



# Newsletter



## Sports update

You may have noticed that you haven't seen Stribey recently—this is because he has broken his leg. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him after Christmas. The footballers have continued to take part in the football league—and whilst they have suffered some losses, we are very proud of the perseverance and resilience they have shown—thanks to Tian and all the staff who have taken them to the matches.

## Attendance:

Attendance for November

Reception	98.9%
Year 1 Beech	94.7%
Year 1 Ash	93.8%
Year 2 Laurel	98%
Year 3 Hazel	89.8%
Year 4 Cedar	96.3%
Year 5 Willow	96%
Year 5 Cypress	97%
Year 6 Oak	92.3%

Well done to reception! Our aim is for each class's attendance to be over 97% - please send your child in every day unless they are too ill to attend. Please also note that we will not approve any term-time holidays and this may result in you being issued with a fixed penalty notice.

Please remember Year 5 and 6 pupils should be in school by 8.30 a.m; all other pupils should be in school by 8.50 a.m.

## A message from the Head of School

Dear Parents/Carers,

How quickly this term has flown by—by the time you receive this newsletter, it will be December and we will be in the final few weeks of our first term of this academic year. As I am sure you have noticed, the weather has suddenly turned very cold and wintery—children do need to wear a coat every day to school (including Year 6 Pupils) and also need to make sure they are dressed warmly.

This half term, I have had the chance to watch maths lessons and look through maths books—it is lovely to see the many mathematicians Bellenden School has. I have seen fantastic reasoning activities about fractions in Year 5 and Year 1 and 2 have been working very hard to learn to tell the time. If you have a child in Ks2 (Years 3-6) please can you ensure that your child practises their times tables at home?

The school has remained feeling very calm, and it is pleasing to see so many children who are excellent role models for Bellenden School in terms of their behaviour. Another important part of behaviour is children's learning behaviour—and I have visited many classes this term where children have been enthusiastic and engaged in their learning which is pleasing to see.

It has been lovely having parents in for lunch—we are also going to begin our programme for class assemblies and parent workshops next term—we will contact you and let you know when these are.

If you have any suggestions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.  
Warm wishes  
Julie Ireland (Head of School)

## Christmas Dates

A reminder about our 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**

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kitana in Year 6 for her role in Cinderella, Theatre Peckham—we look forward to coming to watch you!

### **New School Building**

Last Monday, Mr Doey and I visited the new building to begin the handover phase— there are now only 12 weeks until we move! Miss Kelly also had the chance to visit the new building and was overwhelmed by it—the classrooms are all very spacious and there is fabulous outdoor space such as the rooftop playground. Parents of current pupils at Bellenden School are invited to a special launch party on Thursday 8th February at 2.00p.m - here you will be able to have a tour of the school whilst enjoying a delicious buffet!

### **Parental Survey**

Many thanks to all of you who completed a parental survey—we had over 80 replies. I am currently analysing the results—and I will send these out in a separate letter—but it was lovely to read so many positive comments. We have also listened to areas in which you feel we need to improve, and we will continue to work with you on these matters.

### **Class visits**

You may have noticed that your child has been on a lot of trips this term—this is because we aim to provide an enriched curriculum for the children, and visiting places which link with your child's learning helps develop and deepen their understanding. Trips this year have included visits to Stonehenge and West Suffolk; trips to museums such as The Toy Museum and The British Museum as well as trips to art galleries and religious buildings. Year 2 have visited the Cenotaph as part of their work on Remembrance Day, and are due to visit the Houses of Parliament as they are learning about Guy Fawkes.

Year 5 are learning about rivers, and recently visited Deptford Creek where they learnt all about the River Thames.

They had a fabulous time wading through the water (some got more wet than others!) Below are some photos. We are very keen to have parent volunteers accompanying us on trips, and we would like to get a bank of parents who would be willing to join us. If you are interested in this, please could you speak to Emma-Jayne, Sylvia or Susan. We are grateful for any parents who are able to help out on school trips.



### **New school library**

Members of school council have made a great start to their term in office— check out their display board between Years 3 and 4! They have decided that any money raised by fundraising activities we do at school will be used to fund the school library—in our new building, we have a fantastic library space—but not many books to fill it. Therefore, we will be holding a range of activities throughout the year to raise money so that we can have a fabulous collection of books and other reading material which the children can enjoy. Money from our Christmas fair will also go towards funding the library—there will be face painting; a tombola; lucky dip; hot food on sale and Santa and his special elf will also be visiting us that day—I hope you can join us and help us raise as much money as possible.

### **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](http://www.bellenden.southwark.sch.uk)