



A Message from the Head

Welcome to our final newsletter of this school year! I can't believe just how fast the year has gone and how much we have squeezed into just six terms. We are so very proud of the children and I am very grateful to the exceptional efforts of my team and the support offered from families and carers.



Belmont has fully embraced the 'freedom' of fewer Covid-19 restrictions, and our amazing staff have created wonderful opportunities for our students by organising trips and residential. Among these have been Year 10 residential trips to London, KS3 visits to the Cheltenham Science Festival and to the beach at Weston-Super-Mare, adventures at PGL, and our whole-school day trip to Cattle Country.

There has also been a whole host of fabulous events this term including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze expeditions, Belmont Summer Fair, Diversity Week, and Belmont Choir performances across the county. We also said an emotional farewell to our Year 11s with a special Leavers'

Day in June. Meanwhile, in Primary, BusyBees have been to the aquarium, Cheetahs to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, and Elephants have enjoyed a visit from a reptile company. End of term has been celebrated in fine style by Foxes with water fights, and take-away treats!

In addition to trips and events, there have been many wonderful learning opportunities in school – just this term there have been sports days for secondary and primary (thank you to Mr Shand and Mrs Powell for their organisational skills), and an action-packed Belmont's Got Talent event – with students throwing their hearts and souls into both occasions. Many congratulations to all who demonstrated their skills in sport, drama, art, music or comedy – you are all wonderfully talented!

Transition Days

The staff team and I have been very grateful for all your support with our three transition days. This is a very difficult time for some of our children as we conclude one year and plan for the next. Year 6 students have recently experienced a taste of Secondary school life before they join us as Year 7s in September and all classes met their new future class mates and new rooms for next year. The children have done really well and we are excited to welcome them back in September. Thank you again for all for your support and do link with us with any questions or concerns.



Continued...

F@B

F@B has had an incredible year raising funds for Belmont – you can see more about their events and success later in the newsletter. We are all delighted and humbled that so many people and companies have helped, sponsored, baked, donated and supported so many events – you have helped us achieve more than we ever dreamt possible with F@B – thank you so much!

September 2023 and beyond

It has been another good year for facilities for Belmont and I am grateful to LAB members, staff, Friends@Belmont and particularly Mrs Sexton who works very hard to help me keep all the projects moving forward, and Mr Mike our site manager who does a great job. I am delighted that plans are shaping up so nicely for the next school year: the site continues to improve with summer projects including the refurbishment of our old primary PE changing rooms that are being converted into a meeting and intervention room. We also hope to develop additional intervention spaces that can be accessed by children of all ages to support the great work of our inclusion team.

Staffing news

I am delighted to update that the BBB (Belmont Baby Boom!) continues to move forward nicely with Mr Langton and his partner welcoming Oliver into the world only a few weeks ago. Many congratulations.

We have a dedicated team of new staff ready to go in September, but we are saying goodbye and good luck to some excellent team members this July. From the Learning Partner team we are sending very best wishes for the future to Lauren Baldwin, Alisha Peters, Mya Sharpe and Rachael Daniel.

From the teaching team we thank Carl Thurston, Molly Macauley, Gemma Paveley, Lucie Gardner and Katy Quirk for their outstanding contributions to the development of every child in their care here at Belmont. We wish you much luck and happiness in your new roles.

Finally, it is with very mixed emotions that we thank two absolute corner stones of Belmont who are leaving us this summer – Paul Shand and Katy Hanna. Please see our tribute to them both later in the newsletter.

Pick-up and drop-off

This aspect of school has generally worked very well this year and we are not planning any big changes from September 2023. The first day of the new year is very difficult and during the first weeks back we will have a temporary swimming pool on the area outside the soft play building, so we will be adapting slightly. I can confirm we will continue with our drop off locations. Most primary children will be dropped off on the turning circle and we will make special plans for wheelchair users and our more complex children. Secondary children will be dropped outside reception or directed to the back of the school following the one-way system.

Full details will follow in September. Thank you so much for your support this year and have a wonderful summer.

Kevin Day, Head Teacher



Celebrating 35 years of incredible contributions

The end of this term will be remembered as the day we waved farewell to two of Belmont's stalwarts after a combined 35 years of dedicated teaching and leadership at our school.

Mr Paul Shand joined Belmont 21 years ago as a PE teacher and, over two decades has contributed to many important areas of school life – some of which have Mr Shand's name written all over them!

The annual London residential is one good example, an amazing opportunity for our KS4 children to visit the capital with staff and friends, seeing the sights, and creating lasting memories – all under the carefully planned guidance and sense of fun created by Mr Shand.

Paul has also been 'Mr KS4', helping hundreds of young people move to post-16 and beyond. He has led on the immensely important areas of careers provision and work experience opportunities, and the benefits to our young people have been immeasurable. We can't thank you enough Mr Shand, and wish you every happiness in your retirement.

Mrs Katy Hanna joined Belmont in Sept 2009 as Miss Sherwood, a gifted teacher with a natural talent for teaching SEND and making everyone around her feel special and valued. Many children have completed their whole school journey with Mrs Hanna at the helm, firstly as class teacher then moving quickly on to Head of Primary and the Senior Leadership Team.

Katy has never lost her passion for helping the primary school thrive and her leadership has shaped this part of the school beyond measure. At Belmont we directly link so many successful things to Mrs Hanna: the introduction of Class DoJo, the growth and development of our outstanding inclusion team, Thrive, in-reach and outreach support for other schools, sensory room redesign, primary play – and many things outside the job description, all tackled with a smile and sense of humour! Katy, as you move on to your first Headship, we know you will be awesome – we are all so proud and happy for you. Good luck!



Farewell message from Mrs Hanna

Goodbye and thank you!

I just wanted to take a moment to say goodbye and thank you. I have been so lucky and privileged to work at Belmont for 14 years.

The children and young people amaze me every single day, they are really a credit to all of you. I would like to thank you as parents for your ongoing support and I really do wish you and your families all the best.

The staff at Belmont are truly amazing and as I say Belmont is a very special place to work and be part of Belmont will always hold a very special place in my heart, and I will miss EVERYONE very much.
Thank you and goodbye.

Mrs Hanna x

Farewell message from Mr Shand

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to everyone for their kind words and best wishes on my retirement. Since I first started at Alderman Knight School and then moved on to Bownham Park in Stroud and then on to Belmont I have never once regretted turning down the offer of a job in an International School in Switzerland! Staying and working in the schools I have done was absolutely the right choice.

I have worked with some amazing young people who have kept me on my toes and have left school as young adults with a future. I have had the privilege of working with some inspirational adults in and out of the classroom who never give less than 100% of their time and effort. After 40 years in schools in Gloucestershire I can honestly say with great pride, in more ways than one they are truly special.

I am looking forward to a long retirement but will always look back with good memories



Belmont Choir

Our small but mighty choir has been delighting audiences far and wide this term!

The choir has wowed at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts at the Town Hall, the Every Child Matters event at the Bacon Theatre, and a highlight was the Children's Festival at the Brewery Quarter! The children performed in front of a huge crowd who all joined in with singing and signing.

Without exception, Belmont Choir's performances have been met with thunderous applause, cheers, ear-to-ear smiles, and no short measure of emotion.

The Choir is looking forward to performing for the last time this academic year at Belmont's Got Talent.

This year, 23 regular members have taken part in Choir each week, coming together to rehearse a wide range of songs. Huge thanks to Mrs Powell and Mrs McCarthy who have dedicated many hours of their time to bringing the choir up to performance mode, and creating so many new and exciting opportunities for our singers – they hope to be even busier next year!



After the Pied Piper fundraising event at Highnam Court in June Belmont Choir received this message from the organisers: 'On behalf of The Pied Piper Appeal I would like to thank all for coming along and performing on our stage last Sunday at the classic car show at Highnam Court. You were all SUPER STARS in my eyes. To stand up on stage with everyone watching is very impressive and all of you had such big smiles on your faces I do hope you had the best time up on stage. The weekend's activities have raised in excess of £52,000 for The Pied Piper Appeal and will enable us to proceed with various much needed projects, which are being assessed now.'

Young Voices



Children who are currently in year 6 and above have a fantastic opportunity to sing with up to 8,000 other children at Resorts World Arena in a Young Voices concert. If you think your child would be interested in taking part, please ask your child's tutor for a letter. The concert date is Friday 26th January 2024. Rehearsals will start in September during school time.



Year 10 have a capital time

Year 10 have a capital time

This year for the first time we had two trips to London for the pupils in Y10. The first visit was cut short for one day quite late on as Prince Charles became King!

As usual both groups stayed with Pastor Sue in Stepney, East London and caught the tube daily into London which is an experience all the pupils enjoy. This year we were unable to visit the Houses of Parliament but still managed Mme Tussauds, the Science Museum, an open top bus tour and boat trip on the Thames.

The second group also got to visit Camden Lock Market and London Zoo. We also visited Buckingham Palace, Downing Street, Harrods and Hamleys! Thanks to all the staff and pupils who made it two memorable trips!



Chickens stage a coup at Belmont

Belmont's chicken coops have been stuffed to the brim thanks to our friends at Court Farm Shop, Stoke Orchard. The fabulous farmer donated 10 feathered friends to fill the coops and excite the children and he is just delighted to be supporting our community.

Mr Thurston and Mrs Jones went to collect the brood and posed for a photo before hauling the flock back to school and letting them loose... little did they realise that the chickens had escape on their minds and after chasing several around the staff room and carpark, the little cluckers were finally caught by

Rylan, Bradley and Ryan's quick hands, The foul birds were secured and settled into their new accommodation and even managed to lay an egg for lunchtime.

This summer should be eggstasy for egg loving visitors to Belmont as the freshly laid bounty will be available to buy from the front office. Egg shortage? What egg shortage!

Huge thanks go to Court Farm Shop for helping to make Belmont an eggstra special place.

Mr Thurston & Mrs Jones



NEWS FROM F@B

As this school year comes to an end Friends at Belmont look back on another fantastic half term!

We so enjoyed seeing so many children, families and staff at our Summer Fair back in June – with the fantastic help of our F@B volunteers and Belmont staff we raised an amazing £3188 for the school!

We've thoroughly enjoyed attending both Primary and Secondary sports days recently and rewarded all pupils and staff with an ice-cream or ice-lolly for their hard work!

July's Saturday afternoon drop in was also great fun – providing refreshments for all the families that attended and enjoying the fantastic activities on offer.

For the final week of term we are looking forward to joining Key Stage 3 on their trip to Weston-Super-Mare (which some of the money donated by F@B has been spent on), as well as judging Belmont's Got Talent.

We also welcomed back our co-chair Neil from his Camino pilgrimage - his final total raised for F@B was £2218!

Our next focus will be a quiz night in September and of course the Christmas fayre! We are also looking forward to helping the school purchase a new minibus with a significant F@B donation!

Lastly – we wanted to highlight another fantastic fundraising effort from Paul Tibbetts – who is the Chair of the Local Advisory Board at Belmont, as well as having a child at the school. Paul took on a sponsored cycle challenge, pedalling in the rain to reach to each SAND academy school – approximately 100km! Please do donate if you can and share with family and friends! Good luck Paul!

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/tour-de-sand>

As always, we love hearing from parents who want to get involved with Friends at Belmont. No matter how big or small a commitment you can give – do get in touch via thefabpta@gmail.com or find us on Facebook... Friends at Belmont – Warden Hill.

We hope you all have a positive Summer break and look forward to seeing you in September!



KS3 Weston trip



Attendance Update

A quick update and reminder about our attendance expectations for the school year from September:

The school day begins at 8.40am.

If for any reason your child will not be in school or will be late, please call the school absence line and leave a message (01242 216180). Please do not send messages on class dojo as these will not always be read in time for registration. This needs to be done every day your child is off school, even if the illness is the same.

Should your child arrive late, please come to the main office to be signed in. A member of the class team will be called to take your child to class.

In instances where you need to collect your child before the end of the school day, please come to the main office to sign them out. A member of the class team will bring them to the office to meet you.

If possible, please provide any appointment letters for when your child will need to be absent during school hours.

All requested holidays will be unauthorised (unless in exceptional circumstances which are unavoidable – these will only be authorised by Mr. Day). This is in line with the DfE guidance that all schools have to abide by so please avoid taking pupils out of school for holidays during term time.

If you have any questions or need and help, please contact amy.keen@belmont.sandmat.uk

Thank you.

A reminder from Mr Day

Following the pandemic, schools locally and nationally have been encouraged to do everything possible to encourage good attendance. We know that every day counts and I have been pleased to see our whole school attendance get much closer to pre-pandemic levels. I want to thank parents and the Belmont team for all their support and encouragement around excellent attendance: our whole school target was 93% for 2022/23, and we have achieved 93.6%. This percentage remains well above the average attendance for special schools; let's continue this upward trend and be the best we can be.



Sports Day



REMINDERS FOR NEXT TERM

School finishes on Friday 21st July, and the children are back in school on Wednesday 6th September for 8.40am registration.

The transport times from Sept 2023 will be:

8.40am – drop off for all pupils

2.40pm – primary pick up

2.55pm – mixed and secondary pick up

All children to return in full uniform; please link with your class team if you have any queries.

As always, if you have any concerns for the safety of a child, call 999 in an emergency, or the children's help desk on 01452 426565. If you need to contact our safeguarding team over the summer, Rachel Carroll can be contacted on 07432 232895 or Rachel.Carroll@belmont.sandmat.uk

Ice Cream Time!

A very special surprise was in store for every single member of the Belmont team on Wednesday when our favourite ice-cream van arrived on site, loaded to the brim with 99s and iced lollies! Mrs Hanna had secretly arranged the visit and very kindly treated everyone to a delicious 'goodbye' gelato!



Growing Hope

Our "Growing Hope" garden has been undergoing some exciting developments. The children have been working with Young Glos and Men in Sheds. Watch this space!! We hope to invite our lovely Y11 children back to see the finished result.

COME AND JOIN THE RUGBY FUN

LET'S GO!

NORTON MIXED ABILITY
RUGBY ARE HOSTING 2
RUGBY ACTIVITY DAYS
IN THE SUMMER
FOR SEND CHILDREN
AGED 8+
ADAPTED RUGBY FOR
MIXED ABILITIES



FUN AND FRIENDLY
ACTIVITIES MEET
NEW FRIENDS £10
FOR THE DAY
10AM - 3PM
WEDNESDAY 2ND
AND WEDNESDAY
30TH AUGUST.

PLACES MUST BE BOOKED
EMAIL
MARNORTONAFTERSCHOOLCLUB@GMAIL.COM
TO SECURE YOUR PLACE.



NORTON MIXED ABILITY RUGBY

ALLIGATORS CLASS

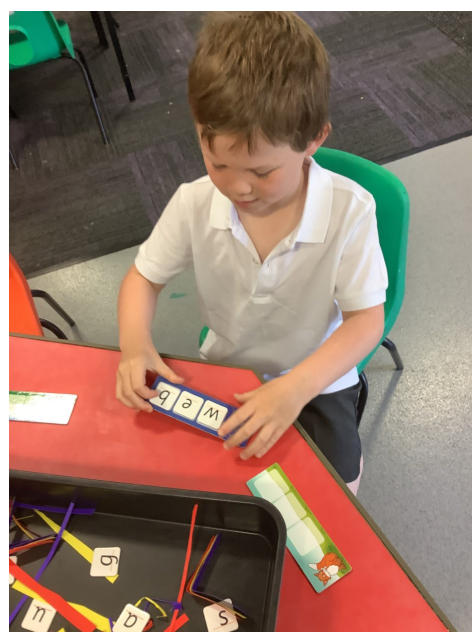
Talented Alligators dive into learning

What an amazing final term for the Alligators!

We have followed a thematic approach centred around our topic 'Commotion in the Ocean'. This has supported our engagement and allowed many activities to be linked to our theme.

In English we have continued to develop our fine motor skills, practised our letter formation and extended our reading and comprehension skills. Maths this term enhanced our understanding of number and its value alongside introducing the concept of time. We used appropriate mathematical language with the support of visuals / Makaton signing and began to identify when certain activities would take place.

PSHE this term allowed us to develop our relationship building and turn taking skills. We had the opportunity to engage in various play-based activities as well as improve our manners and greetings. We have been very busy in Our World where we have learnt all about different types of weather and enjoyed getting very creative in The Arts. It was great to see the Alligators contribute to Belmont's got Talent by recording their Tap Stick routine.



BUSY BEES CLASS

Wet and wonderful adventures for Busy Bees

The Busy Bees have floated, bubbled and splashed our way through Term 6, not only literally (having had the fantastic opportunity to go swimming every week) but we've also enjoyed a very seaside themed term.

In English we have been reading various stories helping us to develop our comprehension and writing skills, we've also kept with our seaside theme by practising our instruction writing on how to build sandcastles and make ice creams.

In Maths we have been developing our addition and subtraction skills and have also dipped our toe in the water, finding out about money. We've brought life on planet earth into the classroom, enjoying learning about the world around us, who lives on the land and who lives in the sea, finding out what deserts, rainforests and the artic look and feel like.

Our particular highlights have been our primary sports day and our visit to the Birmingham Sealife Centre where it felt as though we were in the water with the sharks and turtles walking along the ocean tunnel experience!

We also had a wonderful time at Cattle Country and have been very excited to start our swimming lessons.



CHEETAHS CLASS

Fables inspire creative Cheetahs

The Cheetahs have had a busy last term; we have learnt about length and measure in Maths, and have been writing instructions in English for making biscuits, fruit kebabs and how to plant sunflowers. Our topic this term has been fables and fairy tales, we have enjoyed learning new stories and creating arts and crafts linked to this.

Cheetahs really enjoyed sports day and swimming this term and were very busy practising for Belmont's Got Talent. We had a wonderful trip to Cotswolds Wildlife Park to see different animals and the habitats they live in.

We hope everyone has a lovely summer holiday!



DOLPHINS CLASS

Music, drama, and wonderful wildlife

Dolphins have had a fantastic final term! We began by exploring different materials and seeing if they were waterproof, and then tried to build our own versions of the houses from The Three Little Pigs. We have also been talking about heavy and light objects, and had great fun choosing different items and seeing if they were heavy or light on the scales.

We have had some wonderful sessions of Music with Mel and have really enjoyed learning the songs and the actions that go with them. We have even used some of the songs we've learnt in our Belmont's Got Talent act. In Drama with Emma we have had a great time acting out different scenarios and learning that it is okay to be silly and make mistakes. We really enjoyed the session where we were being clowns, wearing red noses, and making each other laugh as well as laugh at ourselves!

We have done lots of making this term including biscuits, milkshakes, bird houses and pizzas. In our final week Lizard Life Line UK came to visit, bringing along lots of different reptiles including bearded dragons, geckos, tortoises and a snake!

We have had a brilliant year in Dolphins and are feeling very excited about our new adventures next year!



ELEPHANTS CLASS

Sharing the magic of learning

We have been thinking about our own talents as part of our preparations for Belmont's got Talent, linking this to magic and stories about wizards and witches! We have been writing instructions for magic spells and potions and have been following sets of instructions to make our own sail boats and homemade lemonade. In maths, we have enjoyed lots of practical activities to explore capacity and weight.

We have really enjoyed our forces and motions topic this term, using OPAL, PE lessons, and toys in the classroom to explore pushes and pulls. We especially loved racing our sail boats and racing our cars using different ramps to make them go faster and slower!

We have continued to become more confident in our swimming lessons this term and had lots of fun at sports day, working as a team and trying our best. We were lucky to have a visit from some very special friends when we had a Reptile experience morning and were joined by bearded dragons, geckos, chameleons, tortoise and a snake to name but a few! We had so many questions to ask and learnt so much!

Well done Elephants class - what a great year it has been! Have a lovely summer!



FOXES CLASS

Science keeps things moving in Foxes

We have had another busy and fun filled term. We are now nearing the end of the year when some of the children will have their last days in primary before moving to the world of secondary.

We have been learning about forces, finding out about push and pull forces and gravity. We did an experiment to find who had the most push power in their blowing technique to send the boat across the water.

In Maths we have been learning about measuring and statistics. The class used centimetre and metre rulers to measure different items and learned how to put the information we have gathered in a table. We also discovered how to use the data we have to answer questions.

We have been lucky enough to have two trips out, one to the Science Festival and the other to the Tri-golf tournament where we came second.





SWCP TRI - COUNTY SUMMER DISABILITY FOOTBALL

SAT 8 JULY - 1610 BRIDGWATER, TA6 6AW, 10PM-12PM

SAT 15 JULY - 1610 BRIDGWATER, TA6 6AW, 10PM-12PM

SUN 16 JULY - FOREST GREEN, STROUD, GL6 0HG, 10AM-2PM

TUE 1 AUG - BELMONT CHELTENHAM, GL51 3AT, 10AM-12PM

WEDS 2 AUG - BELMONT CHELTENHAM, GL51 3AT, 10AM-12PM

SUN 6 AUG - OXSTALLS GLOUCESTER, GL2 9DW, 10AM-12PM

MON 7 AUG- SARUM ACADEMY SALISBURY, SP2 9HS, 10AM-12PM

TUES 8 AUG- SARUM ACADEMY SALISBURY, SP9 9HS, 10AM-12PM

MON 14 AUGUST - BELMONT CHELTENHAM, GL51 3AT, 10AM-12PM

TUES 15 AUG - BELMONT CHELTENHAM, GL51 3AT, 10AM-12PM

SUN 20 AUG - WILTSHIRE FA DEVIZES, SN10 5EP, 10AM-2PM

SUN 10 SEPT - OXSTALLS GLOUCESTER, GL2 9DW 10AM-12PM

SAT 16 SEPT - 1610 BRIDGWATER, TA6 6AW, 10AM-2PM

ALL DISABILITIES WELCOME

FA QUALIFIED COACHES WITH FULL DBS CHECKS

AGES 8+

TO REGISTER USE THE QR CODE ON THE POSTER

OR CONTACT JULIE BOWLER

EMAIL: JBSWCP@GMAIL.COM

OR CALL: 07775802317



GBG BIKES

Come and join us at our inclusive cycling sessions, for just £5 an hour!!!

Parents/Carers cycle for FREE!!!

Our bikes cater for all abilities and levels of experience!!!

**FOD CYCLE CENTRE
(PEDALABIKEAWAY) ALTERNATE TUESDAYS
CANNOP VALLEY 10:30 - 12:30
GL16 7EH**



Our cycling sessions at the Forest of Dean Cycle Centre are a great way to get active in a beautiful location, with a lovely Cafe on site.

**BELMONT SCHOOL
WARDEN HILL EVERY SUNDAY
ROAD 14:00 - 16:00
GL51 3AT**

Belmont School in Hatherley is an amazing place to cycle, with every bike that we have available to be cycled at these sessions.



**Bring a Drink
Bring a Snack**

**Wear appropriate clothing for
the weather conditions**

Visit <https://goalsbeyondgrass.co.uk/gbg-bikes/>

Email maryclare@goalsbeyondgrass.co.uk or

Call MaryClare on 07393867572

for more information, to book in advance, and to ensure that we bring the correct bikes for YOU.

GIRAFFES CLASS

Senses, swimming, sound and sport!

Final term, and as always a busy one! Giraffes Class has enjoyed some new experiences this term including drama sessions and swimming.

In Our World, the children have been learning about our senses. They particularly enjoyed learning about their hearing and how sound travels from the source into our ear. The children acted out being a sound wave. They explored pitch with the chime bars and loved playing them so much that they learned some short songs, as a class, to perform at Belmont's Got Talent. The children also investigated sound vibrations by watching some rice on a drum.

In Forest School, the children were learning how to make a fire, stay safe around fire and they even enjoyed crumpets cooked on the fire too!

We've been back in the cooking room this term, learning how to grate, peel, boil and drain safely. The children have also been developing their independence by washing their dishes! This term, we have made cheesy pasta and cheesy mash. We also had another go at making a class favourite, 'Fork Biscuits'. They were even better this time round!

It was the Giraffe's first Belmont Sports Day, and what a great time they had! There were lots of smiles across the day, I was proud of their determination and it was also wonderful to hear everyone cheering and celebrating the success of others.

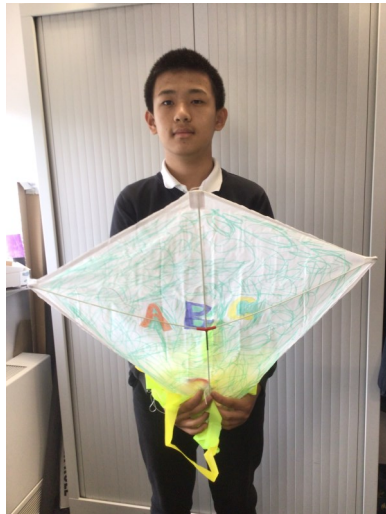


HIPPOS CLASS

Learning adventures reach new heights

This term the Hippos have left the ground for the sky. We have been designing, building and flying a different style of kite which we have been flying on the school field. In maths we have been learning about measuring. We have used buckets of water, metre sticks and kitchen scales to better understand the world. The students have also spent time on the school bikes and in soft play with the Giraffes Class.

We hope the Hippos have a great summer holiday!



IBEXES CLASS

Sparking the senses

In Ibexes this term, we have loved finding out about weight and capacity. We have also learned more about our five senses in Our World, discovered our different talents in the Arts (even having a go at being comedian!), and designed and created our own sensory toys in Product Design. The class has also enjoyed exploring instruments and songs every Tuesday with our Music Therapist. It has been a busy year and term 6 for the Ibexes but we have definitely enjoyed every minute! Have a lovely summer!



JAGUARS CLASS

Courageous Jaguars take to the dance floor

Another busy term is coming to an end – we can't believe it is nearly time for Jaguars Class to break up for the summer! This term the children have enjoyed learning about light and electricity. They have made their own electrical circuits and have thought about what light is. In maths we have been exploring lots of different measurements.

The Class had a fantastic time performing their dance at the Feet First dance festival at Cheltenham Town Hall. They danced brilliantly in front of hundreds of people and were very proud of themselves for being so brave. The theme of their dance was all about trying your best even when you find things difficult.

Well done team Jaguars!



KOALAS CLASS

Successful term for sporting Koalas

Koalas have had a very busy term! We have had lots of successes both on the sports field and in the classroom. Sports day was fantastic. It was lovely to see the Koalas encouraging and supporting each other during their events.

The Koalas have welcomed the new arrival of Samson, Pringles VII, Johnny, Quater, Afer, Daniel and Fred - the Chicks. Koalas have watched as they have grown their wings and learnt how to fly. During enrichment the Koalas enjoyed taking the Chicks outside for the first time.

Some of Koalas were lucky enough to go on the Year 8 residential, they had a great time making dens, building rafts and sailing them on the lake, and going abseiling. They grew in their confidence and worked on their teamwork skills.

Koalas have also enjoyed learning about electrical circuits this term making their own LED light circuit designs during DT.

The Koalas are looking forward to the upcoming trip to All Things Wild, many of students in Koalas have a growing interest in animals and their habitats.



LLAMAS CLASS

Festival makes learning fun

This summer term, Llamas have taken part in a variety of activities and events. These have included the inter-school cricket competition and sports day. One of the highlights however was the annual visit to the Cheltenham Science Festival. Pupils took part in games and tasks in the Arcade marquee such as coding, programming robots and playing retro video games. After lunch they attended a presentation all about 'Amazing Air' which taught us all about the power of the air around us and how we can use it. Overall Llamas had a fantastic day and a great end of the year.



MONKEYS CLASS

Cooking up an action-packed term

Term 6 is notoriously busy and this term has been no different for the Monkeys! The term started off with a visit to the Science Festival in Cheltenham Imperial Gardens. The children had a great time playing in the retro games arcade, learning about cyber security and coding. They then spent some time in the Maker Shack weaving, creating peg cars, printing and making bead bracelets that represented a code. Then finally we watched an amazing lady talk about air and how we feel it, see it and hear it. She did many experiments which kept everyone captivated and also amused at times. She was truly incredible to watch.

The following week we went to Morrisons and split into groups. We all worked together to find the different ingredients we needed for our recipes and then used great communication skills to speak with the cashier and pay for the items. Some of the Monkeys find it very challenging to speak with unknown adults so it is always great to see them building their confidence ready for future independence. We finished off our time with a visit to the café for a quick refreshment. That afternoon we then used our ingredients and cooked up a wonderful lasagne with garlic bread and completed the meal with brownies. It was delicious.

Since then, St Edwards Prep School has very kindly allowed us to make a couple of visits to their small farm and we very much enjoyed feeding and stroking all the animals. The pig, Spot, especially enjoyed its tummy tickles!

We also had a couple of extra events before the end of the term, including Belmont's Got Talent and also the extremely exciting trip to Weston-Super-Mare! As you can tell the term has been very tiring and I think we are all ready now for the summer holidays to begin!



NIGHTOWLS CLASS

Night Owls enjoy the great outdoors

The Night Owls have had a very busy term with different trips out, and some more of the class going on the residential trip to London.

We had a great day at West Midlands Safari Park, where we saw many different animals such as rhinos, lions and giraffes. There were a lot of deer! The giraffes liked to poke their heads through the windows of the minibus looking for food, and we went “off road” in the lion enclosure and were really lucky to get up close to the lions who were all hiding in the shade. The rides were great too, and we all loved the dinosaur trail. It was a very hot day and we were all very grateful for the air conditioning on the bus on the way home, but not so grateful for Mr Fry’s choice of music!

We also had a fabulous day out at the Three Counties Show, where we saw all kinds of farm animals, show jumping, owl flying displays and plenty of farming machinery. Some of the class found themselves in handcuffs while chatting to the police. Again, it was a very hot day and we were happy to have an ice cream when we got back to school.

As part of our ASDAN challenges we have also been gardening, we have cleared three of the overgrown raised beds which are now ready to be used for planting new crops, and we also spent time litter picking on the school field. We collected several bags of rubbish and the field was left tidy and safe, ready for Sports Day.

After such a busy term we are all ready for the holidays!

We hope you have a great summer and we will see you in September.



OTTERS CLASS

Belmont's enterprising ambassadors

Term 6 has seen the Otters venture out into the community as much as possible. This has included some very exciting trips out; all of the Otters have represented the school exceptionally well in terms of behaviour and we've really enjoyed these experiences with them.

In the classroom we have continued exploring our 'Hero' topic. The class has really enjoyed reading Goodnight Mr Tom. This week Year 10 had the opportunity to take part in an enterprise day; the task was to design a new adventure park and deliver the ideas in a Dragon's Den style set up. We were very impressed with the ideas developed and the way these were presented to the panel. We hope all the Otters have a wonderful summer holiday!



Year 11

A fond farewell to our Year 11s!

Last month we said goodbye to our amazing Year 11s. The final assembly was packed full of memories and recognised the fantastic achievements of the students. For some, Belmont had been a huge part of their lives for more than 10 years but we know they now have the skills and confidence to go from strength to strength at the various colleges they will be attending.

Thank you to Year 11 for setting a great example to the rest of the school and for always staying true to the school motto of 'Being the Best You Can Be.' We wish you all the luck in the world in your next adventure.



QUAILS

Expedition ready!

The Quails have had an extremely busy term working hard to complete all their personal development course work. Their portfolios are fantastic and we as a team are very proud of them all.

We have been fortunate enough to celebrate the King's Coronation and have had some wonderful trips out that we have thoroughly enjoyed.

At Cattle Country, the weather was great and we managed to have a really lovely picnic on the grass. All our class managed to have fun by taking advantage of all the experiences that Cattle Country has to offer.

In addition, we have worked with 'Platform' on train safety and even got to go on a return train journey to Worcester Foregate Station. We spent time in the historical pod completing some fun activities organised by 'Platform'. We even went to McDonalds and the park!

We are looking forward to our Duke of Edinburgh expedition and we are in the process of brushing up on our map skills!

