



# Newsletter



## UNIFORM WANTED!

If you have any clean and presentable school uniform that you do not need any more, we would be most grateful if you could donate it to the school. Please see Mrs Turnbull if you are able to help us.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Many congratulations to Isabella (Y5) and Charlotte (Y2) who successfully competed in the Gymn stars international competition in Malta. Charlotte won medals in every event she competed in—which resulted in 2 golds and 2 silvers. Isabella came 3rd out of 88 competitors. Below is a photo of her with her medal. What talented gymnasts they are!



## A message from the Head of School

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well the cold weather has certainly arrived! As you know, there are many benefits to being outside and playing outdoors is fun, exciting and important for children's learning and development. However, please ensure that your child brings a coat to school every day, and could you remind your child about the importance of wearing their coat at break times and lunch times!

We have made some changes to the lunchtime playground activities. Because of the cold weather, we are unable to open the rooftop playground. Instead, we have opened the spare reception classroom for activities such as board games, drawing, crochet and film club.

This half-term, our focus has been on maths, and I have had the opportunity to visit most classes and observe maths lessons. I have been delighted with both the children's enthusiasm and motivation as well as their mathematical thinking. We have changed our maths curriculum to include more problem-solving activities in order to develop reasoning. Pupils now enjoy problem-solving Fridays, where they complete investigations and problem-solving activities.

We have subscribed to mathletics (an online maths programme) and pupils from Year 1 upwards have a mathletics log in which they can use at home. They can accumulate points and receive certificates when they achieve a certain amount of points. If you would like your child's log in details so that they can practise at home, please speak to your child's class teacher.

In Key stage 2, we have reintroduced times tables certificates. It is very important that your child knows all of their times tables, so please keep practising with them.

Warm wishes  
 Julie Ireland (Head of School)

## Friendship Friday

We had a fabulous time at the end of Friendship week. The classes joined together where they enjoyed lots of fun activities together!

## Attendance:

CLASS	Attendance
Reception	95.1%
Y1	94.2%
Y2 Hazel	95.7%
Y2 Laurel	95.8%
Y3	96.4%
Y4	95.9%
Y5	94.3%
Y6 Oak	97.7%
Y6 Poplar	97.8%

Well done to Y6 Poplar!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

7/12—school council fund raising selling snacks after school.  
 11/12—KS1 nativity at 2pm.  
 13/12—KS2 music concert at 2pm.  
 14/12—wear a Christmas jumper day—donation of £1.00.  
 18/12—Christmas fair at 3.30.  
 20/12—Christmas parties

21/12—school council fund raising event—wear pyjamas/ a onesie  
 To school (donation of £1.00)  
 21/12—school breaks up at 1.30 p.m  
 8/1—children return to school.

## Parental survey

Thank you to all of you who attended parents' evening. I was able to speak to many parents who found it a very positive experience. Thanks also to those of you who completed the parental survey—I have analysed it and below are the results. It was lovely to read the many strengths, and I am pleased that many of you feel that communication has become a strength, as this is an area we have worked hard on over the past twelve months. We will use your suggestions to continue to improve the school. If you did not get chance to fill out the survey, but have other suggestions, then either ask the office for a copy of the survey or come and speak to me on the gate.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My child enjoys school	70%	25%		3%	2%
My child is taught well at school	63%	35%	3%		
My child is making good progress	60%	38%	2%		
My child is encouraged to work hard and try his/her best.	60%	38%	2%		
My child enjoys a range of extra-curricular activities.	40%	45%	10%	5%	
The school communicates with me effectively with me about my child's progress.	58%	40%			2%
The school communicates with me effectively about how to support my child's learning.	55%	40%		3%	2%
The school communicates with me effectively about special events and activities.	50%	48%	2%		
The school listens to my concerns	48%	45%	5%		2%
There is a good standard of behaviour at Bellenden School.	45%	48%	7%		
The school is welcoming.	58%	35%	3%	2%	2%
The school is well led and well managed.	58%	35%	5%		2%

### Strengths of the school

Extra-curricular activities such as music and sport  
 Communication (written down several times)  
 SENCO and extra classes  
 Friendly  
 Communication  
 Well managed by head teacher and staff  
 Opportunities to meet teachers to discuss progress and concerns  
 Great leadership (personal greeting at the gate)  
 The staff  
 An excellent school  
 Community/family feel  
 Well-maintained teacher-parent relationship and approachable teachers  
 Communication has improved remarkably in the last year.  
 Effective verbal and written communication.  
 Good support network.  
 Relationships with parents and children.  
 Welcoming and respond well to concerns.  
 New school environment.  
 Children learn a range of subjects and music is well managed.

### How we could improve the school further

More notice for events so that parents can arrange time off from work.  
 "Keep up the good work! "  
 "Continue what you are already doing - you are outstanding!"  
 More ideas for home learning.  
 Have meetings for parents to voice concerns.  
 Ensuring discretion is used when and as needed.  
 Reading sessions in the morning for nursery.  
 Work experience for children.  
 Continue to meet the needs of all pupils.  
 "School is doing a good job!"  
 Be more welcoming.  
 Ensure that there are no splinters in the wooden borders.  
 Have varied and improved after school activities.  
 Re-establishment of parent forum.  
 Better communication.  
 More opportunities to learn foreign languages.  
 Children should have access to fun activities outside of school.

## 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 or Susan 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)