



*"Nurturing Hearts
and Minds"*

Belthorn Academy Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Rowan

Friday Newsletter

Week Ending: 29th January 2021

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

★ **Year 1 – Aisha**

★ **Year 3 – Kaysan**

★ **Year 5 – Will**

★ **Reception – Eva**

★ **Year 2 – Bessie**

★ **Year 4 – Rosie**

★ **Year 6 – Alysia**

Welcome to this week's newsletter...

Well, we are a month in and listening to the Prime Minister's announcement on Wednesday evening, it looks like we will be remote learning for several weeks yet. It seems right that we reflect on what we have done in the last 4 weeks and what our plan moving forward is.

Firstly, a huge thank you from me personally. To the children – you are amazing and you keep us going. Seeing your faces on zoom lessons and hearing stories from your class teachers, always brightens my day. The children in school are adapting and working hard as are the children at home. Parents, you continue to juggle working life, family life, worries about home learning and everything else at the current time and you all deserve a massive round of applause from us for your resilience. We can't wait to have everyone back in school again and see the school come to life. In the meantime, we will keep trying our best. To all the staff in school – thank you. Your resilience and openness to learning new ways of working is so much appreciated. The cleaning staff are coming in extra early, the office staff are on a rota and are working from home above and beyond their hours, the catering staff, teachers and TA's for being the positivity that makes this school what it is and to Miss Egan for continually supporting me in my role and researching how better to do things, as well as monitoring teaching and learning and supporting all the staff. I could not be prouder of the school that Belthorn is.

I have had a couple of governor meetings this week and we discussed feedback from stakeholders regarding our remote learning and Miss Egan has been popping into lessons virtually to see how teachers and pupils are responding to the live lessons. Following this, Miss Egan delivered staff training regarding new ways of remote learning and things we can try out. Look out for a few tweaks and new ideas which class teachers will be telling you about.

We have tried to ring round all families this week and have spoken to most of you. Your feedback has been useful and we will take what you have said on board. Every family circumstance is different and we understand that. We will be contacting parents again next week to see how you all are.

As I write this, Miss Weir has just finished the second of her dance lessons this afternoon. It was great to see children Zooming in and having a go and it certainly improved our wellbeing in school to have

a bit of a workout to music. I will have to get my trainers on and join in next week. Your children can join us at 1pm (KS1) and 1.30pm (KS2). Mr Griffiths is continuing with his PE lessons on Wednesday and Thursday too, so plenty of activities to do whilst the weather is miserable outside. Mr G has also agreed to do a staff HIIT workout – socially distanced for some of us after school on Friday. There is no excuse for me now to avoid trying to get fit.



Next week is Children's Mental Health Week 1st - 7th February. The theme will be: **Express Yourself**. There will be lots of activities and virtual assemblies throughout the week for the children to take part in. One of which will be **Inside Out Day** on Wednesday 3rd Feb. The children in school can wear an item of their uniform inside out on this day. Children at home can join in with this too. It could be a sock or a t-shirt or jumper; whatever you want. On Friday 5th Feb we will have an **Express Yourself Day**, where the children can come to school in non-uniform and wear something that reflects their personalities, for example, they could wear their favourite colour jumper, a T Shirt with a dinosaur on or something pink, fluffy and covered in unicorns. Children at home – we look forward to seeing what you can come up with too. I hope the staff will get involved and look forward to seeing everyone's ideas. The week will be launched with an assembly on Monday at 9am, you will all be sent the link. We have invited Dr Natalie Jewitt to lead this assembly as we work with her on our children well-being programme in school (Jenby's). The following week, Miss Egan will continue with her Monday assemblies at 1pm. I believe it was a bit of a hit this week.

In Good Work Assembly today, Miss Drugan updated everyone on the Art competition that she is running in school. A letter has already been sent out about this but just a reminder - the theme is 'A view from my window'. You can use any media to create a piece of artwork and the view could be real or imaginary. See the letter for more details – but it is something for budding artists to take part in if they want to.

And finally

Tomorrow I will be showing potential applicants around school for the Headteacher role. I think it will be a bit emotional for me but again, it just makes me realise what a wonderful school this is and how proud I am. Let's hope I can walk after the workout on Friday.

Have a good weekend everyone. I hope you all do something that makes you happy. For me it will be more walks with Eddy, slimming world and then a takeaway on Saturday night (I know), and spending time with my son and husband before we do it all again on Monday.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mrs Rowan and all the Belthorn staff.