

# Belmont School

## Newsletter - Term 6 2024



### 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 in. We are so very proud of the children and I am very grateful to the exceptional efforts of my team and the support given by families and carers. Team Belmont has fully embraced the year and our brilliant team of staff have again created wonderful opportunities for our students by organising and planning great lessons in addition to trips, visits and residential. You can read more about each classes' trips and experiences later in this jam packed newsletter.

Friends @ Belmont have had yet another incredible year raising funds for the school. Their small team have been absolutely wonderful and we are so lucky to have them. I'd like to give a special mention to Ruth, who is our brilliant F@B chair and also a governor, in addition to her incredible organisation she has made enough chocolate brownies to feed the county for a few months! Thank you to all at team F@B, you are brilliant.

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 full refurbishment of the Early Years play area so these classes will return to a wonderful, safe, and wheel chair accessible space for learning and play.

In staffing news I have several updates. A number of staff are leaving us for new opportunities and from the Learning Partner team we are sending very best wishes for the future to Tarila and Emma. From our teaching team we thank Morgan Chappell and Alison Williams for their outstanding contributions to the development of every child in their care here at Belmont. Morgan has been an excellent teacher during her 4 years at Belmont supporting many of our most complex children and driving impressive changes around reading and phonics. Alison has a long history with Belmont and during her 20 years here has consistently been a wonderful teacher, friend to many and is always going above and beyond. We wish you both much luck and happiness in your new role and retirement. Finally, it is with mixed emotions that we thank Dawn Davies from our admin team who has been at the school for 26 years. All at Belmont will agree she has been a wonderful support to our team, leading from the front in hard times and adding fun and good humour at others. She is the ultimate professional, proud and hardworking and we have been very lucky to have her on the staff team for such a long time. We all wish her the very best for a long and happy retirement.

Can I conclude with a very big thank you to all staff, families, SAND Trust and governors, this has been a very successful year for our children as a result of team work and I am very grateful.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer.

Kevin Day, Head Teacher



## Year 10 Enterprise Day

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July, Classes Llamas and Monkeys were set to work by local recycling company 'Print Waste'.

Their brief was to design and build a model theme park out of recycled material. Groups were given a budget to work within as they bought their resources to create their masterpieces!

There were some fantastic ideas with creativity oozing from each group. The students pitched their ideas really well and should be proud of their efforts. There were definitely some very savvy business moves on show! Well done everyone



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## Year 11 Leavers

It is always an emotional event when we say goodbye to our Year 11 cohort. This year was no different as we paid tribute to the fantastic achievements of our students. Many of our Year 11 students have been with us since Primary and seeing each individual's journey is always a privilege. This cohort are more than ready for their next chapter at college and we wish them every success for the future.

Before they left, Otters joined with the Night Owls class to celebrate moving on to college with a joint bowling trip and meal at the Bank House. It was a lovely day, enjoyed by all.

Friday, 28th June saw the lovely Otters' and Nigh Owls officially leave school. A mixture of excitement and nerves filled the classrooms before the final leavers' assembly – a formal affair, where the relationships built between staff and students was evident as there were few dry eyes! An amazing balloon display was provided by Alfie's Mum in Night Owls, which made an amazing backdrop for the presentations of the Record of Achievement, class photos and leavers' books.





SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER						
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tues	3	10	17	24	Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues	5	12	19	26	
Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thur	5	12	19	26	Thur	3	10	17	24	31	Thur	7	14	21	28	
Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	3	10	17	24	
DECEMBER					JANUARY					FEBRUARY						
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24	
Tues	3	10	17	24	31	Tues	7	14	21	28	Tues	4	11	18	25	
Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thur	5	12	19	26	Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur	6	13	20	27	
Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25	Sat	1	8	15	22		
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	2	9	16	23	
MARCH					APRIL					MAY						
Mon	3	10	17	24	31	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	5	12	19	26	
Tues	4	11	18	25	Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues	6	13	20	27	
Wed	5	12	19	26	Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	7	14	21	28	
Thur	6	13	20	27	Thur	3	10	17	24	Thur	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	7	14	21	28	Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	4	11	18	25	
JUNE					JULY					AUGUST						
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tues	3	10	17	24	Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues	5	12	19	26	
Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thur	5	12	19	26	Thur	3	10	17	24	31	Thur	7	14	21	28	
Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	3	10	17	24	31

Term Time	Holidays	
Bank Holiday	Inset	
Term 1: Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2024	38 days	
Term 2: Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2024	35 days	
Term 3: Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan - Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025	28 days	
Term 4: Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2025	34 days	
Term 5: Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	19 days	
Term 6: Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> June – Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	35 days	

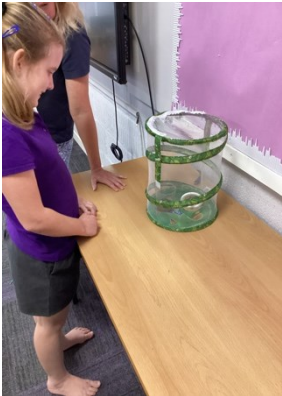
Christmas Bank Holidays	25 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
	26 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
New Year Bank Holiday	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025
Good Friday	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Easter Monday	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025
Early May Bank Holiday	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Spring Bank Holiday	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Summer Bank Holiday	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2025

INSET: 2nd/3rd Sept, 6th Jan, 14th Feb, 11th April, 21st July

# The Nest

In The Nest we have had a memorable first year as a new class full of wonderful moments and achievements. This year our students have shown remarkable growth in their learning and enjoyed lots of great activities such as our successful trip to Cattle Country, sports day fun and our weekly adventures to forest school.

We have learnt about so many exciting topics; in Our World we have learnt about the life cycle of caterpillars even having caterpillars in the class that became beautiful butterflies! In English we have done recount writing, describing all our favourite memories and in maths we have looked at telling the time. A year full of memories and achievements and we are looking forward to another great year.



# Belmont 2024



## Alligators class

Wow, what a year! The Alligators have come such a long way on what has been a truly incredible journey, which we are all proud to have been part of.



Our class stories have allowed us to go on bear hunts, find teddies in the lost property, search for the Gruffalo, sing along to nursery rhymes and wash woolly mammoths, finishing with sharing a shell.

In maths we've learnt about day and night, longest and shortest, matched colours, numbers, and shapes. We have enjoyed constructing number lines, counting, dancing and singing to our count to 20 song and we've even added numbers to.

Alligators have also worked super hard with their English. Some have been creative with mark making, while others have been learning how to write their names, also recognising the names of their peers, all while developing pencil control and letter formation.

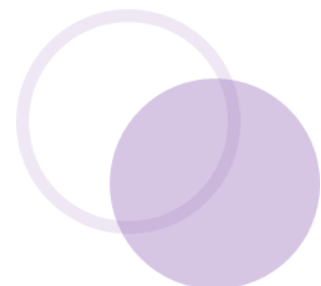
For the arts, Alligators have been learning different songs with tap sticks, following along to various rhythms and tunes. We've explored painting different fruits and making the paint smell yummy and not wanting to miss out on dry, sunny days we've taken every opportunity to have lots of fun outside. Learning to climb on new apparatus, draw with chalk, pop bubbles, hunt for bugs, play different games, even making up our own too!

In Our World lessons we've embraced the prehistoric era, learning about the size and features of dinosaurs, explored how vehicles move and played with castles, horses and knights.



Our trip to Westonbirt to find the Gruffalo has to be one of this year's biggest highlights along with our visit to the Little City set up where we stepped into the roles of vets, builders, shop keepers and hairdressers and of course how could we forget our recent whole school outing to Cattle Country too.

Alligators we are so proud of you all and everything you've achieved this year.



# Busy Bees

This year in Busy Bees has been filled with lots of amazing moments.



English has given us so many fun topics to learn from this year, some of our best moments include acting out the story “There’s a Tiger in the Garden” and using puppets and mask to recall our auditory memory of the book; and finding a dragon’s nest hidden in the sensory garden and writing a non-chronological report to describe the egg and inform others how to care for a dragon correctly. Busy Bees had an amazing time reading “Supertato”, we created our own

superhero foods and came up with creative ways to defeat the villains. In Term 4 we began focusing on poems and took a big interest in the poem “Mad about Dinosaurs” during this term we went on our first school trip of the year exploring “All Things Wild” and had the best time seeing the dinosaur statues, riding the train and seeing different animals. In term 5 we had a very exciting visit from the wonderful Grandma Grace and spent the morning following the instructions we had written on how to look after a grandma. We have ended the year reading the stories “Dear Zoo” and “Oh Dear”. Using these books we have learnt what a recount was and re-written our own visions of the stories.



In Maths we have really enjoyed our practical lessons, playing musical chairs to help us understand addition and subtraction, using weights and measuring jugs and lots of water play to measure the weight, mass and capacity of objects and liquids. We have also opened our own shop to help us understand the value of money and identify the different coins. In Term 6 we have moved on to learn about fractions, focusing on whole, half and quarter fractions.

Other highlights from this year are when Busy Bees focused on personal history looking back on big moments in their lives, such as being born, birthdays and starting school. We also created a giant “Busy Bees family tree” using logs, sticks and leaves. In PHSE we had got to experience a visit from “Little City” and explored the wonderful role-playing equipment. There was also the very successful Cattle Country trip, World book day and Sports day.



Busy Bees have worked extremely hard this year and their progress has been incredible.



## Cheetahs

Wow, what an incredible year we have had in Cheetah class! We have been really busy learning lots of new concepts through a fun topic-based approach. We have covered lots of different themes, from 'The polar express', 'The tiger who came to tea', 'The lighthouse keepers' lunch' and more. We have extended our mathematical knowledge and been exposed to new language within various topics. In English we have been developing our reading, fine motor skills, pre-writing skills, letter formation and sentence structure. Some of us have also been busy learning typing skills and thinking about how to use capital letters and full stops. Cheetahs have loved participating in learning carousals and have had the opportunity to apply their knowledge to various fun, engaging tasks whilst deepening their problem-solving skills. It has been amazing to see the progression that has been made across the year!



We have also been busy learning some key life skills during 'Our futures' lessons. We have made various items such as sandwiches, cakes, drinks and more. Alongside developing our cooking skills, we have also had the opportunity to develop our safety awareness using key equipment / tools and practised washing up too!

Our Bodies sessions have also been a particular favourite for us all. We have been participating in various physical activities to support our gross motor skills alongside playing team building games and of course having lots of fun along the way! We have been busy learning about various bodies parts and how they may feel. The best part was looking forward to our weekly experiments as this was always very exciting and supported our understanding well. Of course, we have had lots of time to develop our social and emotional skills too. We have really enjoyed building some amazing relationships with all adults and peers. We have had time to practise our turn taking and sharing skills alongside scaffold our communication and interactions too.

We have been extremely lucky to have attended two incredible trips this year; Perrygrove Railway and Cattle Country. In addition to these, we also had visitors to school; 'Tatty Bumpkin' and 'The music works'. These were fantastic experiences which the whole class enjoyed thoroughly. We ended the year with a particular highlight; Swimming! We all looked forward to our weekly session and learnt some new skills alongside having endless fun in the water! The Cheetah team have been extremely proud of incredible behaviour and listening skills throughout these activities.

It has been a fantastic year and we wish the Cheetah's all the best in their next adventure!

Have a lovely summer everyone!





## Dolphin class

Dolphin class have enjoyed lots of outdoor learning, hands on and sensory experiences this year, learning about their senses and how different parts of their bodies feel as part of our interoception lessons, as well as enjoying their forest school sessions. The children loved putting some of their forest school and team building skills in to practise in the huge, wooded area during our trip to Sandfield farm at the working dairy farm. Relax kids sessions have further helped the children to recognise their body signals and learn different yoga poses and story massage.

Other highlights of the year have been our International days and special celebrations such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter services, where they worked together as a class to create artwork and practise and perform some fantastic songs and dances! The children have also showed their creative skills when they designed and made tea party hats and pizza boxes in preparation for their own tea party and pizza making! Fortunately, after a term of instruction writing, they were able to make the perfect cup of tea and pizza! Dolphin class really loved it when Little City came to school, giving children the opportunity to experience a range of different jobs through this role play experience. We were also so proud of our Year 6 children who went to the PGL residential and took part in some activities they had never done before!



More recently, Dolphin class have loved the whole school trip to Cattle country and participating in sports day, showing their great team work and determination. It has been lovely seeing the children progress in all their learning and develop their skills and talents over the year and grow in confidence in so many areas of school life.



# Elephants Class

Elephants have had a jam-packed last year of Primary where they have had the chance to go out on many school trips - Aerospace, PGL, multi-sports, athletics, Young Voices, Cattle Country. There have been so many amazing opportunities on top of the fabulous learning achievements obtained throughout this academic year.

We have looked at weight / force and motion, we have learnt about dinosaurs / length / statistics, explored many books within English and looked at different artists work, these are to just name a few. Elephants have worked hard and have been preparing for their secondary transition, they sit with the

secondary classes at lunch and have play-time with the sec-

ondary children too. All of the students in Elephants have brought something amazing and individual to the class this year. They've shown huge amounts of adaptability and resilience this year which is a credit to them. We have loved working with them and building these relationships and wish them lots of fun and fabulous learning in secondary.



# The Hive

We have had lots of exciting opportunities in the Hive this year!

In term 1, we enjoyed learning about animals and their habitats and sharing our likes and dislikes with the class to help form relationships.

We had a busy term 2 moving classrooms and loved making it our own! We looked at old and new toys in Our World and enjoyed making Christmas decorations for our new classroom.



In term 3, we developed our ball skills in Our bodies and enjoyed creating our own video clips based on our interests and made props, storyboards and acted out a scene. We are a great group of actors!

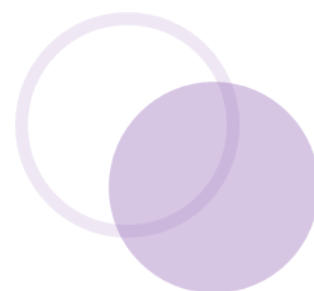
In Term 4, we loved exploring maps and using our knowledge of the school to create our own maps! In Our Futures, we made our own after-noon tea, decorating fancy hats to wear and making food to eat!

In Term 5, we learnt about time in maths and enjoyed reading fun fair timetables to plan our perfect day! We continued to develop our Forest school skills too and had a great trip to Cattle Country.

Term 6 has been a busy term too! We have enjoyed a trip to the cinema and swimming. In maths, we loved getting wet learning about capacity and exploring our senses.



It has been a great year in the Hive this year and we hope you all have a lovely summer!



# Belmonts Got Talent 2024



## Foxes

This year has been full of fun and learning for Foxes Class. Many of the children were new to Belmont this year, they all settled in very quickly and it became clear we had a great range of personalities in the class.

All of the children have made great progress with their learning both in the classroom and outdoors. Some examples of what we have learnt this year in English include writing different types of poems and writing instructions....which led to some questionable jam sandwich making (a valuable lesson in making sure our instructions are detailed and clear!). We have also looked at recounts including writing a newspaper article based on the book we have been reading together (*The Explorer*) and using the past tense. In maths we have covered topics and developed our skills in looking at the four operations, shape, fractions, telling the time, money, mass and capacity. Other learning has included topics of knights and castles including making our own tower using clay and learning about volcanoes and making our own 'active' volcanoes using papier-mâché. We have also learnt about forces and motion and our senses and materials.

We have enjoyed being outdoors throughout this year. We have planted and grown seeds and plants, gone on bug hunts and built dens and fires. We have also enjoyed trips out of school including to Slimbridge Wetland centre, Leckampton hill for fossil hunting, Minster Lovell Hall (paddling), Cheltenham science festival and of course our annual whole school trip to Cattle Country where the children enjoyed meeting all the different animals as well as making the most of the play barn, zip line, and bouncing pillows.

It's been a jam packed year and we are sure the children are all ready for a well earned break over the summer holidays.

Well done Foxes!



# Giraffes

As the school year draws to a close, I am thrilled to reflect on the fantastic term we've had in Giraffes class. Our journey has been filled with remarkable achievements, and joy, that have made this term truly special.

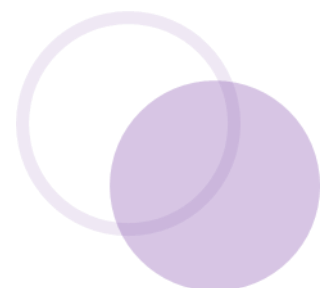
In Maths, we have excelled in written division calculations, mastering a challenging concept with determination and enthusiasm. Our swimming lessons have been a splash of fun, with everyone making tremendous progress and enjoying the warm water.

Our World lessons have been a sensory delight, especially when it came to tasting. We have delved into the themes of diversity and equality, inspired by the Hidden Figures book and film, sparking meaningful discussions and reflections.

One of my personal highlights has been showcasing our amazing talents in Belmont's Got Talent. Each of you shone brightly, demonstrating the incredible abilities that make Giraffes class so unique. Working with the Giraffes class is always a joy. The great classroom environment, filled with laughter and learning, makes every day a pleasure.

I wish you all the best for a wonderful summer break and look forward to being your teacher again in September.

Enjoy your holidays!  
Luke Mansell



# Hippos

As part of our end of term celebrations, Hippo Class visited the Premier Inn in Cheltenham town centre, for a special class breakfast. We had to use our manners, social skills and communication skills to select our food and interact with the restaurant staff. It was lovely to sit together with our friends and share a meal. We enjoyed choosing from the unlimited hot and cold buffet breakfast and even tried some new foods!

It was a delicious treat for the end of a lovely year together.



# Ibexes

The Ibexes have grown a lot this year. We have made wonderful friendships and have

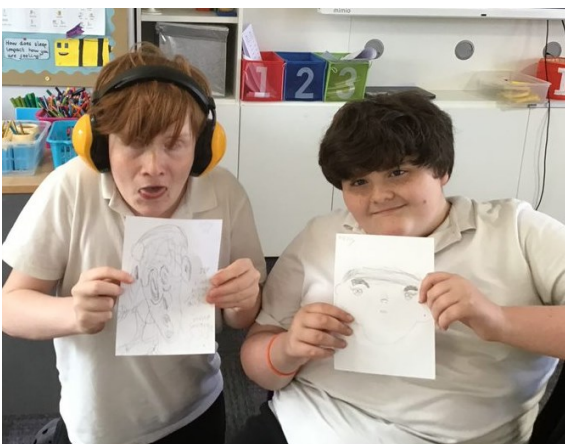
As we reach the end of the school year, it's a perfect time to reflect on the many memorable moments and achievements the Ibexes have experienced together. This year has been one of growth, learning, and friendship. and it's truly been a wonderful journey for everyone involved.

We have had lots of creativity and curiosity as students tackled our wonderful art project, where we made 5 self portraits using the same image. Pop art, transparencies and collages were all part of the fun. We were lucky to have a visitor host a Heart workshop. We learnt a lot about this powerful organ and took part in lots of messy activities. Beyond the classroom we went on our Year 8 residential to PGL. We stayed for one night and took part in lots of activities. Some of us fell into the canoeing lake, some of us went higher than we imagined with the rope swing and some of us made new friends.

We are getting ready for our performances in the annual Belmont's got Talent! This year we are showing off individual skills including:

Singing, Gymnastics, Poetry, Comic book writing and football skills to name a few.

We have had a wonderful year and hope the class has a wonderful holiday!





# JAGUARS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023 - JULY 2024

This year Jaguars have enjoyed trips to Bristol Art Museum, the fair and Cattle Country. The class as a whole has enjoyed yoga, athletics, rounders, tennis coaching and library sessions. There have also been opportunities for members of the class to participate in football and tag rugby tournaments, swimming, athletics, dance festival, the school choir, softball, table tennis and bounce club. Jaguars have been very keen to take advantage of the opportunities offered.



## WOW MOMENTS FOR THE CLASS INCLUDE

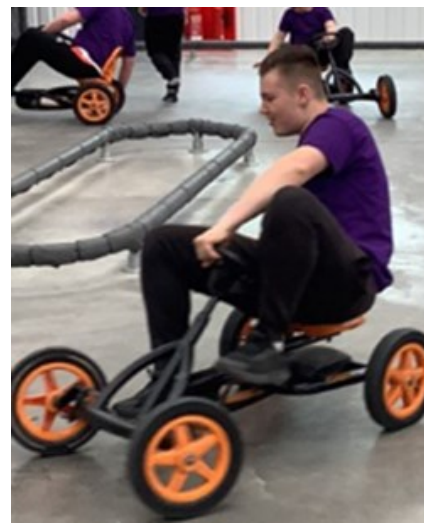
- Taking part in and making props for the George and the dragon assembly which was a ROARING success
- Enjoying learning about Pop art and exploring Surrealism using our imaginations to produce some beautiful pieces of art work.
- Improving our ball skills thanks to all the input from the coaching opportunities
- Increasing our understanding of and accuracy when telling the time with lots of fun games and activities



# Koalas

The Koalas have had a fantastic year and we couldn't be prouder of all their achievements.

They have taken part in a variety of sporting events such as both girls and boys football tournaments, athletics and a soft ball event at Archway. They have been on whole school trips such as having fun at Danter's Fair, Cattle Country and our class trip to Bristol Aerospace. There, they visited the museum where they were able to discover science in action through amazing exhibits, fun interactives and inspiring education sessions. The Koalas also had the opportunity to experience a red arrows simulator flight! Very well-done Koalas...you are super stars!



# Llamas

This term Llamas have been learning about money in maths and learning to name and recognise all coins and notes. The Llamas have also been applying their knowledge of money to a range of different questions, writing down different ways to make up the sum of money and matching up coins and notes to the correct value. They have also been using a calculator to support their learning.

The children have been enjoying learning about biographies by looking and reading the biographies that we found in the school library of some famous people for example Mohammed Ali, Frida Kahlo and Bruce Lee. They have been learning the features of a biography so they are able to explain what a biography is.

On Wednesday 10th July the Llamas also went on a school trip to the Energy from Waste facility also known as the Javelin Park Incinerator in Stonehouse. They met with a great team of people there and in particular an education facilitator called Mel and her co-worker Darren who provided the students with an insight in to what happens at the incinerator but also educated the children into the energy from waste process... and the 4Rs of waste: reuse, reduce, recycle and recovery. This was great fun for the students to see first-hand what goes on at the incinerator as the facility also teaches the small changes that we in our households can make to become more environmentally friendly. They were able to have a tour of the entire facility and were able to dress up in the safety gear hard hats, gloves and hi vis jackets. This was such an interesting school trip and one that Llamas will never forget!!



Lllamas a few weeks ago also took a visit to Warden hill Park and also Store 87 as they were able to spend a maximum of £3.00 in store. This was a well-deserved visit and Llamas had lots of treats while using their maths skills to spend their money. Such a fun morning out for all.

We would like to say to everyone have an amazing Summer and we will look forward to seeing you next year for more adventures.

Mrs Powell and team Llama's



# Monkeys

Monkeys have had a very productive term and have completed many Asdan challenges along with some important maths coursework. They have worked extremely hard and we are very proud of them.

On one of the recent hot days, some of them took advantage of the bubble mixture left outside and made huge bubbles which they tried to stand in. Others just used the netting to create bubble snowstorms. It was lovely to see how much they enjoyed just blowing bubbles!

They have also enjoyed cooking this term. We have experimented cooking different types of meals for people who may have allergies or food intolerances and spent one morning seeing how many ways we could use potatoes. We all loved the crisps we made from the potato peelings.

Everyone is now looking forward to the holiday and we know that when they return in September, the Monkeys will step up to the responsibilities of being Year 11s and the oldest in the school and will enjoy their last year at Belmont.

Have a peaceful summer,  
from The Monkeys Team



## Night Owls

Wow what a journey! It is with heavy heart that we say goodbye to this motley crew. They have been a standout bunch that have worked and played hard, with all of them achieving a fistful of qualifications. We have had adventures on the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition; frights at the Harry Potter Experience; Ice cream on the pier at Weston Super mare and squeezed in a bit of education. There will be no more cries of "Who's got all the pens?", live reports of shenanigans from the playground and the handing out of Doodle Maths certificates. The counselling couch has fallen silent and we take comfort in the words of Sam, "It's not that bad".

Thank you for the lovely memories, we will miss all of you.



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## Otters

It seems that Otters' class have been preparing to leave school and move into their various post-16 provisions for the last year. Several students have sat a GCSE Maths exam in order to 'get a feel' for the experience, ready for college. We have visited Drayton Manor Theme Park as our end of year reward – thankfully, it was very quiet there so no queueing to get on the rides! A big 'well done' to Mr Freeman and Shay, who braved a particularly scary ride! I think the words 'never again' were muttered after!

Otters' class has been very quiet, almost too quiet... thankfully we will reunite for our volunteering day on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July!

