



Dove and Rainbow News

5th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome our families into school for Class 4's family worship. Well done to all of the children. We look forward to seeing you for our Safer Internet Day.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are here to help you and your child/children.

With very best wishes,

K. Harrison-Brown

Mrs K. Harrison-Brown

Behaviour

In the second part of the Autumn term, all children received a good behaviour stamp every week, resulting in 100% receiving a gold behaviour certificate at Christmas. A huge well done to everyone! We are very proud of you.

Health Review

Chris Horn (Local Authority School Improvement Partner) and Anne Vernon (Diocesan Assistant Director School Effectiveness) visited school on the 12th and 21st November to carry out a supportive review.

Review activities included:

- *Lesson visits
- * Visit to Early Years provision and KS1 and KS2 in relation to reading
- * Meetings with leads for English, Science, Humanities and R.E.
- * Meeting with the SENCO
- * Observing Worship
- * Informal pupil discussions
- * Meetings with Senior Leaders
- * Safeguarding Single Central Record Check



It was a very successful review. We have been 'tweeting' some of the review comments- please see our Twitter feed. Both partners feel that our school is in a very good position for its Ofsted inspection that is due this term. Please see below some of their findings.

Quality of Education

- Staff are enthusiastic and plan interesting tasks that engage pupils; strong subject knowledge allows them to question and challenge pupils' understanding in order to address misconceptions and help them to learn.
- Strong procedures result in good, effective use of time, a prompt start to lessons and slick transition between activities ensure pace is sustained for all learners.
- There is a purposeful climate for learning in lessons.
- Teacher enthusiasm in the majority of lessons visited is infectious.
- Staff plan interesting lessons, that build sequentially on prior learning.
- Staff know their pupils well.
- Staff have good subject knowledge and therefore teaching is clear, explanations are helpful and teachers promote accurate use of technical subject specific vocabulary.
- Questioning is used successfully to challenge pupils to explain their thinking and clarify the strategies used.
- There is progressive teaching of mathematical skills, which is evident in the level of understanding that pupils draw upon in lessons visited.
- Support staff contribute extremely well to learning, because they know pupils well and have the skills to respond effectively.
- Leaders have implemented a wider range of initiative and actions to support pupils and parents love of reading. Quality reading areas have been created in each classroom and across the school as a whole. After discussion with staff and pupils, the key stage 1 and Early Years libraries have been revisited to ensure they are providing what is needed for pupils in Belmont.
- The SENCO is an extremely passionate and determined leader, who is tightly focused on giving the best possible education for pupils with SEND. Staff are very aspirational for their pupils, ensuring that they are provided with the necessary skills for their future lives.
- The lead for reading has very clear and focused priority for reading across the whole school, with phonics being the key building blocks. They are able to articulate their understanding of how reading is the access point for the whole curriculum.



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Leadership and Management

- There is a strong collective drive for improvement.
- Leaders at all levels demonstrate an energy and an understanding of the schools main priorities and their role in addressing these.
- There is clear evidence that the action taken since inspection, has brought about improvements in teaching, progress and attainment, and the extent to which all leaders are contributing to the work of the school.
- The HT and DHT's provide strong leadership. Together they are building an effective leadership team.

Leaders use a range of assessment information to identify gaps and to tailor teaching and focused intervention to address needs.

Behaviour/Attitudes to Learning

- Pupils know their adults well and trust them; they feel safe, secure and nurtured. They are proud of their school and the many opportunities it offers them.
- Adults know SEND pupils very well and provide consistently high levels of care, guidance and support which provides opportunities for success through quality first teaching.
- Pupils know what is expected of them and they are respectful of peers and adults alike.
- Pupils settle very quickly to work, concentrate well and enjoy challenging themselves.
- Pupils show confidence and pride in their school, their work and social times. This includes playtimes and lunchtimes.
- Outdoor behaviour is very positive, with children and adults interacting and playing harmoniously. No pupils are left alone.
- Pupils understand the expectations the school has of their behaviour and the consequences of not following the agreed guidance.
- Pupils in the school collaborate, cooperate and share with ease during lesson time and playtime. It is natural and embedded within the shared ethos.



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Curriculum

We have been busy updating our curriculum information for parents. Please do have a look at our curriculum design and planning on our school website.

Staff News

After nineteen years of service to the school, Mrs Triggs has retired. We thank her for all of her work and the support that she has given to our pupils. We wish her all the very best for a healthy and happy retirement.

Fundraising to adopt class Koalas

A big thank you to everyone for their donations to support the rescue effort in Australia. We raised a total of **£506.19**. Each class will become WWF Koala Protectors. Well done to Summer for correctly guessing that the Koala's name was Nala.

Year 1 and Year 2 visited Durham Cathedral

On Tuesday we got on the double decker bus but we had to sit downstairs. We got off the bus and walked across Kingsgate Bridge and we saw Durham cathedral and it was gigantic! We went through the back doors because the front doors were closed. After we walked through the doors we met our guide her name was Susan. We acted the story of St Cuthbert out and visited his tomb. After that it was lunch time and it was yummy and we had some races, then went in the Education centre. We did some jigsaws and it told a St. Cuthbert story. We did drama about the jigsaw. Then we saw St. Cuthbert's treasures. After we got back on the bus. When we got back to school it was bedtime so we went straight home. Charlie, Year 1

Twitter

Our school Twitter page continues to be as popular as ever –don't forget to follow us: **@BelmontCof** You will find out about lots of the activities which take place in your child's class, as well as being well-informed about different events taking place across the whole school.



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Contact Details and Email Addresses

We would just like to remind you about updating the School Office with your contact details. It is so important that all of your emergency contact details are kept up to date, especially any new mobile numbers for both parents (if applicable) and additional contacts. Also, if you move house, it is essential that you inform the office.

It is also essential that the school office is informed of any change of email addresses. All letters and newsletters are now emailed to all parents and carers. It has become apparent that some of these are landing in spam or junk boxes. Please make sure that you check this. Thank you!

Persistent Absentees

Any child whose attendance drops to 90% or under, need to be monitored very carefully and these children are now recorded as persistent absentees. It is really important that you are aware of your child's attendance, as only a few days off school can make a big difference to the overall percentage.

90% attendance = ½ day missed **every week!**

90% attendance = 1 day missed **every other week!**

90% attendance = **4 whole weeks of lessons missed!**

90% attendance over 5 years of school = ½ **a school year missed!**

Punctuality

Please remember that the doors to School close at 8.55am. There seem to be an increasing number of children arriving at school after this time. It is really important that all children arrive on time to school every day, as teaching starts at 9am prompt and if children arrive late into their classes, then it does have a detrimental impact on both their education and their self-esteem. Please make every effort to arrive on time each day.

Tuck shop and Snacks

We are going to start a new tuck shop for Key Stage 2 in school after the February half term holiday. We are opening a newly formed 'healthy tuck shop' every morning. Children will be able to access this tuck shop every day if they wish. Mrs Hardy will be running this, along with some of our older pupils and snacks will cost 20p each. On offer, will be a range of fresh fruit, raisins, frubes and cheese. Children are to bring their money and come to the Dove Hall at break time where the snacks will be on sale. Please note – we are more than happy for children to bring in their own healthy snack on a daily basis. All we ask is that it is healthy and that it is not stored in their packed lunch. In addition, please remember that Early Years and Key Stage One children receive a free piece of fruit every morning.



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Statutory Tests

Years 1, 2, 4 & 6

It is imperative that all children in these key year groups are in school during the weeks their statutory tests must take place. If they are absent at these crucial times, then they are not permitted to take their tests on any other date. Therefore, we ask all parents of children in these year groups, to note these key dates. Thank you for your support.

Year 1 children

KS1 Phonics Screening takes place during the week beginning Monday 8th June 2020.

Year 2 children

KS1 Statutory Tests will take place during the month of May. Year 2 children are not aware that they are taking tests, as for such young children we aim to keep the process low key and without pressure. However, it is still important that the children are in school during May, in order that all children complete the tests along with their peers. We really do appreciate you supporting us at these crucial times in school. Thank you. A meeting will be held next half term for parents of our Year 2 children so that we can talk you through the tests and expectations.

Year 4 children

This is the first year of the Multiplication Tables Check. This will take place from Monday 8th June and all Year 4 children are required to sit this 'test'. As this is a new test, details are still being released, but we will let you know exactly what is expected of them nearer the time.

Year 6 children

KS2 Statutory Tests take place during the week beginning Monday 11th May. It is essential that all Year 6 children are in school during this week, as the tests cannot be completed on other dates. Thank you for your support. A meeting will be held next half term for parents of Year 6 children, so that we can talk you through the tests and expectations.

World Book Day and Reading Week

I thought you might appreciate some advance notice of our Reading Week, which is the week beginning Monday 2nd March. During this week, we have a number of different events planned, including a dressing up day when we ask children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. This was very popular last year and something which the children have asked for again. However, I thought advance notice of this might be appreciated in order that you can be prepared for it.



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Belmont C of E Primary Questionnaire Results Summer 2019

At the end of every academic year, we send out a questionnaire for parents and carers, to give the opportunity for both positive feedback, and suggestions for development and improvement in the coming year. The results of the questionnaire are below. They are, once again, overwhelmingly positive which is very pleasing for us. Our aim is to ensure the best care and education for all of our children. We want the very best for them, and work hard to achieve that. We appreciate you taking the time to complete the questionnaires.

We had 42 responses (13%) out of a possible 324 responses.

1 response = 2%

<u>Parent & Carer Questionnaire</u> <u>Summer 2019</u>	Strongly Agree/Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child feels safe at this school.	100%		
My child makes good progress at school.	100%		
My child is well looked after at this school.	100%		
My child is taught well at this school.	100%		
My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	86%	5%	9%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	93%	5%	2%
The school deals effectively with bullying.	64%	12%	24%
The school is well led and managed.	91%	7%	2%
The school responds well to any concerns I raise.	91%	2%	7%
I receive valuable information from school about my child's progress.	98%	2%	
Would you recommend this school to another parent?	98%	2%	

If any of your contact details have changed (address, telephone numbers or email addresses) please inform the school office as soon as possible.



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Bullying

We take bullying very seriously. Please see the Anti-Bullying policy on our school website for further details. Through School Council Pupil Voice, the children have also developed their own Anti-Bullying policy. We recognise and support national Anti-Bullying week each November, to raise awareness with our pupils. We regularly reinforce our Rainbow Values in both class and whole school worship. If you have any concerns regarding bullying, please do come into school to discuss with either myself, Mrs Roberts or Miss Jubb - our door is always open.

Homework

If you have any concerns regarding your child's homework, please discuss this in the first instance with your child's class teacher. If you have further concerns please do come into school to discuss with either myself, Mrs Roberts or Miss Jubb.

Relationships Education

As you may be aware, Relationships Education will become statutory in all primary schools in England from September 2020. We are early adopters of this and it has been part of our curriculum since September 2019. A parents meeting will be held on Thursday 27th February at 4.30 p.m. to inform you about this Education and also for us to have the opportunity to gather your views on the new policy and curriculum.

Internet Safety

We are looking forward to an exciting Internet Safety Day on the 11th February, which our E-Cadets have planned for us. Pupils will be involved in activities throughout the day and we would like to invite parents into school for a workshop, to discuss how we can help to keep our children safe on the Internet. This workshop will be held at 2:30p.m. Parents will then be invited to join their child in the classroom, to design an Internet Safety poster for a competition.

If you would like some advice on how to keep your child safe on the Internet, please visit the website below:

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Photographs and Videos

Please can I remind families not to take photographs or videos of children on the school playground. Mobile phones should always be out of sight of the children at all times when visiting school. Thank you for your support.