



# Newsletter

## DIARY DATES

3/12	Y6 crime and punishment workshop
3/12	Y5 Thames Explorer trip
3/12	Elf Christmas show for EY and KSI
4/12	Y2 @ St George the Martyr
4/12	Early Years Soiree
6/12	Elf Day
6/12	Y3 Class assembly 9.10am
11/12	Christmas fair 3.30-5pm
12/12	<b>School closed.</b>
13/12	<b>Polling day</b> Y3H @ St George the Martyr
16/12	KSI nativity @ 2pm
17/12	Christmas Dinner for children
17/12	KS2 Christmas concert—2pm
18/12	Christmas parties
19/12	Break up at <b>1.30pm.</b>
7/1/2020	Children return to school.

## Attendance

**R - 95.4%**

**Y1— 96%**

**Y2—94.6%**

**Y3H—95.6%**

**Y3L—93.9%**

**Y4—95.1%**

**Y5—95.1%**

**Y6—96.2%**

Well done to Year 6 for this month's best attendance.

## Snack sale!

On the last day of term (Thursday 19th December), we will be holding a snack sale after school. Please bring your money with you and help support the school!

## A message from the Head of School

Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot believe that it is the end of November and December and Christmas is soon upon us. I have included information about the Christmas events which will be taking place over the next few weeks and look forward to seeing you at the Christmas fair and Christmas concerts.

The children have continued to impress me with their positive attitudes and we have seen lovely work across the curriculum in subjects such as topic, art and science. As a school, we have made handwriting a focus. Your child will receive regular handwriting lessons, and we expect pupils to try hard with their presentation at all times. Please help us with this by ensuring that when children are completing their homework, they use their neatest handwriting. It makes such a difference when children take pride in their presentation. In KS2, children who can produce consistently neat handwriting receive a pen license—and I would love to be able to hand out more of these!

Please can I also ask that your child's coat is labelled with your child's full name. We have had several occasions this term where children's coats have been lost because children have taken home the wrong coat. It makes it much easier for us to identify missing coats if the children's names are inside.

Warm wishes,  
Julie Ireland (Head of School)

## Christmas activities

**Due to the activities, all after school activities such as Football, gymnastics, recorders, etc will finish next week (2nd December).**

On Wednesday 11th December, we will be holding our Christmas fair from 3.30-5.00. There will be many activities for you to enjoy such as glitter painting, face painting, tombola, lucky dip and much more. Snacks will also be on sale if you are feeling peckish! We hope you will join us and have lots of fun as well as raising money for the school.

On the 6th December, we are having an elf day where children are encouraged to wear anything elf related. We ask for a donation of £1 which will go towards the **Alzheimer's society**.

On the 13th December, we will be having Christmas jumper day. Once again, we are asking for donations of £1 which goes towards **Save the children**. Please do not think you need to buy a special jumper for this—the children can wear any jumper of their choice.

On the 16th December, we have our KSI (Y1 and 2) Christmas production from 2pm, and on the 17th December, selected children from KS2 will be performing our Christmas music concert. We look forward to seeing you there. We also have school Christmas dinner—if your child normally has packed lunch, and they would like a dinner on this day, please speak to the office.

On Wednesday 18th December, we have Christmas parties—children can wear their party clothes to school on this day. Individual classes will provide more information about class parties. Please do remember that we are a polling station and therefore we are closed on Thursday 12th December.

## Thank you!

Thanks to your generosity, we have raised £229.68 for the poppy appeal and £258.50 for Children in Need. We also received a letter from Pecan Foodbank thanking us for the amount of food we donated—it much appreciated, especially at this time of year. If you are in need of foodbank vouchers, please do see Mrs Turnbull.

## PTA

We are very lucky to have parents who are willing to organise and run fundraising activities. If this is of interest to you, and you have some ideas about how we can raise the money for school and are able to commit to helping out at fundraising events, please come and speak to me and I will put you in touch with the parents who would like to establish a PTA.

## PARENTS' SURVEY

It was lovely to see so many parents at Parents' Evening. I managed to speak to a lot of you, and you were very pleased with the progress your child was making. Thank you to those of you who filled in the parents' survey—as always, your opinions are very much valued. It made me very proud to read the strengths that you identified ( I haven't the space to include them all!), and we will work very hard on the areas of development you identified. Below is the analysis.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
My child enjoys school	100%		
My child is taught well at school	100%		
My child is making good progress	92%	3%	5%
My child is encouraged to work hard and try his/her best	95%		5%
There is a wide range of after school clubs on offer	90%	2%	8%
The school gives me ways to support my child's learning	95%	5%	
The school communicates me effectively about special events and activities	97%	3%	
The school listens to my concerns	98%		5%
There is a good standard of behaviour at Bellenden School.	95%		5%
The school is welcoming.	97%		3%
The school is well led and managed.	92%	3%	5%

## STRENGTHS

- Nursery is a welcoming environment where children are engaged, happy and well-behaved.
- The teachers are really good and they always have time to talk.
- "The school is 100%."
- Friendly teachers.
- "A very nice school with good after school clubs."
- The teachers
- A positive environment
- Communication
- Good teaching, communication and management.
- A caring school which listens to concerns.
- Good communication and outstanding teaching
- Collaborative partnership between teachers and parents.
- Lots of trips and events.
- No bullying.
- Children show talent in a range of subjects

## AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

- Organise more extra-curricular activities during the day.
- Have proper goals for football.
- More communication concerning behaviour.
- Improve homework and the changing of reading books.
- Support the PTA group being organised.
- Weekly update in EY about what the children are learning.
- More learning resources.

## 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.