



"Nurturing Hearts
and Minds"

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Rowan

Friday Newsletter

Week Ending: 15th January 2021

★ ★ This week's BADGE WINNERS... ★ ★

★ Year 1 – Logan

★ Year 3 – Seth

★ Year 5 – Abigail

★ Reception – Gracie

★ Year 2 – Evie P

★ Year 4 – Aisha

★ Year 6 – Tristan

Welcome to this week's newsletter...

This week seems to have been a lot smoother with classes in school and at home getting into a bit of a routine with what is happening, and of course it didn't snow. A letter will be sent out to all parents to detail specific arrangements re zoom times etc. for their child's year group.

We have had really good uptake with most children attending Zoom lessons and completing the Showbie work. Thank you – we know it is not easy. Our teachers are trying to strike a balance with continuing the learning process and balancing out what the children can do without relying too heavily on parental support. We will be contact some families to offer some intervention work in the coming weeks in addition to the Zooms we already have in place.

Next week Mr Griffiths will be returning to school after his paternity leave. He is going to do some live zoom PE sessions – these will take place at 1pm. The first one will be on Monday. Watch this space and we will send out details. It might be that we can only invite 1 key stage at a time.

Please see the below message from LCC re emotional wellbeing and children during lockdown. As I have not seen the content, and it does not specify which age group this is aimed at, I would recommend that if this is something you are interested in, you watch it before letting your child/ren see it as it may be aimed at an older age group. I will try to watch it myself this week so that I have a clearer understanding. The following is taken from the Lancashire bulletin:

We have also received the following update from Sam Tyrer, Nursing & Quality Directorate at the Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust: Following this current lockdown, we have been contacted by teachers, staff and pupils regarding numerous concerns they have. The pupils have stated they are feeling incredibly anxious, struggling to motivate themselves and feeling scared about losing family or friends to COVID-19. Next Thursday (21st January) at 10am, Dave and I will be doing an episode of the Mental Health Family Hour to address these concerns. This will be beneficial for all pupils, staff and parents. I would appreciate if you work within a school, you could send this out to all of your pupils and really encourage them to watch this episode. They will also have the opportunity to ask any questions at the end. They will not be on camera, as it is via Twitch. Please do share this with anyone who you feel would benefit from this. The link for next Thursday - <https://www.twitch.tv/mindsetbydave>

In school we are trying to support pupil and staff wellbeing and staff will be being trained in future weeks regarding this. We have already had several training sessions on mental wellbeing and emotional resilience and we will do our best to support pupils who we feel are struggling. This week Mrs Hall completed the ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training course which has been running for a year. This will be useful when we can all be together in school again. Miss Egan and Mrs Drugan have attended training and will be working with groups of children throughout the year, unfortunately their work does not work well over Zoom and so we will wait until wider opening before re commencing the groups we started before Christmas.



The Mistletoe Mystery winner will be announced during this week's good work assembly. The villain of the piece was Hefty Deoink. Well done to all the families who correctly identified him. The bribe used was pears. All the winning entrants have been put into the raffle and the winner will be contacted. The winning prize of £50 will be sent via cheque.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Critical worker places

We thank those families who are using places only if absolutely necessary. I have had many rotas already emailed to me which helps with planning. Please do not arrive at school without a place being confirmed as many year groups are already at capacity. Email head@belthornacademy.co.uk with rotas for future weeks if you are already attending school. If you have asked for a place for half a day, likewise please collect your child at 12pm or 1pm as arranged.

We ask that any families who are sending children to school to follow the guidelines – to social distance when arriving and leaving the premises, to wear face coverings when speaking to school staff, to avoid mixing with other parents and not to send their child into school if they show symptoms. Thank you. We are doing our best to keep our staff safe, and manage anxieties – we won't be able to operate effectively if we have staff shortages. From week commencing 25th January we are expecting to be provided with testing kits for staff to be routinely tested each week for Coronavirus.

And finally.....

A huge thank you for your kind words since the start of this term, and also to the lovely families who surprised us all on Monday morning. You know who you are and it made our day all the brighter.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mrs Rowan and all the Belthorn staff.