



*"Nurturing Hearts
and Minds"*

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Rowan

Friday Newsletter

Week Ending: 15th May 2020

★ ★ This week's **BADGE WINNERS**... ★ ★

★ Little Bells - Sophia

★ Reception – Luca

★ Year 1 – Rayhan

★ Year 2 – Max

★ Year 3 – Olivia

★ Year 4 – Evie

★ Year 5 – Brooke

★ Year 6 – Izzy

Welcome to this week's newsletter

The news which has dominated the week for us has been the announcement last Sunday that schools **may** start to re-open from June 1st.

What this looks like, and how this will be in schools will vary according to staffing, numbers of children and availability of classroom spaces, toilet areas etc. The school leadership team and Chair of Governors met on Wednesday to discuss the advice and directives from the Department for Education and Lancashire County Council.

There is no one size fits all solution and we are very much aware that the goal posts may change and therefore our plans may have to be altered. We will constantly review what we have put in place and amend accordingly. We have completed a comprehensive risk assessment to put the current guidance into action.

This week we have spoken to parents in Reception and Little Bells regarding re-opening, and we intend to do the same with Year 1 and Year 6. Thank you for completing the on-line survey.

I have put our plans based on the current guidance and our risk assessment in a letter to all parents – I apologise for its length but urge you to read it all as I have explained the planning arrangements.

In essence, we intend to operate a staggered re-opening based on putting groups of children in 'bubbles'. When one bubble is established, we will invite the next one to join us.

The focus will still be on learning via the Showbie app both at home and at school.

We have decided that from this week, no work will be set for Fridays. Teachers need planning time and also need to complete training.

So, to other news....

This week we have had Mrs Drugan and Mrs Hall in school and the children have been busy making junk model animals when they haven't been on showbie. Today, the teaching staff have had the strangest, socially distant INSET day, with Miss Egan leading the staff in planning our new curriculum. We are very excited about it – and can't wait to get going once we can have the school properly open. We also got chance to wish Mrs Sutcliff good luck for the arrival of baby number 2. She has not quite started her maternity leave but I don't think we will see her back in school before she does.

Next week, Mrs Wright and Mr Yousaf will be with us in school. It is nice for those of us in school all the time to see different faces, and I am sure it is nice for the children too. Several classes have had zoom sessions this week; it is so lovely to see the children via these on-line platforms and hear their laughter. This week I zoomed with Year 4 and caught a little of Year 2's times table bingo and Year 6's meeting – not quite sure what was going on in Year 6 but the children all seemed to be having fun. I think a guided tour of the school was being carried out at one point. We are missing you all; the school is not the same without the children in it.

This weeks good work assembly is available on the Facebook page and will be added to the website along with Gallery photos and What's the Point? This week's What's the Point is particularly to be recommended. Mr Carr is getting more and more creative. Speaking of which – the Belthorn Band has been in action today and also features on the Good work Assembly video. This has sparked the gem of an idea for another video watch this space.

Thank you to all parents for their continued support. We will continue to telephone key classes regarding arrangements for the next few weeks.

Have a good weekend

Mrs Rowan and all the Belthorn Staff