



Newsletter



Sports update

The football season has begun once more and I am very pleased to tell you that after the first match, the boys are top of their league and the girls are third. As always, many thanks to Stribey and Tian for training them—I will keep you informed of the teams' progress.

A message from the Head of School

Dear Parents/Carers,
 I hope you had an enjoyable half-term break. I am thrilled that the pupils have come back with a hard-working attitude and an eagerness to learn. Even though we have only been back three days as I write this, a class have already enjoyed a trip to the Science Museum and classes will be visiting the cinema over the next few weeks.

I have had the pleasure of looking through children's topic books, science books and R.E books, and it has been lovely to see some excellent work. We are really focusing on good presentation, and I hope that you can support us by ensuring that your child completes their homework in their best handwriting.

This week we have had parents' evening, and I hope you have had the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and discuss your child's progress, as well as getting to look through your child's books. If you haven't had the chance to meet your child's class teacher, please do call the office to book an appointment.

I have sent out a parental survey and I would really appreciate it if you could take the time to fill it out as your opinions really do matter to us. Many thanks to those parents who have already completed it and returned it. Please return yours to the main office—I will extend the deadline to when it needs to be returned to Friday 10th November.

Since I last wrote to you, our school councillors have been elected and have already had their first meeting. I very much look forward to working with them over the year to make Bellenden School even better. They are—Y1 Ash: Julia and Ned; Y1 Beech: Cheyenne and Hamid; Y2: Tilly and Sidney; Y3: Tiggy and Zakai; Y4: Amelia and Cartier; Y5 Willow: Hannah and Enes; Y5 Cypress: Lola and Osunja; Y6 Oak: Leah and Zohaib.

Warm wishes
 Julie Ireland (Head of School)

Attendance:

Attendance for October.

Reception	97%
Y1 (beech)	95%
Y1 (Ash)	96%
Y2	96%
Y3	95%
Y4	94%
Y5 (willow)	95%
Y5 (cypress)	97%
Y6	97%

Well done to Y5 cypress with 97.18%!
 Please note that Y5/6 pupils are expected at school by 8.30 a.m and all other pupils are expected at school by 8.50 a.m.

Our overall attendance has dipped slightly to 95%. Please ensure your child is at school every day unless they are too ill to attend. Please also note that under no circumstances will any holidays during term time be authorised, and may result in the local authority issuing you a fixed penalty notice.

Christmas Dates

It is hard to believe how soon Christmas will be upon us! Below are a list of Christmas dates.

Thursday 7th December—Christmas fair 3.30-4.30. If you would like to help, please see Miss Savina.

Monday 11th December at 2.00 p.m—KS1 Christmas nativity.

Tuesday 12th December—EY Christmas songs—Miss Coward to confirm the time.

Wednesday 13th December at 2.00 p.m—KS2 Christmas production—'The Peace Child.'

Thursday 14th December at 6.00 p.m—KS2 Christmas production—'The Peace Child.'

Friday 15th December—Children's Christmas Dinner.

Monday 18th December—Children's Christmas parties.

Please note we break up on Tuesday 19th December at 1.30 p.m

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

It is not long now until we move to our new school site—and we can't wait! Mr Doey and I recently toured the school and were actually able to go into some of the classrooms and visit the roof top playground! We will be moving in February 2018—and we will continue to provide you with information as the new build progresses.

HARVEST

Thank you so very much for your generous donations for the Pecan Foodbank—we easily managed to fill two shopping trolleys. In fact, we donated an amazing 173.45 kg of goods. Next year, we'll aim for five! Here is a photo showing all that we collected. Simon Boxall, the project manager, stated "I cannot thank Bellenden School enough for their support."
If you ever need to use Pecan Foodbank, please see Miss Kelly.



Message from the Governors

Alongside the whole school, the beginning of the term has been a busy one for Governors. We were really pleased to attend the parent tea and choir concert in September and meeting so many of you. We look forward to meeting more of you both in the playground, where Will and Gene are regularly there as parent Governors, but also at future meetings and school events.

We have met twice already this term and have reviewed marking in workbooks, as well as hearing from Gill, our Safeguarding lead, on the processes in place at school. We will be having Safeguarding training as a group later this term to ensure we remain up-to-date on best practice. We have also been discussing our partnership with Pilgrims' Way and the impact this has had on Bellenden over the past year – we hope you agree that it has been a positive one.

At our recent meeting, we met the architect responsible for the new school build and are now really excited to seeing the project in its final stages. We hope you are also excited to see the new building and look forward to touring it with pupils, staff, parents and carers and our wider community partners over the coming months.

Black History Month celebrations

During October, we enjoyed celebrating Black History Month. Year 3 put on a marvellous performance at the Theatre Peckham and Miss Cairnes was very proud of them all. Some classes learnt about different countries, such as Jamaica and Kenya and other classes focused on a person—Year 5 looked at the poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah. Look out for our fantastic display which Miss Kelly is organising. We ended Black History month with a wonderful International evening—it was lovely to see so many of you there! We enjoyed singing, dancing and a performance from the very talented steel bands group, as well as enjoying a range of delicious food. There were also a range of workshops for both parents and children to enjoy. Thank you very much to all the staff and parents who helped organise and run such a successful event.



Safeguarding

As you would expect, safeguarding your children is our first priority here at Bellenden. We have a safeguarding policy that can be found on our website or, alternatively, you can speak to Emma-Jayne, Susan or Sylvia if you would like to obtain a hard copy of the policy.

Please visit our website for more information: www.bellenden.southwark.sch.uk