



*"Nurturing Hearts  
and Minds"*

# Belthorn Academy Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Rowan

## Friday Newsletter

**Week Ending: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

### **A happy new year and welcome to this week's newsletter...**

This was not the newsletter I wanted to write during the first week back in January. However, after an unusual week, let's hope that the next week of term is somewhat smoother.

### **Home Learning**

To all those families who have once again resumed Showbie work – we thank you for your positivity and engagement with the work. Some classes have had Zoom lessons and I urge families to use this really important facility if they possibly can. This gives children the opportunity to work through misconceptions, access support and move their learning forward. It also gives them the chance to check in with their friends. We will be taking daily registers and phoning parents if we notice that their child has been absent from these lessons.

Tasks on Showbie have been set for all children and again we will be monitoring uptake. When we resume school again, it is so important that children have been engaging as much as possible with the work we provided.

I thank the teaching staff for once again having to learn new skills and embrace Zoom teaching. Some of the younger classes will not be having as many Zoom lessons but we will be holding Zoom catch up sessions so please keep an eye out for these. The feedback from teaching staff has been that uptake for Zoom lessons has been positive and we know that if your child is Zooming with us, then this gives those at home some respite. I appreciate that if you have several children at home who are trying to access online learning at the same time, this is very difficult, especially with limited devices and we are happy to talk with families about this.

### **Children in School**

Arrangements for children in school are as follows:

- Breakfast Club is from **7.45am**
- The school day runs from **8.45am – 3.20pm**. You can collect earlier than this if work commitments allow. **Please drop off and collect at the usual entrances and exits** – we ask you do this to avoid mixing with parents from other classes. If you are collecting at a time when the gate is locked, then press the intercom at the front of school and we will open the gate for you.
- A school packed lunch is available for all children in KS1 and those in KS2 entitled to Free School Meals. The kitchen is closed for hot meals. Other children must bring in a packed lunch from home. All children will need a drinks bottle and any snacks.

- Please wear school uniform and suitable outdoor clothing and shoes.
- Please bring a fully charged ipad into school to complete Showbie tasks and any Zoom sessions.
- All parents when on site for drop off/collecting are asked that they wear a face covering.

We have organised the children in school differently to last time we were open to only children of Critical Workers. All children are in their classroom with the class teacher and TA (in most cases). Lunch time, break time etc. will be with their year group only.

It is important that you only take up a place in school if you absolutely need to so that we can reduce the number of contacts children, parents and staff have each week. We know that some families only need care for part of the day or part of the week and we really appreciate you collecting your children when you can.

Mr Temple and Miss Abbott will continue to work in Year 2 and Year 6 alongside Miss Sutton and Mr Furness.

Miss Egan has been covering Mr Griffith's paternity leave and Mr Griffiths will resume his teaching on week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> January. Mr Furness will be spending some Zoom time with Year 5 next week.

### **Little Bells**

Parents of children in Little Bells have been sent a separate letter outlining arrangements. We are fully open to all pre-school children in line with Government announcements. **Please note that there are not hot dinners at this time, but children in Little Bells will receive a School packed lunch if they usually have a school dinner.**

### **Star of the week**

A star of the week assembly will re-commence next Friday and certificates given either virtually or to pupils in school.

### **Ipads**

Before the Christmas break we were looking into launching a scheme to enable families to buy an ipad through school similar to those run in secondary schools. We appreciate that this might not be the best time to launch it, but we might well be contacting families about this scheme to judge interest as it may be helpful to some families.

### **School Places**

Please ensure all school applications for starting Reception in September 2021 are completed via Lancashire or Blackburn with Darwen Council websites before January 15<sup>th</sup>. This includes those with siblings in school and those attending Little Bells. If you need any help navigating the Blackburn system please contact [office@belthornacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@belthornacademy.co.uk)

### **And finally ....**

To something more cheerful. The Mistletoe Mystery was a huge success and I know many families enjoyed taking part. We will announce the winner on Monday after I've brushed the snow from the Post Box.



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Have a good weekend all – I intend to sit by the fire, keep warm, eat chocolate and walk Eddy the Beagle.

Mrs Rowan