

# Belmont Newsletter

Term 2 2023



## A message from the Head

As term two draws to a close, it has been an opportunity to reflect on the richness of our school life here at Belmont. The festive season always brings with it a sense of excitement and generosity, but the past eight weeks have been overflowing with enthusiastic learning, superb team work, and some incredible community partnership work.



The highlights saw the arrival of our new Belmont minibus – long awaited, and made a reality by the wonderful F@B team, the Tee family, with support from the Pied Piper Appeal. As a light-weight bus, it is able to be driven by a much wider range of staff, widening the potential for even more visits and trips, and enriching our students' education beyond measure. On behalf of Team Belmont, can I express a huge thank you to everyone involved in making this happen.

Elsewhere, the fundraising continued in earnest: students and staff raised £194 for Children in Need, and the amazing F@B staged an incredibly impressive and successful Winter Fayre, raising £1,916 for school. Such an enormous amount would not have been possible without the support of our Belmont families – thank you so much for your tombola donations, and for coming along on the day.

The classes have been out and about at every opportunity in the new mini bus, with trips to Harry Potter World, Perrygrove and the cinema, enjoying a host of new experiences, and developing their independence. Our regular trips to the dry ski slope have been particularly inspiring and aspirational for our Key Stage 3 students, and we hope they will continue.

As you can imagine, the past few weeks have been focused on festivities, and we were very pleased and proud to be able to hold Christmas Services for Primary at school, and for Secondary at St Christopher's Church in Warden Hill. In addition, the children have all been involved in Christmas productions, and the choir entertained a host of visitors including our transport team.



Can I also extend a huge 'well done' to Esree in Giraffes Class. Along with her class team, she entered a Christmas Card design competition held by Montel Civil Engineering, and won the second prize of a gift card, and a £60 cheque for school. We are enormously proud of Esree and, indeed, every Belmont student for all your efforts and determination this term.



Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank some staff members who are leaving us at the end of this term. Claire Solomon has been a wonderful learning partner in the primary team for 3 years and will be very much missed by staff and children. We wish her well in her new post where her wonderful skills and calm temperament will also be valued.

Cameron Cheal also leaves us to take up a new career challenge. As part of the HLLP team he has made a great impact across the school and will be greatly missed in classes and at sport clubs. Recently he has helped a new student settle really well into Belmont and this was another positive contribution to Belmont during his years of service.

We are also saying good bye and good luck to one of our longest standing staff members, as the wonderful Emma Kear takes a very well-earned break from full time work at Belmont. Emma has been with us for 33 years and is simply known as one of the best staff members we have ever had. As a Higher Level Learning Partner she can teach any ability class, calm the most upset student, reassure the most worried staff member and knows everything about medical needs! The most difficult challenge for schools in recent times has been Covid 19 and Emma's leadership and advice enabled us to remain safely open more than almost any other school, and I know our team and families were so very grateful. After a few weeks' rest, I am delighted to confirm that Emma will return on a casual basis to help with staff cover and to support trips and visits, but this is her official leaving week, so we wanted to convey a massive thank you to Emma.



I wish you all much Christmas happiness, and look forward to seeing the students back in school on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Kevin Day



