easter holidays. We've also had time to make and bake lots of exciting treats in our DT lessons such as cheesecake, Welsh cakes, trifle and brownies. Next term we may have to shift our focus onto some more healthy savoury options!

It's been a short term but it has been action packed with a fantastic visiting production of The Railway Children, the Careers Fair, Red Nose Day, having a ride on a bus around school (role playing independent travel and travel safety) and we still have a trip to the fun fair to look forward to. We are now all ready to unwind over the Easter holidays ready for the summer terms ahead of us.



NIGHTOWLS CLASS

Soaking up history and art

We had a great school trip to Cirencester, visiting the church of St John the Baptist in the town centre. We wanted to see the Peter Barnes sculpture of The Last Supper, a massive work created from cement and 50,000 keyboard keys. It was a very tactile and interesting work based on Leonardo Da Vinci's work of the same name. The Corinium Museum collects and preserves antiquities from Roman Britain's second largest city, Corinium, now known as Cirencester. We had a break for lunch in Deerhurst Park, then walked to an art gallery at The Brewery to watch the glass blowing. The Night Owls enjoyed it very much.



OTTERS CLASS

Preparing for the world of work

This term Otters have been busy getting ready for the world of work. We have visited a careers fair; learnt about personal skills and qualities; got to know lots of different occupations by playing Panjango; created our own CVs; analysed job adverts; designed our own job advert for a teacher at Belmont; completed online application forms and have looked closely at interview techniques. Some of us even had a go at role playing an interview!



We finished our topic by visiting Wincantons logistics company in Gloucester who very kindly showed us around, talked about all the different careers opportunities they have and provided us with a lovely buffet lunch. After this, we visited Kingsholm Rugby Stadium to view different career opportunities in the sports sector.

After all this talk of the world of work, Otters are ready for the Easter break!



PANDAS

Pandas keeping busy in Term 4!

Class Pandas have been packing in the activities this term meaning that these past five weeks have flown! Somehow, I think this will be a common theme between now and their last day in June. So making each day count has been the message and Pandas certainly delivered with, firstly, an excellent trip to Dean Close School for a mixed sports tournament. Pandas engaged in activities with Year 10 students from Dean Close and it was amazing to see the confidence, communication and skill on show from the class. They did themselves proud and greatly deserved the treat of eating in the Dean Close canteen afterwards – even the staff were up for seconds (and maybe thirds)!

Additionally, Pandas took part in some mock interviews run by the University of Gloucestershire. Feedback was positive and constructive and it was another vital experience for the students before they enrol at college in September. The attitude that each individual is showing tells the staff that they will be ready to hit the ground running in their next step after Belmont.

Finally, a special mention to Jamie who has clearly taken on some of the tips from the interview practice by securing himself a part time job at a local guesthouse. Well done Jamie!

Keep up the hard work Pandas – not too long to go now!

Mr Farrer-Grover, Mrs Cartwright and Miss Stanley.



QUAILS

Looking to the future

Quails had an exciting time this term thinking about 'next steps'. They attended a KS4 careers fair in school where all our pupils were involved in talking to local employers. They were able to find out about different opportunities and possible job ideas and/or college courses.

We also attended the Oxstalls Campus of the University of Gloucestershire for mock interviews with some of their representatives. It was wonderful to see our pupils growing ever confident in this process and the written feedback was extremely complimentary.

On a less formal note, Quails had great fun celebrating World Book Day and attending a charity sporting day at Dean Close. They also presented a wonderful Easter acrostic poem at St.Christopher's Church - 'The Meaning of Easter'. Well done Quails!

Mrs Williams and staff team

