



*"Nurturing Hearts
and Minds"*

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Rowan

Friday Newsletter

Week Ending: 22nd January 2021

★★★ This week's BADGE WINNERS... ★★★

★ Year 1 – Ava SB

★ Year 3 – Alasdair

★ Year 5 – Liliana

★ Reception – Sophia

★ Year 2 – Bobby C

★ Year 4 – Alfie F

★ Year 6 – Alice

Welcome to this week's newsletter...

It has been a super soggy week and I am sure that everyone at home and school will be looking forward to a change in the weather. Fingers crossed for a drier weekend when we can get out in the fresh air.

I hope all our families are now into some sort of routine with the home learning, and they have read the letter from last week which shows the times of Zoom lessons. In school we have been reviewing our provision and monitoring some of the Zoom sessions. We have noticed some brilliant pupil engagement in most of the classes and where it works best, children are responsive, ready to learn and trying their absolute best. With this in mind, we have put together a code of conduct for pupils who are attending lessons on line. Our expectations have to still be high despite everything going on, so that when we return to the classroom we can pick up without having to re-cover so much ground. A Zoom code of conduct will be sent out to all parents to read with their children but in a nutshell we would expect:

- Children to be dressed, sitting in a quiet, comfortable place with equipment ready.
- No toys, games or other distractions to be with children during lesson times.
- Whenever possible, the camera to be turned on so that we can see the children and their responses. We appreciate that some children may feel more anxious or shy to be on camera. In this case, we expect them to be able to use the thumbs up button to respond to questions or the group chat if asked to do so. In a small minority of cases, we have noticed that children have their screens off and we suspect that they are not really present in the lesson, even though they may be signed in.
- Microphones to be muted and then unmuted to answer questions – this can be done by the teacher, but older children should be able to unmute to answer questions themselves.
- Parents to be within earshot, but not necessarily sitting with their children. It is the teacher's job to support.
- An appropriate family name given to the Zoom call.
- Behaviour to be the same as we expect in school.

- If a child is not following the rules, they will be warned by the teacher. If the child continues to disrupt the lesson, they will be removed from the call. The teacher will then have a follow up call once the Zoom session has ended.

We hope you understand that we are making these rules so that all the children can benefit from quality online learning and not be distracted by a minority. There will be time for the children to have a chat with each other and be sociable but this is not during the actual lesson.

Afternoon sessions

Belthorn's answer to Joe Wicks – Mr Griffiths has tried out some afternoon PE sessions this week and we will continue to do this on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. The class Showbie will provide codes for you to log in and be ready to exercise. Miss Weir has also agreed to do a dance lesson once a week – so on Thursday afternoons KS1 will be at 1pm and KS2 at 2pm – again see Showbie for the codes. We will also be looking at doing some art sessions in the afternoons.

Parental Feedback

This week we have seen the responses to the Parental Questionnaire sent out by LCC during the Autumn term. This was largely very positive, but we will be following up some feedback in our efforts to improve. We have also received feedback during this first three weeks of term. Again we have looked at what we can do in response to this. If you have feedback you wish to give us, please contact the school via the usual means.

Testing

You many have seen on the news about asymptomatic testing of staff in primary schools. This is an optional programme, but we are being asked to take a lateral flow test twice a week. Training has been delivered this week and we expect to receive the test kits early next week.

Mistletoe Mystery

The winner of the Mistletoe Treasure Hunt was George in Year 3. Well done to all the family who braved the weather to yomp up and down Belthorn looking for clues.



The school is a member of the RHS and Mr Griffiths senior has been looking into how we can involve the children more in planting and using our raised beds and polytunnel. Obviously, this will be when we return to a full school, but in the meantime, Mr Griffiths has been planting beans with Year 1 and Year 3.

Staffing News

Sadly this week we say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Patel. She will be missed by all children and staff.

And finally

Many thanks again for the lovely comments and staff goodies we have received this week. Slimming World has definitely had to go on hold for me.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mrs Rowan and all the Belthorn staff.



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